In the Matter Of:

CITY OF MEMPHIS PENSION BOARD MEETING

HEARING November 21, 2019



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            CITY OF MEMPHIS
 6
        PENSION BOARD MEETING
 7
          NOVEMBER 21, 2019
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     ALPHA REPORTING CORPORATION
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1	APPEARANCES	2
2		
3		
4	BOARD MEMBERS:	
5	REGINA LUCAS, Secretary TED DAVIS	
6	SHARONDA HAMPTON DEREK BRASSEL	
7	LISA GEATER PAULA POLITE	
8	ROBERT M. KNECHT SHARON PETTY, ESQ.	
9		
10	ALSO PRESENT:	
11	JOE NORMAN, Vice-President, Memphis Fire Fighters Association	
12	PAULA ROBILIO, MS, RN, CRC, CCM, LNCC, Genex	
13		
14		
15		
16		
17		
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20	COURT REPORTING FIRM:	
21	ALPHA REPORTING CORPORATION Sheri Allen	
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3
 1
               PROCEEDINGS
 2
                                    (9:00 A.M.)
 3
            MS. LUCAS: Welcome to the November 21st,
 4
    2019 pension board meeting. I hereby call the
 5
    meeting to order. I will now call the role.
 6
           Mayor Jim Strickland. Alexandria Smith.
 7
    Candi Burton. Ted Davis.
 8
            MR. DAVIS: Here.
 9
            MS. LUCAS: Sharonda Hampton.
10
            MS. HAMPTON:
                          Here.
11
            MS. LUCAS: Nancy Albonetti. Derek
12
    Brassel.
13
            MR. BRASSEL: Here.
14
            MS. LUCAS: Lisa Geater.
15
            MS. GEATER: Here.
16
            MS. LUCAS: Paula Polite.
17
            MS. POLITE: Here.
18
            MS. LUCAS: Robert Knecht. And we have
19
    Sharon Petty who is our pension board attorney
20
    representative here today.
21
            MS. PETTY: Here.
2.2
            MS. LUCAS: And I'm Regina Lucas, the
23
    board secretary.
24
             So we will move on to Item No. 2, which is
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the approval of the October 31st pension board
 1
 2
   minutes. Are there any additions or corrections for
    the October 31st, 2019 pension board meeting
 3
   minutes? May have a motion to approve?
 4
 5
             MS. GEATER: Move to approve.
 6
             MS. LUCAS: May I have a second?
 7
             MR. DAVIS: Second.
             MS. LUCAS: Are there any discussions?
 8
 9
    All in favor.
10
             BOARD MEMBERS:
                             Aye.
11
             MS. LUCAS: Those opposed? Motion
12
    carries.
13
             So we will move on to item No. 3, pension
14
    fund update meeting. Mr. Sam Johnson, our
15
    investment manager will now present the pension fund
16
    update.
17
             MR. JOHNSON: Okay. Let's take a look at
    the pension fund for the month of October, turning
18
    to Page 3. Market conditions. Basically, you have
19
20
    a continuation of a debt reduction by central banks
    around the world. Sales has been great in stores
21
2.2
    for the third time this year, there's a target range
23
    one and a half to 1.755 percent.
```

Consumer spending has been a strong point.

24

- The third quarter GDP came at 1.9 percent. And that 1 2 was driven mostly by consumer spending. The big news for the quarter, for the month rather, was that 3 the US and China have reached what they call a phase 4 one trade deal. That's not a complete deal, it's 5 just a part of the deal. And the main part of that 6 deal is that the US would delay tariff increases, 7 and in turn, China would buy more agriculture goods 8 from the US. 9 10 Japanese retail sales, they had a spike up 11 during the month because of a tax increase that was 12 going to be going into effect on November 1st. Just like anybody would do, you go out and buy as much as 13 you can if you want to save your money before the 14 tax increase goes up in November 1st. 15 16 Brazil and Russia, they reduced their 17 rates along with pension reform in Brazil. So
 - rates along with pension reform in Brazil. So mostly it was a pretty good month. Not a lot of bad news to come out of the month.

18

19

20

21

2.2

23

24

And looking at Page 4, domestic stocks for the pension fund in the month of October is up almost 20 percent. The national stock is up 19.75 percent. International stock is up 17 point -- 16.7 percent year to date. Bonds are up almost nine

percent. The inhouse cash portfolio is up almost two percent. Prime equity up 2.38. Hedge funds up almost five. And the Hope Fund is up 2.32 percent year to date. The month value of the funds at the end of October was 2,346,000,000, and that has increased by 220,000,000 year to date.

Looking at the bottom of the page, the white line below the first shaded green line, as you can see, 500 is up 23.16 percent. So it's been a pretty good year for US stocks. As a matter of facts, stocks in general. And the pension fund continues to have a good year through the month of October. Hopefully, this year won't be anything like last year. It's looking like it will not be. I believe it was last year when things were going fine, but during the 4th quarter of the year, especially during the month of December, things took a nose dive. So but I think, you know, that's going to be averted this year, but we don't know.

On Page 5, beginning of the month, \$11.8 million of the pension funds cash being administered inhouse. On Page 6, pension benefit pays were 14,037,000. They went down for the month of October year over year, and that's because in the County

