



CITY OF AUSTIN
EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM

MINUTES

BENEFITS AND SERVICES COMMITTEE

Public Meeting held in-person and videoconference

Pursuant to Texas Govt. Code 551.127

4700 Mueller Blvd., Suite 100, Austin, TX

July 27, 2026 – 2PM

Committee Members

Ben Ellinor, Committee Chair
Diana Thomas, Committee Vice-Chair
Michael Benson
(Kennard Wright)
(Krista Laine)

Staff

Russell Nash
Shawna Santos
Jenni Bonds
Teresa Cantu
Michelle Mahaini

Guests

Paige Saenz, General Counsel
Dr. Harold Skaggs

Other Board Trustees

Anthony Ross
Kelly Crook
Dick Lavine ±
Jie Li *
(Kaz Wojtewicz)
(Ed Van Eenoo)

± Present via videoconference

* Present telephonically

(Absent)

1. Call roll of Committee members – Committee Chair Ellinor

Committee Chair Ben Ellinor called the meeting to order at 2:00PM. The following Committee members were present in person: Ellinor, Thomas, and Benson.

2. Review order of business and meeting objectives – Committee Chair Ellinor

Committee Chair Ellinor reviewed the order of business and meeting objectives with the Committee. There were no changes to the order of business for the meeting.

3. Receive public comments – Committee Chair Ellinor

Committee Chair Ellinor asked if there were any members of the public who wished to speak, either now or during an agenda item. There were no comments.

4. Discuss and consider disability retirement application #2605 – Committee Chair Ellinor

A. Convene into Executive Session pursuant to sec. 13, art. 6243n, and sec. 551.0785 Texas Government Code, to review disability retirement #2605

B. Reconvene from Executive Session pursuant to sec. 13, art. 6243n, and sec. 551.0785 Texas Government Code, to make recommendations as determined appropriate by the Committee on disability retirement #2605

Jie Li joined the meeting via telephonically at 2:02PM

The Committee convened into Executive Session at 2:03PM and reconvened into open session at 2:16PM.

Mr. Michael Benson moved to deny disability retirement applicant #2605, and Ms. Diana Thomas seconded. The motion was approved, 3-0.

5. Review key meeting takeaways and call for future agenda items – Committee Chair Ellinor

Committee Chair Ellinor summarized the action taken and the information discussed during the meeting. He asked for any future agenda items and there were no further items to address.

Committee Chair Ellinor adjourned the July 27, 2026 Benefits and Services Committee meeting at 2:18PM

Approved at the August 28, 2026 Benefits and Services Committee meeting