



Minutes

Retirement Pension Committee
Tuesday, December 3rd, 2024
10:30 am

The Retirement Pension Committee met on Tuesday, December 3, 2024, in the Commissioners Conference Room of the Fayette County Administrative Complex, 140 Stonewall Avenue, Fayetteville, Georgia and virtually via Microsoft Teams.

Committee Present:

Jeff Hill, Chief of Fire & EMS
Phil Mallon, Public Works Director
Lewis Patterson, Human Resources Director
Vanessa Tigert, Water System Director
Sheryl Weinmann, Chief Financial Officer
Michelle Walker, Sheriff's Office

Staff Present:

Amber Pittman, Human Resources Generalist

Retirement Representatives Present:

Alice Davis, OneDigital – via Teams
David Griffin, OneDigital – in person
Paul Bates – ACCG via Teams
Ray Vuicich, UBS Inst Consulting Group – via Teams

Call to Order:

Motion was made to call to order the Quarterly Retirement meeting by Jeff Hill at 10:33am.

Approval of Minutes – Jeff made motion to approve meeting minutes for 08/27/2024. Meeting minutes were approved by Sheryl Weinmann and seconded by Phil Mallon. Motion was approved.

Old Business:

N/A

New Business:

Putnam Stable Value Rate

The Putnam Stable Value Rate is 3.83%. Reviewed by David Griffin, OneDigital.

Investment Performance Review

David Griffin reviewed the 3Q24 Investment review prepared for Fayette County. The report was broken down by OneDigital Quarterly Markets In Focus, Fund Decisions, Executive Summary, Asset Allocation, and Performance Summary.

OneDigital Quarterly Markets In Focus

David Griffin provided a summary of the OneDigital Quarterly Markets in Focus provided in the investment review.

The stock market weathered some volatility to start the quarter but ended up with a modest gain in Q3 2024. The Federal Reserve began their highly anticipated rate cutting cycle with the first interest rate cut of 50bps in their September meeting. Consumer spending remains strong while the labor market slightly weakened. Gross Domestic Product (GDP) rebounded from the first quarter's weak growth rate (1.6%) and increased to 3.0% in Q2 2024.

Strengths

- **Markets Rally:** The U.S. stock market had modest gains through the quarter and the fixed income market made up a lot of ground this quarter. The Bloomberg Agg returned over 5% in the 3rd quarter bringing the YTD return into positive territory.
- **Interest Rate Cuts:** The Federal Reserve began cutting interest rates, which eased some pressure and began to loosen financial conditions. Further cuts are expected before the end of the year by the market.
- **Consumer Spending:** Retail sales surprised on the upside this quarter, proving once again how resilient the U.S. consumer has been.

Risks

- **Slowing Economy:** The labor market has shown some signs of cooling off with the unemployment rate slightly increasing and jobs added slowing. Manufacturing production has also started to slow.
- **Stock Market Volatility:** Election years historically correlate with slightly heightened market volatility, driven by uncertainties surrounding policy changes and electoral outcomes.
- **Geopolitical Tension:** Oil prices spiked at the end of the quarter as tensions between Israel and their neighbors escalated. Any further escalation in conflict could increase volatility in the market.

Outlook

- **Election Risks:** The upcoming election could have a variety of implications in potential policy changes. Historically, election years result in slightly heightened market volatility.
 - **Continued Rate Cuts:** The Federal Reserve has started the process of cutting rates which was started to ease financial conditions. We expect further cuts to come in November and December.
- Slower but Growing Economy: GDP and the consumer are continuing to show strength as the Fed has seemed so far to avoid a hard landing. While labor and manufacturing has slowed, we do not expect the economy to be nearing a recession any time soon.

Performance Summary

David Griffin reviewed the performance summary with the committee.

ACCG 3rd Qtr. 2024 Performance Report

Paul Bates gave an update of ACCG Retirement Services. ACCG is still in pilot phase for an online Notice of Retirement (NOR) process, more to come in 2025.

Ray Vuicich discussed Quarterly Performance Report. No changes recommended

Additional Items:

2025 Calendar Dates for Quarterly Meetings were proposed as follows:

Feb. 25, 2025, May 27, 2025, Aug. 26, 2025, Nov. 18, 2025

Vanessa Tigert made motion to approve dates and seconded by Sheryl Weinmann. Motion approved.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 25, 2025, at 10:30am.

Adjournment:

Motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Vanessa Tigert and seconded by Michelle Walker. Motion was approved.

Minutes prepared by Alice Davis, Senior Client Relationship Manager – OneDigital.

The minutes were duly approved at an official meeting of the Retirement Pension Board of Fayette County, Georgia held on Tuesday, February 25, 2025.

Alice Davis, Senior Client Relationship Manager – OneDigital