```
department, they didn't get something done on time,
 1
 2
    so that's not really a decrease in expenses.
   had what, September pension transfer -- pension
 3
    transfers that were not done until the month of
 4
 5
    October. So I think that will straighten out next
 6
    month.
 7
             And to conclude on Page 7, total market
    conditions were favorable to the pension fund, up 13
 8
 9
   percent year to date. And, you know, so far this
10
    month has been a good month and it's really been
11
    great. And we will just see how it goes.
12
             Any questions or concerns? All right.
13
             MS. LUCAS: All right. Thank you,
14
    Mr. Johnson.
15
             Okay. We will move on to Item 4.
16
    Resolution to provide a spousal allowance to the
17
    widow or widower of a deceased retiree.
18
             We got JoAnn Davenport, $1,334.63. Linda
    Fuller, $2,135.31. Melba Hooker, $737.31. Norene
19
20
    Russell, $1,332.91.
             The files are in order. Do I have a
21
2.2
    motion to approve?
             BOARD MEMBER: Move to approve.
23
```

MS. LUCAS: Do I have a second?

24

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8
 1
             BOARD MEMBER: Second.
 2
             MS. LUCAS: Those in favor?
 3
             BOARD MEMBERS: Aye.
             MS. LUCAS: Those opposed? Motion
 4
 5
    carries.
 6
             We'll move on to resolution -- I mean,
    Item No. 5, resolution to provide a service
 7
    retirement. We have Alan W. Adams, $1,742.19.
 8
   Arlanda S. Jackson, $1,864.75. Gregory Sanders,
 9
10
    $3,017.09.
             The files are in order. Do I have a
11
    motion to approve?
12
13
             BOARD MEMBER: Move to approve.
14
            BOARD MEMBER: Second.
15
             MS. LUCAS: Those in favor?
16
             BOARD MEMBERS: Aye.
17
             MS. LUCAS: Those opposed? Motion
18
    carries.
             Item No. 6, resolution to provide a
19
20
    reduced retirement. We have Paul Giles, $1,251.52.
21
    Crystal R. Porter, $858.24.
2.2
             The files are in order. Do I have a
23
    motion to approve?
24
             BOARD MEMBER: Move to approve.
```

```
1
             BOARD MEMBER:
                            Second.
 2
             MS. LUCAS: Those in favor?
 3
             BOARD MEMBERS:
                             Aye.
             MS. LUCAS: Those opposed? Motion
 4
 5
    carries.
 6
       (WHEREUPON, ROBERT KNECHT ENTERED THE ROOM.)
 7
             MS. LUCAS: Okay. We'll move on to Item
   No. 7, which is a request for line of duty
 8
 9
    disability retirement. We have Robert S. Baker.
                                                       Is
10
    Mr. Baker here?
11
             MR. NORMAN: I don't believe so, but I'll
12
    check right quick.
13
             MS. LUCAS: Mr. Baker will not attend
    today and has not been given his -- having given his
14
15
    consent to have his private medical information
16
    shared with those attending the City of Memphis
17
    pension board meeting. Anyone not required to be
18
    here should leave the room at this time.
19
             Okay. We'll now hear his medical report
    from Genex, our case manager.
20
             MS. ROBILIO: Field Case Management was
21
2.2
    requested to coordinate Independent Medical
    Evaluations for Mr. Robert Baker's line of duty
23
24
    retirement benefits application per the City of
```

Memphis policy protocol.

2.2

Mr. Baker, a 51 year old Fire Private II with the City of Memphis Fire Department has applied for line of duty disability related to a lower back injury he sustained on or about 5/15/2018 when he was letting down a stretcher when it went down suddenly. He was initially evaluated in the emergency department. He received follow-up at Methodist Minor Medical and was diagnosed with lumbar strain and referred to an orthopaedic surgeon.

He was treated by Dr. Jeffrey Dlabach. X-rays revealed degenerative disc space narrowing in all disc spaces from LR through S1. MRI was eventually ordered and revealed right intraforaminal disc protrusion at L3-4 and L5-S1 with associated neuroforaminal narrowing.

