

**Association of Retired San Jose Police Officers and Firefighters
General Meeting Minutes**

May 9, 2024

Meeting was in-person at POA and on Zoom

Called to order at 11:05 am by Vice President John Shuman – Roll Call

Officers Present:

John Shuman – VP Police; Walter Bugna – VP Fire;
Larry Samarron – Treasurer; Dale Foster - Secretary

Officers Absent: Ray Storms – President

Directors Present:

Gary Johnson; Don Bartels; Jim Spence; Ken Jacksteit; Joe Roberts

Directors Absent: Tim Miller

Guests: None

24 members and guests attended at POA and 7 attended by Zoom

Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Silence

General Meeting Minutes from April 11, 2024 – Minutes handed out and will be uploaded to the Association website per direction of the Board of Directors.

Treasurer's Report – Treasurer Samarron provided a report on Account Balances and Income/Expenditures for April 2024.

Reports from Committees – Updates

- The Election Endorsement Committee is having Dustin DeRollo review the questions that the candidates are going to be asked. When the questions are decided upon the meetings with candidates will be set up.
- The City Benefits Review Committee is working on the new insurance coverage and rates for the upcoming period. Jim Spence is our representative on this committee.

Old Business

- Maria Wardall, spouse survivor of Rick Wardall, reported that the interest in starting a survivor's group was very good and that she was still working to get the word out about starting the group. The POA has approved the group meeting before or after the regular General Membership Meetings. The Association is staying supportive of this effort.
- The letter to Retirement Services regarding the issues created by granting disability retirements to retirees many years after they retire with a regular retirement still needs to be sent. The letter will officially notify Retirement Services and City Finance of the issues and request a meeting to discuss what can be done. Our Association would like to see flexibility by the City and the Retirement Board in how they handle allowing retirees deal with changing retirement status and payback requirements.

New Business

- Reported on actions being proposed by the city regarding the administration of the Office of Retirement Services. **The City Administration is proposing a Ballot Measure that if approved would take the appointing authority for the Chief Executive Officer and Chief Investment Officer for each of the retirement systems away from the respective Retirement Boards and place it with the City Council.**

The Fire and Police Unions are very concerned about this move and so is the Municipal Employee Federation Union and their retiree group.

Apparently, some complaints were lodged with the city regarding operations within the two retirement systems not following city policies and procedures and an audit was performed.

Here is the conclusion of the City Audit:

Though ORS staff are City employees, ORS management and the City Administration have provided differing direction on whether they should be following all City policies. The result is that it is not clear what internal controls apply to ORS operations, either for ORS staff or the Retirement Boards. ORS has some internal procedures, but many date back to the 1990s or early 2000s and staff in some cases were unaware of them. Not having clear direction or up-to-date procedures is an internal control weakness that can lead to practical difficulties in routine operations and expose the retirement systems and the City to unnecessary risks. To ensure that ORS has strong internal controls, ORS and the Retirement Boards should work with the City Administration and City Attorney's Office adopt City policies and procedures for ORS staff or develop internal policies and procedures that align to the City's.

The City's interpretation of this conclusion is to now have the city select the Chief Executive Officer and Chief Investment Officer instead of the respective Retirement Boards. This would supposedly bring uniformity to the application of policies and procedures. All the Unions and their respective Retiree Groups disagree with this assumption. The Association believes this can be worked out without this type of change.

President's and Vice Presidents' Report

No Report

The meeting was adjourned at 11:43 am