

New Orleans Firefighters Pension Reform Working Group

NOVEMBER 11, 2014

MINUTES

Members Present:

Deputy Mayor/CAO Andy Kopplin

Councilmember Stacy Head

Chief Timothy McConnell

Paul Mitchell

Tommy Meagher

Nicholas Felton Jr

Hardy Fowler

Scott Jacobs

Greg Rattler

Paul Flower

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:38pm

2. Introductions of Working Group Members

Mr. Flower introduced members of the working group. Deputy Mayor/CAO Andy Kopplin, Councilmember Stacy Head, Chief Timothy McConnell, Paul Mitchell, Tommy Meagher, Nicholas Felton Jr., Hardy Fowler, Scott Jacobs, Greg Rattler and Paul Flower were in attendance.

3. Chairman's Welcome Remarks

Mr. Flower stated that the Business Council recognized the ballooning financial obligations as a problem. The public task force process has proven successful in other cities. The consultants have reform experience. The Business Council and City of New Orleans will share costs, said Flower. Mr. Flower stated that the working group will meet monthly for 4 months. The purpose is for Kapoor and Segal to provide a background and detailed overview of pension issue. Kapoor will seek ideas from working group members between meetings. "This is a group to recommend a solution. This is a problem that is extremely serious", said Flower.

4. Pension Consultant's Presentation
Vijay Kapoor's presentation is attached.

Segal Consulting's presentation is attached.

5. Working Group Questions

Scott Jacobs asked if the net investment return is for DROP and PLOP. Eric Atwater replied that this was the case. Councilmember Head said scenarios 1,2 and 3 take into account projections that don't include an increase in employee contribution. Atwater stated that this was correct as well. Brining the firefighters in line with the New Orleans Police Department could change calculations. Councilmember Head asked a question about who exactly pays for disability. Chief McConnell said disability payments come out of the New Orleans Fire Department's budget. Mr. Meager said disability payments come out of Firefighters Pension Fund accounts as well from worker's compensation. Deputy Mayor/CAO Koppin said pension payments and worker's compensation assessments are in the New Orleans Fire Department's budget. Mr. Meagher then said payments come out of the Firefighters Pension Fund, if the individual is disabled.

6. Any Other Matters to Come Before the Committee

7. Public Comment

Dorian Nunez asked if meetings are open to the public. Mr. Flowers responded that all 4 meetings will be open to the public. Nunez requested census data. Mr. Mitchell said the data may be proprietary. Mr. Nunez then requested an electronic copy of the presentation, in spreadsheet format

8. Adjournment