**MINUTES OF THE**

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE**

**RETIRED EMPLOYEES’ ASSOCIATION**

**January 18, 2024**

**Firefighters’ Hall**

**618 Stockton Street, Jacksonville, FL 32204**

**Jacksonville, Florida**

**CALL MEETING TO ORDER** – President John Keane, called the meeting to order at 10:45AM.

**QUORUM** – A quorum of Board Members was present.

**INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO AMERICAN FLAG –** Waived.

**ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS**--The following officers and directors were present: President John Keane, 1st Vice President Terry Wood, 2nd Vice President Darryl Patterson, Secretary Greg Radlinski, Treasurer Tom Warrum, Chaplain Leona Spann, Mbr-at-Large Al Saffer, Mbr-at-Large Charlene West, Mbr-at-Large Laura English-Williams, Advisory Panel Member Sheila Sharpe Caulkins, GEPP Trustee Richard Wallace, PFPF Trustee Terry Wood, PFPF Advisory Committeeman Tom Lumpkin, and Ombudsman Mary Ann Anders.

The following officers and directors were absent: Past Pres. Eric Smith (excused), Past President Pete Ison, Sergeant-at-Arms Larry Johnson (excused), GEPP Pension Advisory Committeeman Kent Mathis and Historian Cheryl Brown

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES—**Minutes of the December 3, 2023, General Members’ Meeting/Christmas Party were approved.

**FINANCIAL REPORT**--TreasurerTom Warrum gave the financial report. There were no outstanding obligations. The Association’s assets totaled $109,440.42.

**CORRESPONDENCE**—There was no correspondence.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

 **A.** 1st Vice President Terry Wood:

 Legislation. The Council Secretary will prepare a list of pending bills that would affect the Association and send it to the REA. At the State level, Florida Power and Light is seeking legislation that would prohibit JEA from contributing funds in lieu of taxes to the City and would restrict JEA from serving customers outside Duval County.

 **B.** 2nd Vice President Darryl Patterson reported:

 1. Membership. Since the last BOD meeting, the membership numbers 2375 having gained 10 and lost 18.

2. Social.

 **a.** The Social Committee continues to finalize an excursion to the Mississippi Gulf Coast and New Orleans. Tentatively, the trip is slated for September 23 – 27. The trip fare will be approximately $685 per person which includes coach travel from Jacksonville to Bay St. Louis, MS, four nights stay at the Hollywood Casino, 8 meals, transportation to New Orleans, a river boat cruise on the Mississippi River, a visit to the Mardi Gras Float Museum, and return to Jacksonville. At additional cost, an optional tour of New Orleans may be added. Details will be provided at the next BOD meeting.

 **b.** Plans are being made for a group event at the Alhambra Dinner Theater (June 20) for a matinee performance of Joseph and Amazing Technicolor Dream Coat.

**C.** Pension Trustees reports.

 a. Police and Fire Pension Fund.

 PFPF Trustee Terry Wood reported that the Fund balance is $2.5 billion. Further, the Board is moving to amend statutes concerning the governance of the Fund Administration, confirming that the Board controls the terms and conditions of its executive staff and the retaining of professional services, including counsel, auditors, accountants, etc.

 PFPF Advisory Committeeman Tom Lumpkin reported that the until recently the Fund’s private attorney and an attorney from the City Office of General Counsel would routinely participate in Board and Committee meetings. Soon counsel will participate only upon invitation. Also, several new Committee members have been elected. A list of their names will be provided.

 b. General Employees’ Pension Plan.

 GEPP Pension Trustee Richard Wallace reported that, as of 11/30/23, the GEPP Fund balance is $2.0277 billion. The return on investment has been 10.27%

**PRESIDENT’S REPORT—**President Keane commented that next month’s BOD meeting will be held at Fire Station EIGHT on Stockton Street. Although the Council did not pass a bill granting retirees a one-time bonus from remaining Federal stimulus funds, REA will renew its efforts to get such a bill passed in 2024. President Keane thanked Mr. Patterson for the Social Committee’s hard work expanding the social events menu for 2024, and that The Real Scoop is on schedule to be distributed every two months.

**OLD BUSINESS**— There was no old business.

**NEW BUSINESS**— There was no new business

**GENERAL COMMENTS**—

 Richard Wallace commented that REA needs a new accounting system. The current system is antiquated and difficult to use.

 Tom Lumpkin recommend that REA investigate the possibility of the City creating a voluntary mutual aid fund for interested City employees, similar to the firefighters’ death benefit fund. Under the firefighter’s fund, participants pay a monthly sum to the fund which invests the money collected and, at the death of a member of the fund pays a benefit (calculated on the length of service, the amount contributed, etc.) to a named beneficiary. Richard Wallace explained some of the practicalities of creating such a program.

 Darryl Patterson initiated a discussion about the difficulty recruiting members, reflective of the City’s difficulties recruiting police officers and firefighters.

**BENEDICTION** - Chaplain Spann gave a benediction.

**ADJOURNMENT**--There being no further business to conduct, the meeting adjourned at 11:30 AM. The next meeting will be February 15, 2024, at Fire Station EIGHT, 625 Stockton Street at 10:00 AM.

 Greg Radlinski

 Secretary