



City of Palm Coast

Fire Station #25
1250 Belle Terre Parkway
Palm Coast, FL 32164

Meeting Minutes Volunteer Firefighters' Pension Board

Chair Charles Esposito
Vice Chair Timothy Wilsey
Board Member Daniel Brazzano
Board Member John Pickard
Board Member Robert Schroeder

Friday, June 24, 2016

8:30 AM

Fire Station 25

SPECIAL MEETING

Staff: Chris Quinn, Finance Director
Peggie Calkins, Recording Secretary

>Public comment will be allowed consistent with Senate Bill 50, codified at the laws of Florida, 2013 – 227, creating Section 286.0114, Fla. Stat. (with an effective date of October 1, 2013). The public will be given a reasonable opportunity to be heard on a proposition before the City's Volunteer Fire Fighters Pension Board, subject to the exceptions provided in §286.0114(3), Fla. Stat.

>Public comment on issues on the agenda or public participation shall be limited to 3 minutes.

>If any person decides to appeal a decision made by the Volunteer Fire Fighters Pension Board with respect to any matter considered at such meeting or hearing, he/she will need a record of the proceedings, including all testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based. To that end, such person will want to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made.

>The City of Palm Coast is not responsible for any mechanical failure of recording equipment.

>Other matters of concern may be discussed as determined by the Volunteer Fire Fighters Pension Board.

>If you wish to obtain more information regarding agenda, please contact Recording Secretary Peggy Calkins at 386-986-2300.

>In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, persons needing assistance to participate in any of these proceedings should contact the City Clerk at 386-986-3713 at least 48 hours prior to the meeting.

>All pagers and cell phones are to remain OFF while City Council is in session.

A. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Esposito called the meeting to order at 8:45 a.m. Announced there was no quorum, discussion will be held in the Sunshine, no action will take place.

B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

C. ROLL CALL

Virginia Smith called the roll.

Present: 2 - Chair Esposito, and Vice Chair Wilsey

Absent: 3 - Board Member Brazzano, Board Member Pickard, and Board Member Schroeder

1. DISCUSSION - MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS PRIOR TO JULY 2002

Discussion held on former volunteer members' applications for eligibility for past years of service.

Chair Esposito-Re-application for members who are former volunteer firefighters within the Palm Coast district. We have I believe, we have at this time, an application from one of those members. Attendant with that application was an inquiry as to whether or not there would be any eligibility for past years of service under the pension program. Vice Chair Wilsey-Correct.

Chair Esposito-I had a discussion with the attorney, Scott Christiansen. In regards to the agenda items-Thoughts that came to mind-former volunteer firefighter re-application for membership would be the general topic on it. It is my understanding that an application would be considered and processed as a new member even though they were at one time a member. As a new member, an applicant would have the option to pursue the volunteer pension plan as a new member. Re-application of a former volunteer separated prior to 2002, in my understanding, does not include credit for firefighter prior years as prior to 2002 as a function of eligibility for those years in the pension plan. Last is the Palm Coast Volunteer Firefighter Pension Plan Ordinance, specifically establishes conditions for prior year credit and precludes years not meeting those conditions, that is the broad subject on this. So after considering that, I spoke with Scott. I wrote him what I thought was something that should be considered and somehow or other either accentuate in the ordinance or add it. I am not sure if the attorney will do that but this what I sent to him. Chair Esposito provided an email to and from Attorney Scott Christiansen, which is attached to these minutes. Chair Esposito read the email into the record.

Chair Esposito-In the Ordinance, Section 2-526, under paragraph 2 on page 2, it states "Firefighters with up to 5 years of consecutive service to the City as a Volunteer Firefighter for the Palm Coast Service District, prior to 2002, shall be eligible to receive up to 5 years of credited service provided such members satisfied pension requirements (points) in at least one of the 2 following years, excuse me, in one of the 2 years following July 2002. Otherwise no credited service shall be awarded for any period prior to July 1, 2002." That in itself is very explicit and precludes a member who left in 1995 but had years of service but did not fall under the category of credited years as far as the pension plan is concerned.

Another paragraph that may have generated some confusion, I just want to cover it, and again this is on page 2, "If a member terminates his service or is dropped from the rolls as a Volunteer Firefighter, and is thereafter re-employed or re-instated on the rolls as a Volunteer Firefighter, his previous years of credited service shall be restored but at the annual benefit rate at which was in effect at the date of termination of employment or the date when he was dropped from the rolls shall be applied to all prior credited service." But this only applies to people who have earned credited years from 2002 on.

Chris Quinn-If someone had a year of credited service at the \$35 per year rate, several years ago, if they come back, they get that one year at the \$35 rate and not the current rate? Ans: Chair Esposito-That is correct.

Chair Esposito to Vice Chair Wilsey-Does this resolve the issues? Ans: Vice Chair-Yes, it does.

2. DISCUSSION - SHARE PLAN DISTRIBUTION

This was discussed under item 1.

I. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were none.

J. DISCUSSION BY BOARD OF ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Nothing at this time.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:58 a.m.

*Respectfully submitted,
Virginia Smith, City Clerk*