

**Municipal Police Employees' Retirement System  
Minutes of the Legislative Committee Meeting  
March 15, 2023**

The Legislative Committee of the Municipal Police Employees' Retirement System held a Meeting on Wednesday, March 15, 2023 at the system's office at 7722 Office Park Boulevard in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

**A. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Major Burkart at 9:09 a.m.

**B. Roll Call**

**Members Present**

Major Raymond Burkart, Jr, Chairman  
Mayor Greg Cromer  
Major (Retired) Kelly Gibson  
Lt. (Retired) Chad King

**Members Absent**

None

**Others Present**

Mr. Benjamin Huxen II, MPERS Executive Director and General Counsel  
Ms. Taylor Camp, MPERS, Chief Financial Officer  
Ms. Emily Thurston, Accountant  
Ms. Melissa Frazier, Benefits Administrator  
Ms. Ashlee McNeely, MPERS, Executive Management Officer (virtual)  
Ms. Christie Ziadeh, Benefits Analyst (virtual)  
Mr. Greg Curran, Curran Actuarial Consulting, Actuary  
Mr. David Barnes, NEPC, Investment Consultant  
Chief Edwin Bergeron, Jr., MPERS Trustee  
Assistant Chief Jason DiMarco, MPERS Trustee  
Mayor Gerard Landry, MPERS Trustee  
Mr. Rick McGimsey, Commissioner of Administration Designee  
Mr. Julius Roberson, State Treasurer Designee  
Lt. Tyrone Warren, MPERS Trustee  
Chief Christopher Wilrye, MPERS Trustee  
Mr. Claude Schlesinger, FOP and NO retiree  
Ms. Kay Burke, BLB&G  
Mr. Joey David, Legislative Analyst for the House Committee on Retirement  
Mr. Kenny Herbold, Louisiana Legislative Auditor (virtual)  
Mr. Shinji Hain, LLA (virtual)  
Mr. Haiyu Zheng, LLA (virtual)

### **C. Public Comment**

Major Burkart called for public comments. Mr. Claude Schlesinger addressed the Committee discussing the possibility of legislation related to the reemployment of retirees. He stated that New Orleans needed an exception to the current law due to critically low numbers of officers.

Major (Retired) Kelly Gibson stated that he hoped the MPERS board of trustees would support repealing the reemployment law.

Major Ray Burkart, Jr. stated that the committee would work on the issue. Mr. Huxen stated that it would be best if individuals would send the system their specific situations for consideration.

### **D. Regular Business**

1. Approval of the January 18, 2023, Committee Meeting Minutes

Major Burkart called for the approval of the January 18, 2023, committee meeting minutes.

**Motion by Lt. (Retired) Chad King, seconded by Major (Retired) Kelly Gibson, to approve the minutes of the meeting held January 18, 2023. Without objection, the motion carried.**

### **E. New Business**

1. Discussion and Action Regarding Legislation to Be Proposed for Consideration for the 2023 Regular Session

Mr. Huxen stated that House Bill 34 is the only MPERS bill for the 2023 regular session. He added that the bill is a do-over of the bill related to the Funding Deposit Account from the prior year. Mr. Huxen stated that the system advertised for an earnable compensation bill, but the system learned that New Orleans was going to make their payments during the current fiscal year so there was no time to pass a statute prior to the implementation. Mr. Huxen stated that he was asked to contact New Orleans to see if they had budgeted for contributions on the retention payments. He added that no one from New Orleans responded to his request. Major Burkart stated that there were rumors that many NOPD officers would be leaving after receiving their payments.

Mr. Huxen described the Funding Deposit Account bill that passed in the previous year. He stated that the bill presented to the Governor did not include one section and because of the error in the bill submitted to the Governor, the legislature wanted to reenact the bill to avoid any constitutional challenges.

Mr. Huxen stated that he had not seen any other legislation affecting MPERS.

Mr. Gibson suggested that for next year he would like to see MPERS explore the possibility of MPERS going to a Back-DROP. He wanted to see the feasibility and to see the ramifications. He suggested that it was only a good thing for employees. Mr. Burkart suggested that FOP submit their ideas. He stated that he hoped they could propose a bill that everybody could support.

Mr. Huxen stated that it had been studied before and members wanted it because the Sheriffs have it. He stated that the only hangup was the cost.

Mr. Curran described Back-DROP and discussed why it generally increases employer contribution rates. He stated that he would perform analysis on the Back-DROP and stated that the results would be scenario dependent. There were discussions about whether such a change would allow members who remained employed during or after DROP to rescind their decision and later choose Back-DROP. Mr. Curran stated that rescinding DROP was done by some previous systems at a time when their employer costs were single digit. He stated that there could be substantial cost to allowing participants to rescind DROP. Mr. Curran also discussed the Initial Benefit Option (IBO) which currently exists and allows members to receive a portion of their benefit in the form of a lump sum. He suggested that it may not be appropriate to have Back-DROP alongside the IBO because of anti-selection concerns with having two lump sum options that members may compare at the same point in time.

**Motion by Major (Retired) Kelly Gibson, seconded by Lt. (Retired) Chad King, to recommend that the full Board authorize the actuary to study Back-DROP for MPERS. Without objection, the motion carried.**

#### **F. Other Business**

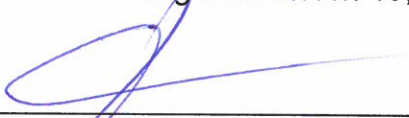
There was no other business brought before the committee.

#### **G. Adjourn**

**Motion by Major (Retired) Kelly Gibson, seconded by Lt. (Retired) Chad King, to adjourn the meeting at 9:47 a.m. Without objection, the motion carried.**

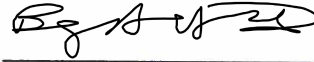
The next meeting date is April 19, 2023.

To the best of my knowledge, the foregoing minutes accurately represent the actions taken at the meeting held March 15, 2023.



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Major Raymond Burkart, Jr.  
Legislative Committee Chairman



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Ben Huxen,  
Executive Director and General Counsel