He was referred to Dr. Alan Kraus for epidural steroid injections with no significant improvement. He was then referred to Dr. Laverne Lovell, neurosurgeon. He underwent a nerve root block with no improvement. On 3/21/19 he underwent surgery for right L5 root parsectomy and discectomy.

He was referred for physical therapy.

Due to continued complaints, he underwent a repeat MRI which revealed post-op changes at L4-5 with no recurrent spinal stenosis or nerve root impingement. Mild spinal stenosis slightly worsened since the previous MRI, and minimal degenerative changes from L2 through L4 and L5-S1.

2.2

Mr. Baker continued to report back pain and numbness in his toes. A repeat epidural steroid injection was completed. A Functional Capacity Evaluation was completed. Dr. Lovell released him with permanent restrictions based on the FCE results and discharged him from care on 9/3 of '19.

In preparation for the Independent Medical Evaluation Process, Field Case Management prepared a copy of the medical records, recorded statement, line of duty application, and job description received from the Sedgwick Claims Examiner. Field Case Management ensured all records and the MRI films were available for the IME physicians' review. Below is a summary of each physicians' opinion and the IME report and checklists are attached.

Dr. Riley Jones performed an IME on 11/4/2019. Dr. Jones' line of duty IME report detailed Mr. Baker's mechanism of injury, diagnosis,

diagnostic testing results, treatment history, work 1 2 status and current medical status. On orthopaedic examination, Dr. Jones noted strength of five out of 3 five, and normal muscle tone throughout both hips 4 and extremities. He noted positive straight leg 5 raise on the right. He noted decreased sensation in 6 the S1 dermatone. 7 Dr. Jones opined he has a diagnosis of 8 herniated disc lumbar. He is permanently and 9 10 totally disabled from his job as a Fire Private II,

11

12

13

14

15

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18

19

20

21

2.2

23

24

the City of Memphis.

OJI physician Dr. Lovell completed the IME checklist noting Mr. Baker has a diagnosis of chronic low-back and leg pain. He is permanently and totally disabled from performing his duties as a Fire Private II and his diagnoses were caused by his employment at the City of Memphis.

and the diagnosis was caused by his employment with

With two consenting opinions noting
Mr. Baker is permanently and totally disabled and
the diagnoses are related to his employment at the
City of Memphis, additional IME's are not warranted
per the City of Memphis line of duty IME protocol.

MS. LUCAS: Do we have an OJI file?

```
BOARD MEMBER: Yes, there is an OJI file
 1
    and it is in order.
 2
             MS. LUCAS: Okay. So we have Mr. Robert
 3
    Baker, $1,564.94, and his pension files are in
 4
 5
    order. Do I have a motion to approve?
 6
             BOARD MEMBER: Motion to approve.
 7
             BOARD MEMBER: Second.
             MS. LUCAS: Those in favor?
 8
 9
            BOARD MEMBERS:
                             Aye.
10
             MS. LUCAS: Those opposed? Motion
11
    carries.
12
             State your name as a representative of
   Mr. Baker.
13
             MR. NORMAN: Joe Norman, vice-president,
14
15
    Memphis Firefighters Association.
16
             MS. LUCAS: So Mr. Norman, in place of
17
    Mr. Baker, I must notify you that he is a
18
   participant receiving a line of duty disability
    benefit and he may be required to undergo a medical
19
20
    examination at least once a year. The examination
21
    must be made by a physician appointed by the Board
2.2
    of Administration.
23
             The retirement benefits for any disabled
24
   participant who refuses to submit a medical
```

```
14
    examination shall be discontinued until withdrawal
 1
 2
    of such refusal.
 3
             MR. NORMAN: I'll make sure Mr. Baker is
    aware of those conditions.
 4
 5
             MS. LUCAS: Thank you.
 6
             MR. NORMAN: Thank you.
 7
             MS. LUCAS: Okay. So that concludes our
    November 21st, 2019 pension board meeting. Do I
 8
    have a motion to dismiss?
 9
10
             BOARD MEMBER: Move to adjourn.
11
             MS. LUCAS: Adjourn, I'm sorry. Do I have
12
    a second?
13
             BOARD MEMBER: Second.
             MS. LUCAS: Okay. Our next pension board
14
15
    meeting will be on December 19, 2019 at nine
16
    o'clock.
17
         (THE PROCEEDINGS CONCLUDED AT 9:12 A.M.)
18
19
20
21
22
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24
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3	COUNTY OF SHELBY)	
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