

MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
CHATTANOOGA FIRE & POLICE PENSION FUND

April 02, 2026

At the regularly scheduled meeting of the Chattanooga Fire and Police Pension Fund Board of Trustees held on the 2nd day of April, President Britt Bradshaw presided. The meeting was held at the Pension Office, 6009 John Douglass Drive, Chattanooga, TN 37421.

The meeting was convened at 0906 hours with board members Britt Bradshaw, Scott Sparks, Joe Shaw, Matt Rorex, Joey Alvey, Phillip McClain, Weston Porter and Chris Hopkins. Attorney Chris Crevasse was also present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Scott Sparks and seconded by Joe Shaw to approve the minutes of the March 05, 2026, meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

APPEARING BEFORE THE BOARD

President Britt Bradshaw acknowledged the participants in the audience and the desire to address the Board regarding the current COLA legislation. President Britt Bradshaw explained those who desired could appear before the Board after the Board has concluded its regular business, with participants being allotted a total of thirty minutes to ensure the Board could recess for its executive legal session immediately following. President Britt Bradshaw asked the participants limit themselves to 3 minutes and do so from the lectern to ensure all participants had the opportunity to speak.

Katrina Abbott stated that the Board has been made aware of rumors that it is considering benefit enhancements, however, the Board is not in a position to do so at this time based on current legislation and state law. The Board understands there are concerns and will allow comments as previously stated.

Public comment began at 0915 hours and ended at 0944 hours with the following comments:

Retired Fire Lieutenant Ronald Wilson appeared before the Board to address his concerns with the 2014 COLA changes. Mr. Wilson didn't understand why the COLA was changed to begin with because it was taken to referendum and the City approved it in 2000. Mr. Wilson indicated retirees would take it to referendum again because the City would approve the 3% COLA because it did before. Mr. Wilson stated that they fought the changes and lost in court.

Retired Fire Captain Kelly Simmons appeared before the Board to address his concerns with the current COLA rate of 1.5% average and so many retirees and beneficiaries hurting financially with the current cost of inflation. Mr. Simmons asked about the current funding status of the Fund. Attorney Chris Crevasse stated the last actuarial valuation indicated approximately 57% funding ratio. Attorney Chris Crevasse stated that the Fund is unable to make benefit enhancements without state approval if the Fund is less than 60% funded. Mr. Simmons asked if participants could address the Board to request changes once the Fund reaches 60%. Attorney Chris Crevasse stated they are more than welcome to, however, just because the Fund reaches 60% doesn't mean the Fund should make changes. Katrina Abbott stated that a pension is not considered healthy at 60%, with healthy being closer to the 80%+ benchmark. Katrina Abbott also stated that the Fund provides a quarterly State of the Pension Summary on its website that provides the most recent actuarial and investment data. Katrina Abbott stated that participants are more than welcome to contact the Fund office and she would be happy to answer questions and provide information.

Retired Fire Captain Bill Melhorn appeared before the Board to address his concerns with the increase in active members' salaries potentially having a negative impact on the Fund as pensions are now higher and that the Fund is not adequately accounting for those increases. Katrina Abbott stated that the Fund's actuary does account for salary increases as part of its valuation. Mr. Melhorn stated it was his understanding that retirees could have a state representative sign off and take the COLA issue to referendum. Mr. Melhorn stated that if the City could raise property taxes to provide raises for active members, it could raise property taxes to increase the COLA and he would happily pay additional property taxes to get his 3% back. Mr. Melhorn stated that he has personally lost \$11,000 per year and over \$70,000 due to the reduction in the COLA.

Retired Fire Captain Larry Tim Zink addressed his concerns with the current COLA benefits and stated that the Board or participants could ask the City to come up with funds to re-instate the 3% COLA to help participants that are struggling. Mr. Zink stated if the City came up with the funds to put extra money in the Fund, then they can certainly find funds again for the COLA. Mr. Zink addressed concerns with rising costs and property taxes and the inability of the current COLA to offset those costs.

