RESOLUTION NO. 2015-1

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE GENERAL PENSION PLAN ADOPTING THE ATTACHED DEFINED BENEFIT PLAN FUNDING POLICY.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE GENERAL PENSION PLAN OF THE CITY OF CHATTANOOGA, TENNESSEE, That the Board hereby adopts the attached Defined Benefit Plan Funding Policy.

ADOPTED: May 21, 2015

Daisy W. Madison

DAISY MADISON, Chairperson

City of Chattanooga
General Pension Plan Funding Policy

The Board of Trustees of the City of Chattanooga General Pension Plan ("Board") hereby adopts this document as the Defined Benefit Plan Funding Policy (the "Funding Policy").

Preamble

The intent of this funding policy is to establish a formal methodology for financing the pension obligations accruing under the Plan. It is intended that current assets plus future assets from employer contributions, employee contributions, and investment earnings should be sufficient to finance all benefits provided by the Plan. The Funding Policy is intended to reflect a reasonable, conservative approach with each generation of taxpayers financing, to the greatest extent possible, the cost of pension benefits being accrued. This Funding Policy recognizes that there will be investment market place volatility and that actual economic and demographic experience will differ from assumed experience. Accordingly, this Funding Policy is intended to provide flexibility to smooth such volatility and experience in a reasonable, systematic, and financially sound manner. Further, it is the intent that this funding policy comply with all applicable Federal, State and Local laws, rules, and regulations..

This funding policy is being adopted by the Board both as a prudent action and as its fiduciary duty. Also, the Board is required to adopt a funding policy which complies with the provision of Chapter Number 990 of the Public Acts of 2014. Moreover, adoption of a funding policy is recommended by the Government Finance Officers Association, the Governmental Accounting Standards Board, and the actuarial profession. It should be noted that the Funding Policy addresses pension benefits and retiree healthcare benefits. In addition to periodic reviews of this Funding Policy, the Board will amend the policy as required by State or federal law and/or the GASB.

I. Funding Objectives

The goal in requiring employer and member contributions to the Plan in addition to investment returns is to accumulate sufficient assets during a member's employment to fully finance the benefits the member is entitled to receive throughout retirement. To meet the goal, the Plan will strive to achieve the following objectives:

1. Develop a pattern of stable or decreasing contribution rates expressed as a percentage of employer payroll and measured by valuations prepared in accordance with the Actuarial Standards of Practice established by the Actuarial Standards Board.
2. Maintain an increasing funded ratio (ratio of actuarial value of assets to actuarial accrued liabilities) that reflects a trend of improved actuarial condition. The long-term objective is to comply with the 100% annual funding requirement set forth in the Public Employee Defined Benefits Financial Security Act of 2014 ("PEDBFS Act"), T.C.A. § 9-3-501, *et seq.*
3. Maintain adequate asset levels to finance the benefits promised to members.

4. Provide intergenerational equity for taxpayers with respect to contributions required for the benefits provided by the Plan.
5. Fund benefit improvements through increases in contributions to avoid reduction in funded ratios.
6. Comply with all other provisions contained in the PEDBFS Act.

II. Components of this Funding Policy

1. Contributions
2. Procurement of actuarial services
3. Actuarial experience study
4. Actuarial valuation
5. Actuarial audit

III. Contributions

In each valuation subsequent to the adoption of this Funding Policy the City's contribution to the Plan will be based on an ***Actuarially Determined Contribution*** (ADC) that will be determined as the summation of the employer normal cost rate, a contribution rate for administrative expenses, the amortization rate for the transitional unfunded accrued liabilities, and the individual amortization rate for each of the new incremental unfunded actuarial accrued liabilities (UAAL).

1. Mortality assumptions should consider the effect of expected mortality improvements. These assumptions should be utilized beginning on or before the plan fiscal year after June 15, 2024, and continue to be utilized thereafter.

2. Investment earning assumptions should not be greater than fifty (50) basis points above the rate adopted by the Tennessee Consolidated Retirement System.

3. For City civilian employees hired on or after the effective date of the PEDBFS Act, the City may freeze, suspend, or modify benefits, employee contributions, plan terms and design on a prospective basis. This provision does not affect any judicial precedents or statutory law as they apply to employees who were employed before the effective date of the PEDBFS Act

4. Any Accrued benefits earned prior to this policy shall remain an enforceable right and may not be reduced without the written consent of the employee, unless the employee is subject to the forfeiture of the employee's retirement benefits provided in T.C.A 8-35-124.

5. Should funded ratio of the Plan fall below 60%, no enhancements shall be made to benefits without approval by the State Treasurer.

6. In the event the City fails to fund the ADC as required in T.C.A. 9-3-505, the Tennessee Commissioner of Finance and Administration, at the direction of the

Comptroller of the Treasury, is authorized to withhold such amount or part of such amount from any state-shared taxes that are otherwise apportioned to the City. The money withheld will be paid to the General Pension Plan.

7. Pension fund contributions will have the same budget priority as other salaries and wages.

IV. Procurement of Actuarial Services

The Board shall acquire the services of professional actuarial firms to perform an actuarial experience study, an actuarial valuation, an actuarial audit, and other necessary actuarial services. Actuarial firms shall be selected by a competitive process. The actuarial firm that performs the actuarial audit shall not be the same firm that performs the actuarial valuation and the actuarial experience study. The contractual agreement with an actuarial firm shall not exceed five (5) years. The actuarial firm shall be independent and shall act as an advisor on actuarial matters on behalf of the Board.

