



Minutes - Final

Budget and Finance Committee

Wednesday, August 2, 2023

5:45 PM

Council Chambers

Roll Call: : Chair Napoli, Hendricks, Gerlach

[15-6063](#)

Bill 68

Amending the Firemen's Pension Fund Ordinance.

Attachments: [Bill 68 Firemen's Pension Fund Amendments](#)

[IAFF CBA 2021-2025](#)

[Ordinance #15930](#)

Mr. Santo Napoli asked Ms. Patel if she could elaborate on this.

Ms. Bina Patel stated that she has Jenn Palenchar who is a Finance Analyst and also works with the Pension Fund.

Ms. Jennifer Palenchar stated that this is cleaning it up. The Ordinance has not been updated in some years. The CBAs get updated frequently. They are trying to bring the Ordinances in line with the CBAs. Specifically, what they are doing is added investing benefit. The last time the IAFF CBA was updated, they added the options of a Vested Pension to the Firefighters. However, they did not add that to the Ordinance. Now, they have the members taking advantage of that benefit. In order for the Pension Board to approve it and add it to their Ordinance. The other things that they are doing is getting rid of the early retirement provision. The same situation, it was removed from the CBA during their last Agreement. She stated that they are removing from the Ordinance so that it is clear to the firefighters what is and is not an option for them that this time.

Mr. Santo Napoli thanked Ms. Palenchar and asked if there were any questions from his colleagues.

Mr. Ed Zucal asked has any of this been discussed with the members of the Firemen's Union.

Ms. Jennifer Palenchar stated yes, and they agree that the city needs to follow the CBA and provide these options. This is the correct process and when you read the CBA, this is something that the city agreed to do back in 2021. They were supposed to update the Ordinance at that time. Things

fell behind. They are aware that the city is doing this and supportive of it.

Mr. Ed Zucal asked if they are aware of the options and all that stuff.

Ms. Jennifer Palenchar stated that the wording is 100 percent identical to the Vest Benefit wording. In the CBA, it was copied directly from that agreement.

Ms. Bina Patel stated that if they had proper staffing and the ability to do this, this would have been done in 2021 when the CBA was agreed upon.

Mr. Santo Napoli asked if there were any other questions from his colleagues. He agrees. Removing the ambiguity is good for everyone. He stated that he is glad that they caught that.

A motion was made by Daryl Hendricks, seconded by Ce-Ce Gerlach, that this Bill be forwarded to Council.

Yes: 3 - Santo Napoli, Daryl Hendricks and Ce-Ce Gerlach

Enactment No: 15930

[15-6062](#)

Bill 69

Amending the Employees' Retirement and Pension System Ordinance.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [Bill 69 OE Pension Fund Amendments](#)
[Ordinance #15931](#)

Ms. Bina Patel stated that they had for an O&E Pension, one active member and when that member retired, they don't have a full quorum anymore. What this Ordinance is requesting is that the retire member of the fund or a resident of Allentown be appointed by the Mayor with advice and consent of the Council to make this a full quorum. Currently, they have the Mayor, the City Controller and the Director of Finance. They need one more person to make this a full quorum.

Mr. Santo Napoli stated that it sounds reasonable and asked if there was any feedback from his colleagues or the public.

Ms. Bina Patel stated that they had for an O&E Pension, one active member.

A motion was made by Daryl Hendricks, seconded by Ce-Ce Gerlach, that this Bill be forwarded to Council.

Yes: 3 - Santo Napoli, Daryl Hendricks and Ce-Ce Gerlach

Enactment No: 15931

Adjournment