Board Vice-President Scott Sparks stated that he has personally had an increased employee contribution and won't be able to capture the most recent pay increases when he retires. Vice-President Scott Sparks also stated that everyone needs to remember that when benefit enhancements went to referendum and were approved in 2000, that the Fund was over 100% funded and needed to make changes. The Fund is far below the 100% funding and is not currently in a comparable position.

LEGAL UPDATE

The Board recessed for an executive legal session at 0944 hours and reconvened at 1129 hours.

MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

Motion by Phillip McClain and seconded by Matt Rorex to approve the following membership items:

REMOVE FROM THE ROLLS:

- Retired Police Captain Ronald P. Conner, effective 03/31/2026, passed away 03/20/2026 (2-411)
- Rita Mann, surviving spouse of Police Lieutenant Phillip T. Mann, effective 03/31/2026, passed away 03/04/2026 (2-411)
- Retired Fire Lieutenant Joseph W. McDaniel, effective 03/31/2026, passed away 03/23/2026 (2-411)
- Pamela Pippin, surviving spouse of Fire Captain James R. Pippin, effective 03/31/2026, passed away 03/24/2026 (2-411)

ADD TO THE ROLLS:

- Master Police Officer Dewayne Prater, retiring with 25 years of service, reduced for J&S Option A (Arlene Benniefield), effective 04/01/2026, adjusted participation date 03/07/2001 (2-411, 2-418)
- Patricia Conner, surviving spouse of retired Police Captain Ronald Conner, effective 04/01/2026 (2-411)

REFUND CONTRIBUTIONS:

- Former Police Officer Andrew Clauson, terminated 03/10/2026, participation date 02/20/2026 (2-413)
- Former Police Officer William Stephens, terminated 03/10/2026, participation date 02/20/2026 (2-413)
- Former Firefighter Logan Purcell, terminated 03/26/2026, participation date 08/08/2025 (2-413)

PAY DEATH BENEFITS:

- Patricia Conner, designated beneficiary of retired Police Captain Ronald Conner (2-411)
- Casey Hamby, designated beneficiary of retired Fire Lieutenant Joseph W. McDaniel (2-411)

Motion carried unanimously.

ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS

The Board reviewed the bills paid since the last meeting.

The Board discussed the Annual Retirement and DROP Seminar. Motion by Joe Shaw and seconded by Phillip McClain to schedule the regular Board meeting for June 4, 2026 at 2:00 p.m. and the Annual Retirement and DROP Seminar at 6:00 p.m. Motion carried unanimously. Katrina Abbott will update the meeting time and send out notices as usual.

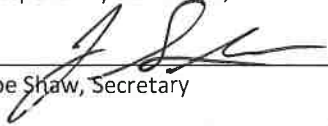
AGENDA NOTES

- Jeff Williams of Segal Group will be appearing before the Board 5/7/2026 to present the 1.1.26 actuarial valuation
- City of Chattanooga ER Contributions received for 3/13/26 (\$1,405,152.17); 3/12/26 (1,865.55); 3/27/26 (\$1,406,010.27)
- City of Chattanooga EE Contributions received for 3/13/26 (\$287,037.34); 3/12/26 (407.73); 3/27/26 (\$293,887.93)
- City CARTA fees received for February 2026 (\$4,305.00)
- City Court fees received for February 2026 (\$4,851.84)


ADJOURNMENT

With no other business, motion by Phillip McClain and seconded by Joey Alvey to adjourn at 1129 hours. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,



Joe Shaw, Secretary

Date Approved: 5.7.26


Britt Bradshaw, President

Visitors not Appearing Before the Board	
Don Bickford	Douglas Smith
Ron Parson	Mike Minnick
Link Sparks	Bill Sparks
David Powell	Marl L. Brown
Greg Short	Anthony Kennedy
Shawn Shipley	Randy Dunn
Michelle Thorne	Mike Baronavski
Tony Ott	Mark Coffman
Rick Floyd	Joel Jackson
David Wright	Rodney Smith
Chester Carney	William Madison
David Peace	Greg Jackson
James Whitmire	Josh Hixson
Adam Waldrop	Logan Holdeman
Terry Jones	Gary Baker

