MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM OF LOUISIANA

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES — JUNE 16, 2016

The Board of Trustees of the Municipal Employees' Retirement System of Louisiana met in regular session on Thursday, June 16, 2016 at 9:00 A.M. at the Municipal Employees' Retirement System, 7937 Office Park Boulevard, Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

PRESENT:

Mayor Clarence Fields, Chairman
Mr. Mike Sands, Vice-Chairman
Mr. Ronnie Harris, Trustee
Mayor Donald Villere, Trustee
Ms. Mary O. Vice, Trustee
Ms. Andrea Mahfouz, Trustee
Mayor Carroll Breaux, Trustee
Ms. Amy Mathews, State Treasurer's Office
Ms. Marsha Guedry, Division of Administration
Representative J. Kevin Pearson, Chairman,
House Retirement Committee
Senator Barrow Peacock, Chairman,
Senate Retirement Committee

UNABLE TO ATTEND:

IN ATTENDANCE:

Warren Ponder, Acting Director
Susita Suire, Retirement Benefits Administrator

The Chairman called the meeting to order.

The Chairman asked Ms. Vice to open the meeting with a prayer and Ms. Mahfouz to lead everyone in the pledge of allegiance.

The Chairman asked Ms. Suire to call roll. A quorum was present.

The Chairman asked for approval of the minutes of the meeting held on May 25 & 26, 2016.

Mr. Harris moved that the minutes of the meeting held on May 25 & 26, 2016 be approved; the motion was seconded by Mayor Breaux. The motion carried without objection or opposition. A copy of these minutes are attached and made a part of these minutes.

The Chairman asked for approval of the Plan A and Plan B retirements (a list was provided to the Board Members).

Ms. Vice moved that the Plan A and Plan B retirements be approved; the motion was seconded by Ms. Mahfouz. The motion carried without objection or opposition.

Ms. Vice moved to authorize Warren Ponder to request an Attorney General's opinion relative to determination of the obligation of both the system and member who are receiving both municipality and city court salaries; the motion was seconded by Ms. Mahfouz. The motion carried without objection or opposition.

Ms. Vice moved to enter into executive session to conduct interviews for the Director's position; the motion was seconded by Mayor Breaux. The motion carried without objection or opposition.

Ms. Mahfouz moved to return to regular session; the motion was seconded by Mayor Villere. The motion carried without objection or opposition.

After an extensive discussion in executive session, Mayor Breaux moved to offer the position of Executive Director to Mr. Warren Ponder; the motion was seconded by Ms. Vice. The Chairman asked for a roll call vote. Mayor Fields, Mr. Sands, Mr. Harris, Ms. Vice, Ms. Mahfouz, Mayor Villere, Mayor Breaux, Senator Peacock, Representative Pearson, Ms. Guedry, and Ms. Mathews voted yes. The motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Mahfouz moved to set the salary for Warren Ponder at his requested $150,000/year; the motion was seconded by Ms. Vice. The Chairman asked for a roll call vote. Mayor Fields, Mr. Sands, Mr. Harris, Ms. Vice, Ms. Mahfouz, Mayor Breaux, Mayor Villere, Senator Peacock, Representative Pearson, Ms. Guedry, and Ms. Mathews voted yes. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Ponder thanked the Board for the opportunity and accepted the Executive Director's position at MERS.

Ms. Mahfouz requested that she would like the Personnel Committee to set goals for the Executive Director that will be reviewed periodically to make sure they have been met. Mr. Harris offered LMA's assistance to Mr. Ponder in his outreach to the Mayors of the municipalities.

Mr. Harris moved to authorize the Chairman, Vice Chairman, and Warren Ponder to discuss the hiring of a CIO and other goals discussed by the Board; the motion was seconded by Ms. Mahfouz. The motion carried without objection or opposition.

Mr. Harris moved to authorize the Chairman and Vice Chairman to draft a letter to thank all of the applicants that applied for the Executive Director's position; the motion was seconded by Ms. Mahfouz. The motion carried without objection or opposition.

Senator Peacock moved to adjourn; the motion was seconded by Ms. Vice. The motion carried without objection or opposition.

Michael Sands

APPROVED

Susita Amin

ATTEST