

**Minutes of SPECIAL Meeting of the
General Employees' Retirement Systems,
held Tuesday, May 10, 2016, at 1:00 P.M.,
in the Council Chambers, 11 North 3rd Street,
Jacksonville Beach, Florida.**



The meeting was called to order by Chair Pro-Tem Christine Hoffman

Roll call:

General Employees' Pension Board:

Nick Currie, Christine Hoffman, Brandon Maresma, Bruce Thomason, Eddie Vergara

Also present was Pension Plan Administrator Jeri Benjamin, Human Resources Director Ann Meuse, City Clerk Laurie Scott, City Clerk Administrative Assistant Jodilynn Byrd, and Pension Attorney Pedro Herrera.

In addition, Linzy Lane and his attorney, Nah-Deh Simmons, were in attendance.

Forfeiture Hearing for Pension Benefits: Linzy Lane

City Clerk Laurie Scott administered the Oath of Office to Brandon Maresma.

Pedro Herrera, Sugarman & Susskind, PA, explained the purpose of the meeting was to discuss the forfeiture of Mr. Lane's pension benefits. He briefly described the process of the hearing. He stated the Board hired special counsel, Paul Daragjati, of Klausner, Kaufman, Jensen & Levinson, PA, to advocate the proceedings. The question is whether the Board will forfeit the benefit of the interest component of his pension. Mr. Herrera remarked that the decision will be based on a preponderance of the evidence.

Mr. Thomason asked Mr. Herrera about the accurate depiction of the preponderance of the evidence. Mr. Herrera answered that it means that if the majority of the evidence received leads to a decision, the requirement would be satisfied.

Mr. Daragjati gave a brief presentation regarding the law, evidence, and due process. He stated that Mr. Lane was sent notification on November 10, 2015, by the Board, of forfeiture of his interest based upon his conviction of grand theft. On December 7, 2015, Mr. Lane responded by asking for a hearing. Mr. Daragjati described the evidentiary materials in detail and presented as Composite Exhibit 1, the packet of evidence.

Mr. Simmons, representing Mr. Lane, stated that Mr. Lane was employed by the City for 16 years at the cemetery. He gave an overview of Mr. Lane's job description while employed by the City.

Mr. Lane stated there were four incidents in question and they were completed on his own time.

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Mr. Simmons stated there was knowledge of what Mr. Lane was allowed to do and what he was not allowed to do. There was some confusion as to what his job responsibilities were.

Mr. Herrera asked if anyone in the audience wished to speak. No one came forward.

Mr. Herrera stated that the Board had heard from both parties and they had been provided evidence, documents, and testimony. He commented that if the Board needed any information, it would be provided.

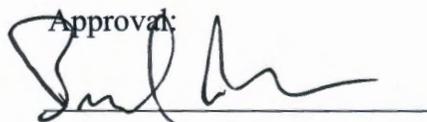
Motion: It was moved by Mr. Thomason and seconded by Ms. Hoffman, to terminate and forfeit all rights, privileges, and benefits to which Linzy Charles Lane is or may be entitled from the Retirement System pursuant to Section 112.3173, Florida Statutes.

Roll call vote: Ayes – Currie, Hoffman, Maresma, Thomason, and Vergara.
The motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 2:30 P.M.

Submitted by: Catherine Ponson
Assistant City Clerk

Approval: 
Date: 8/9/16