

**CITY OF OWOSSO
EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM BOARD OF TRUSTEES
REGULAR VIRTUAL MEETING
(Postponed from August 26, 2020)**

SEPTEMBER 9, 2020

7:15 AM

CALL MEETING TO ORDER:

Chairperson Farrell called the meeting to order at 7:24 a.m.

ROLL CALL:

PRESENT: Trustees Richard Brewbaker, Jerome Haber, Douglas Morrice, Vice Chairperson Mark Mitchell, and Chairperson Wilfred Farrell.

ABSENT: Trustee Susan Osika.

ALSO

PRESENT: City Treasurer Katherine R. Fagan; City Attorney Scott J. Gould; City Manager Nathan R. Henne; and City Clerk Amy K. Kirkland.

APPROVE AGENDA:

Motion by Trustee Brewbaker to approve the Agenda as presented.

Motion supported by Trustee Haber and concurred in by unanimous vote.

APPROVE MINUTES OF JUNE 24, 2020 REGULAR MEETING:

Motion by Trustee Brewbaker to accept the minutes of the June 24, 2020 Regular Meeting as presented.

Motion supported by Trustee Morrice and concurred in by unanimous vote.

CITIZEN COMMENTS:

There were no citizen comments.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Motion by Trustee Haber to approve the consent agenda as follows:

1. **Approve Statements:**
 - a. City of Owosso Employees Retirement Fund
As of June 30, 2020
 - b. City of Owosso Employees Retirement Fund
As of July 31, 2020

- c. City of Owosso Employees Retirement Fund
As of August 31, 2020

2. **Payment Authorizations:**

- a. Katherine R. Fagan, City Treasurer
Report of Checks Written – June 2020 \$ 31,558.35
- b. Katherine R. Fagan, City Treasurer
Report of Checks Written – July 2020 \$ 9.25

3. **Death Acknowledgements**

None.

Motion supported by Vice Chairperson Mitchell and concurred in by unanimous vote.

COMMUNICATIONS:

The following communications, publications and conference announcements are on file with the City Clerk – if you would like to read them, please contact her:

- Pensions & Investments: *June 15, 2020*
- Pensions & Investments: *June 29, 2020*
- Pensions & Investments: *July 13, 2020*
- Pensions & Investments: *July 27, 2020*
- Pensions & Investments: *August 10, 2020*
- Pensions & Investments: *August 24, 2020*

OLD BUSINESS:

Completion of MERS Transfer & Dissolution of the Board

City Clerk Kirkland explained that there were two outstanding issues that would need to be handled as a part of the closing of the Retirement System. The first issue is that the System continues to be in receipt of residual monies from dividends and interest on former Morgan Stanley accounts. It is unknown exactly when the last of the residuals will be received. The second issue is the funds held at Chemical Bank. The funds were originally withheld, to the tune of approximately \$750,000, to ensure that retirees would receive their payments even if there was a problem and MERS was unable to pay them. MERS has successfully paid retirees for June, July, and August, meaning the risk of any initial difficulties has passed and the money can be transferred to MERS. This transfer should take place in the next couple of weeks after staff has determined the amount that should be allocated to each division.

There was question as to whether another meeting was necessary to handle these outstanding items. City Attorney Gould indicated no further meetings would be necessary the Board could simply direct all proceeds to be transferred to MERS in its dissolution resolution. The intent of the resolution is to wrap up all the loose ends and officially dissolve the Board.

Motion by Vice Chairperson Mitchell to adopt the following resolution concluding all of the business of the City of Owosso Employees' Retirement System and dissolving the Board of Trustees:

RESOLUTION NO. R-02-2020

OF THE CITY OF OWOSSO

EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM BOARD OF TRUSTEES

WHEREAS, the Owosso Code at Section 2-403(a)(1) delegates and vests with the Municipal Employees' Retirement System of Michigan (MERS) the general administration and management of the of the Owosso pension system; and

WHEREAS, the Owosso Code at Section 2-403(a)(2) directs the City of Owosso Employees' Retirement System Board of Trustees to cease its existence as of June 1, 2020 or as soon thereafter as all of the assets are transferred to MERS; and

WHEREAS, the City of Owosso will have transferred all of its pension assets to MERS by September 30, 2020; and

WHEREAS, any future residual earnings of interest or proceeds stemming from asset liquidation relating to the aforementioned transfer to MERS will be forwarded to same; and

WHEREAS, to date no remaining issues remain pending nor reasonably foreseen by the Board of Trustees; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY OF OWOSSO EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM BOARD OF TRUSTEES:

FIRST: That any and all future residual earnings of interest or proceeds stemming from asset liquidation, once held by the City's Retirement System are to be transferred to MERS upon the City's receipt.

SECOND: That the City of Owosso Employees' Retirement System Board of Trustees as known, and its obligations to the pension system shall be dissolved per City Code Section 2-403(a)(2) upon the adjournment of this pension board Meeting as of September 9, 2020.

Motion supported by Chairperson Farrell and concurred in by unanimous vote.

Vice Chairperson Mitchell asked that the City Council be made aware of the dissolution of the Board.

NEW BUSINESS:

None.

CITIZENS COMMENT:

There were no citizen comments.

Vice Chairperson Mitchell thanked Chairperson Farrell for his help over the years saying it was greatly appreciated. Trustee Brewbaker echoed Vice Chairperson Mitchell's sentiments.

City Clerk Kirkland read aloud the following certificate of appreciation for Chairperson Farrell:

**A CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION
FROM THE MAYOR'S OFFICE
OF THE CITY OF OWOSSO, MICHIGAN
RECOGNIZING**

WILFRED FARRELL

The Mayor, on behalf of the City Council, the City of Owosso Employees' Retirement System Board of Trustees, City of Owosso current employees and retirees, and all local residents, expresses sincerest appreciation for your dedicated service as Trustee and Chairman on the City of Owosso Employees' Retirement System Board of Trustees.

Beginning your service as Trustee in October 2004, you were elected by your peers as Chairman of the Board after just three years' service, and were re-elected to that position 12 times, currently serving as Chairman today.

Your dedicated commitment to the continued development and execution of sound economic principles for the Retirement System has proven invaluable. Your calm and decisive manner has led the Board through numerous obstacles, navigating unforeseen events with aplomb.

Serving simply to give back to your community, your work with the Retirement Board is worthy of commendation. The City of Owosso is fortunate to have had your service for numerous years.

It is the intent of this Office that your service not go unrecognized, and it is with utmost gratitude and honor that I, Christopher T. Eveleth, Mayor of the City of Owosso, offer to you:

“THANK YOU!”

And further wish you well as we all move on to a new chapter.

Chairperson Farrell thanked everyone for the nice sentiments, said the Board had been a great group to work with and the work was a joint effort.

Trustee Haber said he had learned a lot and it was a pleasure to work with all the Board members.

NEXT BOARD MEETING:

This is the last board meeting of the Owosso Employees' Retirement System Board of Trustees. The next MERS board meeting is scheduled for September 23, 2020 at 2:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT:

Chairperson Farrell adjourned the meeting at 7:42 a.m.

Amy K. Kirkland, City Clerk