The lead actuaries of actuarial firms shall have the requisite experience, capabilities, strengths, and qualifications including, but not limited to, the following:

1. Member of the American Academy of Actuaries;
2. Attainment of the Fellowship of the Society of Actuaries (FSA) designation;
3. Attainment of the Enrolled Actuary (EA) designation;
4. At least seven (7) years of actuarial experience in the defined benefit field; and
5. Ineligible to participate in the Plans.

V. Actuarial Experience Study

An actuarial experience study shall be conducted at least every five (5) years. As determined necessary by the Board, assumptions may be evaluated on an interim basis.

Assumptions adopted by the Board should be established based on past experience and future expectations as the result of an extensive actuarial experience study.

Demographic assumptions to be established include without limitation the following:

1. Turnover pattern;
2. Pre-retirement mortality based on expected improvement in mortality ;
3. Pattern of retirement;
4. Pattern of disability; and
5. Post-retirement mortality with expected improvement in mortality to be phased in by June 15, 2024.

Economic assumptions to be established include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Investment earnings (net of investment expenses)

2. Salary
3. Retiree COLA

Economic assumptions shall include an underlying assumption for inflation.

The actuarial experience study shall also generate administrative factors including, but not limited to, the following: (1) survivorship benefit option factors, (2) early retirement reduction factors, (3) age 62 actuarial equivalent factors, and (4) annuity factors. These factors shall be determined on a cost neutral basis.

VI. Actuarial Valuation

Valuation method and frequency. An actuarial valuation to determine the ADC rate to finance pension obligations shall be performed annually. The valuation shall utilize the entry-age normal actuarial method. The ADC shall include (1) the normal cost, (2) the unfunded liability cost, and (3) the cost of administration for the operation of the Plan. The ADC shall be calculated and become applicable on July 1 of the fiscal year immediately following the valuation date.

Funding the ADC. **The ADC, as determined by an actuarial valuation, shall provide annual funding at a level** of no less than 100%. With respect to the obligations of the Plan, the Plan's budget shall include funding of at least 100% of the ADC. Tenn. Code Ann. § 9-3-504(c)(3). Tenn. Code Ann. § 9-3-505(a) requires the City to annually pay a payment to the Plan of no less than one hundred (100%) percent of the ADC.

Asset smoothing method. An asset smoothing method shall be utilized to determine the actuarial value of assets. The difference between the amount actually earned and the earnings assumption for a particular year shall be amortized in level amounts. The asset smoothing period shall be no more than ten (10) years. However, there shall be a corridor so that the actuarial value of assets cannot be 20% more than nor 20% less than the market value of assets existing as of the actuarial valuation date.

Amortization methodology for actuarial gains and losses. Unfunded liabilities shall be amortized utilizing the level dollar amortization method over a closed period not to exceed thirty (30) years. The unfunded liabilities established as of the initial valuation date for which this Funding Policy is adopted is the transitional liabilities. The transitional liabilities will be amortized over a closed 28 year period beginning on the initial valuation date for which this Funding Policy is adopted. A tier approach will be utilized with new actuarial gains and losses from each actuarial valuation. Each tier shall be amortized over a closed, maximum thirty (30) year period. The amortization period may be shortened or extended from valuation to valuation but the gains and losses for a specific tier must be completely amortized within thirty (30) years. Any extension of the amortization period for a specific tier cannot exceed the thirty (30) year maximum less whatever time has elapsed from the beginning of the amortization period.

The unfunded liability based on the 2015 actuarial valuation shall be funded no later than 2043. In subsequent actuarial valuations, new tiers of actuarial gains and losses where actual experience differed from assumed experience, changes in demographic and economic assumptions are made, and changes in benefit provisions are enacted shall be amortized over a closed period not to exceed thirty (30) years.

Demographic data. The demographic data in an actuarial valuation shall include: (1) all active members, (2) all inactive vested members, (3) all inactive non-vested members with an account balance, and (4) all annuitants (including beneficiary annuitants and disability annuitants).

Benefit provisions. The actuarial valuation shall include all benefits being accrued by members of the Plan including, but not limited to, retirement, disability, death benefits, and post-employment cost-of-living adjustments (COLAs). The valuation shall be based on the benefit eligibility and benefit terms as set out in City Code.

Assumptions utilized. Demographic and economic assumptions as determined by an actuarial experience study and adopted by the Board shall be utilized in the actuarial valuation.

VII. Actuarial Audit

An actuarial audit by an independent actuarial audit firm shall be conducted at least once in a ten (10) year period. The purpose of the actuarial audit shall be: (1) the validation and verification of actuarial valuation results for both funding and accounting; (2) an evaluation of the reasonableness of actuarial assumptions and methods; (3) compliance with professional standards such as generally accepted actuarial standards; and (4) compliance with applicable laws, regulations and Board policy.

VIII. Transparency and Accountability

This funding policy, the actuarial experience study, the actuarial valuation, and the actuarial audit shall be readily available for review. Accordingly, the Funding Policy shall be posted on the City website. Further, the actuarial experience study, the actuarial valuation, and the actuarial audit shall be maintained on the City website for a period of no less than five years after being published.

IX. Effective Date

This policy shall remain in effect until amended by the Board and the City Council or preempted by State law.