

**OPEN SESSION MINUTES OF THE HEARING IN THE GEORGE HIDALGO  
DISABILITY MATTER BEFORE THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE CITY OF DES  
PLAINES FIREFIGHTERS' PENSION FUND**

**June 1, 2021**

An intervention hearing before the City of Des Plaines Firefighters' Pension Board was held on Tuesday, June 1, 2021 beginning at 9:00 AM, at City Hall located at 1420 Miner Street, Des Plaines, Illinois pursuant to proper notice, to conduct formal business regarding the disability claim of George Hidalgo.

Due to the Coronavirus outbreak, Governor Pritzker's Executive Orders and amendments to the Open Meetings Act which suspends physical presence requirements, this hearing was conducted by audio/video conference. A quorum of the public body was not physically present at the Board's regular meeting location because the Pension Board President determined that an in-person hearing with all participants physically present was not practical, prudent or feasible due to the ongoing COVID-19 disaster declarations and public health concerns. A verbatim audio/video recording was taken during this meeting. At the start of this meeting all participants certified that they could hear and communicate with one another. Roll call votes were taken on all actions during this proceeding.

**CALL TO ORDER:** President Rice called the meeting to order at 9:07 AM.

**ROLL CALL:**

**PRESENT:** President William Rice, Secretary Jeff Vallee, Trustee Jeff Rozovics, Trustee Nick Chiaro, and Trustee Paul Birger.

**ALSO PRESENT:** Also present were Attorney Thomas Mazur (counsel for Applicant), Attorney Andrew Fiske (counsel for the City of Des Plaines), Attorney Laura J. Goodloe (counsel for the City of Des Plaines Firefighters' Pension Board) and Applicant George Hidalgo.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None.

**MOTION TO APPOINT BOARD ATTORNEY AS HEARING OFFICER:**

Trustee Vallee made a motion to appoint Board Attorney Goodloe as the hearing officer in this proceeding. Trustee Rice seconded the motion and the motion carried by roll call vote.

**AYES:** President William Rice, Secretary Jeff Vallee, Trustee Paul Birger, Trustee Nick Chiaro, Trustee Jeff Rozovics.

**NAYS:** None.

**ABSENT:** None.

Board counsel then proceeded with making an opening statement.

Pension Board exhibits numbered one through six (1-6) were entered into the record without objection.

**CITY OF DES PLAINES' ARGUMENT IN SUPPORT OF ITS PETITION TO INTERVENE:**

Counsel on behalf of the City of Des Plaines presented brief oral argument in support of the City's Petition to Intervene in the Hidalgo disability matter. Counsel for the Board as well as the Board Members were given the opportunity to ask Counsel questions with respect to the City's Petition and argument.

**APPLICANT'S ARGUMENT IN RESPONSE/OBJECTION TO CITY'S PETITION TO INTERVENE:**

Counsel on behalf of the Applicant stood on his brief and opted not to present any further argument in response to the City's Petition. Counsel for the Board as well as the Board Members were given the opportunity to ask Counsel questions with respect to the City's Petition and argument.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** Trustee Birger made a motion to adjourn into executive session pursuant to 2(c)(4) of the Open Meetings Act to deliberate as to the evidence and arguments the Board received. Trustee Rice seconded the motion. Motion carried by roll call vote.

AYES: President William Rice, Secretary Jeff Vallee, Trustee Paul Birger, Trustee Nick Chiaro, Trustee Jeff Rozovics.

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: None.

The Board went out of Open Session at 9:24 AM.

Upon the conclusion of executive session at 9:47 AM, the Board reconvened back into Open Session. Trustee Vallee made a motion to go back into Open Session. Trustee Birger seconded the motion. The Motion carried by roll call vote.

AYES: President William Rice, Secretary Jeff Vallee, Trustee Paul Birger, Trustee Nick Chiaro, Trustee Jeff Rozovics.

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: None.

(The roll call taken established each Trustee's presence in Open Session.)

**VOTE/RULING ON PETITION:** Trustee Vallee made a motion to grant the City of Des Plaines' Petition to Intervene. Trustee Birger seconded the motion. The motion carried by roll call vote.

AYES: President William Rice, Secretary Jeff Vallee, Trustee Paul Birger, Trustee Nick Chiaro, Trustee Jeff Rozovics.

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: None.

Counsel for the Board clarified to all parties to the proceeding the scope of participation granted to the City in this matter. Counsel also discussed the anticipated course of further proceedings in this matter and the status of the claim.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Trustee Rice made a motion to adjourn the administrative hearing in the Hidalgo disability matter. Trustee Vallee seconded the motion. The motion carried by roll call vote. The hearing was adjourned at 9:51 AM.

AYES: President William Rice, Secretary Jeff Vallee, Trustee Paul Birger,  
Trustee Nick Chiaro, Trustee Jeff Rozovics.

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: None.

Respectfully Submitted,

  
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William Rice

President

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Date Approved

*Open Session Minutes Prepared by Laura J. Goodloe, Esq.*