

**Municipal Police Employees' Retirement System
Minutes of the Legislative Committee Meeting
March 20, 2026**

The Legislative Committee of the Municipal Police Employees' Retirement System met on Friday, March 20, 2026, at the System's office at 7722 Office Park Boulevard in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Asst. Chief Jason DiMarco (Chair) at 9:26 a.m.

II. Roll Call

Members Present

Major Raymond Burkart, Jr.
Asst. Chief Jason DiMarco, Chairman
Major (Retired) Kelly Gibson
Lt. (Retired) Chad King
Chief (Retired) Beth Westlake

Members Absent

Chief Edwin Bergeron, Jr.

Others Present

Mr. Benjamin Huxen II, MPERS, Executive Director and General Counsel
Ms. Taylor Camp, MPERS, Chief Financial Officer
Ms. Melissa Frazier, MPERS, Benefits Administrator
Ms. Emily Thurston, MPERS, System Analyst
Mr. Gregory Curran, Curran Actuarial Consulting, Ltd., Actuary
Mr. Tyler Brannan, Curran Actuarial Consulting, Ltd., Asst. Actuary
Ms. Laura Gail Sullivan, Attorney
Mr. Julius Roberson, State Treasurer's Designee (remote)
Representative Christopher Turner, MPERS Board Member (remote)
Chief Christopher Wilrye, MPERS Board Member (remote)
Mr. Joey David, LA House of Representatives, Legislative Analyst (remote)

III. Public Comment

There were no public comments.

Motion by Lt. (Retired) Chad King, seconded by Major (Retired) Kelly Gibson to enter into Executive Session at 9:27 a.m. to Receive Legal Advice and Discuss Strategy Concerning Pending and Prospective Litigation Affecting MPERS (La. R.S. 42:17 (A)(2)). Without objection, the motion carried.

Motion by Lt. (Retired) Chad King, seconded by Major (Retired) Kelly Gibson to resume open session at 11:33 a.m. There being no objection, the motion carried.

IV. Approval of the March 13, 2026, Meeting Minutes (Action Item)

This item was not taken up before entry into Executive Session. Upon resuming open session, the item was tabled because the minutes were not yet available.

V. New Business

A. Review and Recommendation on Legislation Affecting MPERS for the 2026 Regular Legislative Session, Including Prefiled Bills, Proposed Amendments, and Potential Additional Legislation (Action Item)

B. Delegation of Legislative Negotiation Authority Between Meetings (Action Item)

C. Executive Session to Receive Legal Advice and Discuss Strategy Concerning Pending and Prospective Litigation Affecting MPERS (La. R.S. 42:17(A)(2)) (Action Item)

Motion by Lt. (Retired) Kelly Gibson, seconded by Chief (Retired) Beth Westlake to allow Ms. Laura Gail Sullivan, Ms. Taylor Camp, Lt. (Retired) Chad King, and Asst. Chief Jason DiMarco to negotiate between meetings with LMA and all parties involved including employers, regarding the matters discussed in Executive Session. Without objection, the motion carried. The motion included authorization for a team to represent MPERS at the Capitol during the 2026 Regular Legislative Session.

The Committee discussed responding to an opinion piece written by New Orleans Mayor Helena Moreno and published in the Times-Picayune | The New Orleans Advocate. Major Raymond Burkart, Jr. discussed hiring a public relations firm to determine the appropriate response. Asst. Chief Jason DiMarco stated that a response was needed too quickly to wait for a firm but he and Lt. (Retired) Chad King agreed it may be a good idea to pursue.

Motion by Chief (Retired) Beth Westlake, seconded by Lt. (Retired) Kelly Gibson to authorize Mr. Ben Huxen to prepare a response to New Orleans Mayor Helena Moreno's opinion piece published that morning in the Times-Picayune | The New Orleans Advocate, for distribution by the Chairman of the Board. Without objection, the motion carried.

The Committee then held a brief discussion on a potential new subplan providing line-of-duty disability and death benefits only with no employee contributions and a fixed rate employer contribution starting at 5%, with reductions permitted to no less than 3% with the understanding that the actuary would periodically evaluate

whether the rate should change. The subplan would be available beginning January 1, 2027, to employers with a population of up to 2,500 (per the 2020 census) with no benefits in payment and no more than five active MPERS members as of June 30, 2025. Participating municipalities would be required to enact an ordinance to move future hires into this subplan. This proposal aligns with eliminating the employee optional membership rules in R.S. 11:157. Chief Wilrye stated that after the meeting with LMA, he would like to provide information to the Louisiana Association of Chiefs of Police. The Committee also discussed plans to coordinate with LMA regarding scheduling another meeting.

VI. Other Business

None.

VII. Adjourn

Motion by Chief (Retired) Beth Westlake, seconded by Lt. (Retired) Chad King, to adjourn the meeting at 11:49 a.m. There being no objection, the motion carried.

The next meeting date is April 1, 2026.

To the best of my knowledge, these minutes accurately reflect the actions taken at the March 20, 2026, meeting.


Asst. Chief Jason DiMarco
Legislative Committee Chairman


Ben Huxen,
Executive Director and General Counsel