

RETIREMENT COMMISSION MINUTES

The Retirement Commission met on Wednesday, July 22, 2026. The following members were present: Chris Cullinan, Jason Vandever, Joe Gilkerson, Ben Cullop (remotely), Tony Newberry, Lindsay Ideson, Casey Parker, Barbara Sites, Michelle Christian. Absent: James Freas, Juandiego Wade. Others present: Lisa Burch, Sara Butler, Shelia Weimer, Ivan Gordon (remotely), Domonic Baker (remotely).

This meeting was held in the CitySpace Large Conference Room.

Call to Order

Jason Vandever called the meeting to order at 8:32 AM and made the members aware that Ben Cullop was participating remotely from North Carolina.

He then welcomed new retiree member Barbara Sites.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the May 2026 meeting were approved unanimously with Barbara Sites and Michelle Christian abstaining because they did not attend the May meeting.

Proposed Amendment to City Code

Lisa Burch provided background on the request to amend the City Code to establish a process for distributing Defined Benefit Plan member contributions when a member dies without a designated beneficiary. Shelia Weimer presented the proposed amendment and responded to questions from the Commission members. Following discussion, a motion was made to recommend approval of the proposed amendment to the City Council. The motion passed unanimously.

Deferred Retirement Option Program (DROP)

Jason Vandever briefly explained how a DROP program works and summarized why the Retirement Commission is considering one. Tony Newberry provided context as to why the police department is in favor of a DROP. He said that having a DROP program would help the city keep veteran police officers while younger officers are gaining experience. A discussion took place and the topic will be revisited in either August or September when the commission will make a recommendation.

Other Business

Chris Cullinan mentioned the City is getting ready to issue new bonds and said Charlottesville qualified for AAA bond rating. He said the bond agencies complimented the improvement in our funding status, including the OPEB funding.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 AM.