

## **From the President John Schnittgrund**

As you are now probably aware the audit of the old hire pension benefits is now complete. There are retirees who are receiving additional benefits including back payment of benefits. There are also many of us that have received reductions in the monthly amount of our checks.

I have been in contact with the HR people in the Manager's Office. I have been told that the changes in benefit are the result of clerical errors and the amount of the error is different for everyone. I was told the auditor calculated the benefit for each retiree and the changes were the result of that calculation. If it was determined that you were due money they went back to the time of the error so you could receive all of what you were due. If it was determined that you were over paid your benefit was reduced to the proper amount but there was no determination of exactly when the mistake occurred and no repayment was requested.

In my particular case it was determined that my benefit would be reduced by \$9.47/month. They cannot tell me how this mistake occurred because they didn't go back to when the mistake was made. All I can find out is everyone is different and there is no really good explanation for why this is occurring.

Mike Mullen in his E-mail is telling members to call Melinda Coleman if they have questions. Melinda is referring people to the City Code Sec 18.554. This section of the code is aimed at the new hire pension and is confusing at best. My suggestion is to call the supervisor at HR at 720-913-3408 and she has a spread sheet with your information. You may still be confused after talking to her but that has to be the first stop.

I asked for a meeting with the auditor, HR, and the City Attorney but that is something the City is unwilling to arrange. I have talked to some retirees who disagree with city calculation. I have referred them to the HR supervisor and hopefully they will have better success at understanding her answers than I did. If anyone still has questions we may have to approach the Pension Board for better resolution.

I would like to hear from anyone who has issues or problems. I encourage everyone to check your pension amounts independent of this audit. So far the answers I have received about my amounts are a little hard to understand. Some of the conversations I have had with other retirees make this all seem to be a little surreal.

Since the Old Hire Pension Board is made up of new hire members, you have to wonder if they really understand the benefits they are overseeing. If there are things that don't make any sense we may have to approach the Board to get our questions answered.

Again, don't call Melinda Coleman as Mike Mullen suggests. Call the Supervisor at 720-913-3408 and if you don't get satisfactory answers please call me.