

# City of Clearwater

*Main Library - Council Chambers  
100 N. Osceola Avenue  
Clearwater, FL 33755*



## Meeting Minutes

**Thursday, April 15, 2021**

**9:00 AM**

**Special Meeting**

**Main Library - Council Chambers**

## **Pension Advisory Committee**

**Roll Call**

**Present** 7 - Chair Nathan Hightower, Vice Chair Greg Newland, Committee Member Hoyt Hamilton, Committee Member April Eversole, Committee Member Frank Hibbard, Committee Member Mark Bunker, and Committee Member Gregory Record

**Also Present** - Jennifer Poirrier – Human Resources Director, Nicole Sprague – Deputy City Clerk, Anna Klausner – Attorney for the Committee attending via telephone

awaiting approval

**1. Call To Order**

*The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. at the Main Library.*

To provide continuity for research, items are in agenda order although not necessarily discussed in that order.

**2. Citizens to be Heard Regarding Items Not on the Agenda:** None.**3. New Business Items****3.1** Informal hearing for William Nahorodny request for job-connected disability pension

*Attorney for the Committee Anna Klausner, attending via telephone, reviewed Code procedures.*

*Attorney Klausner said William Nahorodny had sustained an on-the-job injury on November 1, 2019 when his right shoulder and interior chest collided with his police cruiser's door while pursuing an individual. Mr. Nahorodny was seen by multiple medical providers and underwent cervical surgery on February 3, 2020.*

*Attorney Klausner said on February 22, 2021, Mr. Nahorodny was examined by the IME (Independent Medical Exam) physician who reviewed all of his medical records, considered his history, and opined that Mr. Nahorodny could not perform the duties of a Police Officer due to continuing pain and weakness in his cervical spine and right shoulder, even after corrective surgery. The IME report stated Mr. Nahorodny may be suited for desk duty, but the pain and condition of his right arm might cause stress and distraction that may render him unable to perform even desk duties. The IME report indicated Mr. Nahorodny's disability was service-connected, total and permanent.*

**Member Hibbard moved to accept into evidence the entire file, inclusive of the application, personnel file, interrogatories, medical records, and IME. The motion was duly seconded and carried unanimously.**

*Attorney Jason Fox, representing Mr. Nahorodny, said based on the competent and substantial evidence, Mr. Nahorodny's disability was total, permanent, and service-connected. He said Mr. Nahorodny suffered from pain, weakness, and loss of range of motion and was at risk for additional surgeries. He requested the Committee rely on the IME report and approve Mr. Nahorodny's disability application.*

*Mr. Nahorodny thanked the Committee and stated this was not how he wanted his departure to happen. He said he loved Clearwater, had lived here his entire life and would do it all over again.*

*Discussion ensued with comments that the IME report was clear, in-depth and one of the most thorough reports ever submitted to the Committee.*

**Member Hamilton moved that William Nahorodny met the requirements for a job-related disability pension as he was disabled by reason of an injury suffered in the line of duty, such disability is likely to be continuous and permanent from a cause other than those listed as general disability exclusions, and he is unable, by reason of a medically determinable physical impairment, to render useful and efficient service as a police officer. The motion was duly seconded and carried unanimously.**

**4. Old Business Items:** None.

**5. Director's Report**

*Human Resources Director Jennifer Poirrier said a potential disability application was in process.*

**6. Board Members to be Heard**

*Chair Hightower thanked IT for logging members into the computers and thanked members for accommodating the Special Meeting to consider the disability application.*

**7. Adjourn**

*The meeting adjourned at 9:16 a.m.*

Attest:

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Chair, Pension Advisory Committee

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Board Reporter