

MACON-BIBB COUNTY TRANSIT AUTHORITY
BOARD MEETING MINUTES

July 25, 2017

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Macon-Bibb County Transit Authority was held at 5:30 p.m. on July 25, 2017 in the Morris M. Cohen conference room on the fourth floor at Terminal Station at 200 Cherry Street, Macon, Georgia. Those present were:

Craig Ross, Chairman

Sheddrick Clark, Secretary

Violet Poe

Members: Nettie Thomas, and Frank Tompkins

Members Absent: Chuck Howard, Vice-Chairman

Also present were F. Bradford Wilson, Jr., Counsel for the Authority, Dave Golder, Interim General Manager & CEO/Safety & Training Manager, Andy Stroud, Facilities & Marketing Director, Brenda Banks, Executive Assistant & Accounts Payable Coordinator, Danny Thompson, Chief Financial Officer, JoAnn Lamb, Operations Manager, June Slaughter, Paratransit Manager, and Melvin Little, Maintenance Superintendent.

There was not a proper Quorum present at 5:30. After discussion with Violet Poe, The Chairman announced he was going to delay the start of the meeting until Nettie Thomas, Sheddrick Clark and Frank Tompkins arrived. Danny Thompson shared that he talked with Georgia Slagle and the June/Year-end Financial Statements are not quite complete. Ms. Slagle will not be presenting a financial report tonight. To prevent several minutes of silence, The Chairman invited guests to address the Board. He introduced all of the MTA department managers that were present.

The first guest to speak was David Scott. Mr. Scott praised Jermaine Whisby and Hershel Stephens for their special care shown to senior citizens on the Houston Avenue Route. Mr. Scott asked that these gentlemen be recognized for their outstanding customer service. Chairman Ross asked JoAnn Lamb to take care of the recognition. The next guest to speak was Jackie Glover. Ms. Glover reported recent problems with getting an answer when she called for Paratransit service. June Slaughter addressed this issue by stating that the phone system at the Broadway office is different from the system that Paratransit had at the Terminal Station. Paratransit dispatch currently has one phone line at Broadway, compared to two lines at the

Terminal Station. Ms. Slaughter shared that JoAnn Lamb is working to correct the phone system problems. JoAnn Lamb then reported that she has signed a contract with Cox Communications for a new phone system. Chairman Ross inquired about the new system for Paratransit. Ms. Lamb explained that two phone lines will be designated for Paratransit dispatch. If the first line is busy, the next call will be transferred to the second phone line where voicemail will be available to leave a message. Ms. Lamb assured Ms. Glover that the phone issues will soon be resolved.

The last guest to speak was Wade Horton. Mr. Horton urged the Board to look into restoring the routes that were cut last year. He also encouraged the development of routes in underserved areas. Mr. Horton stated that he was pleased to hear at last month's meeting the discussion of the possibility of having a chaplain. He suggested that the Board invite Paratransit driver, David Barber to a board meeting, and allow him to explain the services offered by a certified chaplain.

With a proper Quorum now present, Chairman Craig Ross called the meeting to order and a moment of silent prayer was observed. The Chairman briefly reviewed the Agenda as presented. The Chairman announced a change in the agenda. Georgia Slagle will not be presenting a financial report. Sheddrick Clark moved for approval of the agenda. The motion was seconded by Violet Poe, and approved. Approval of the Minutes was the next agenda item. Violet Poe noted that a correction to her vote last month on the letter of support for the Bike Share grant transfer has been made by Brenda Banks. A motion was made by Sheddrick Clark for the approval of the Minutes, which were unanimously approved following a second by Violet Poe.

The Chairman then called upon Dave Golder for the General Manager's report. Mr. Golder shared that a new standardized monthly operations report has been implemented. Each month, the staff will complete their section of the report, and forward to Brenda Banks for the master report. Mr. Golder directed everyone's attention to the Safety & Training section of the report. For the first time in Mr. Golder's four years at MTA, there were no preventable or non-preventable accidents during the month of June. Chairman Ross pointed out that issues with tablets not working and Route Match has appeared on the Fixed Route report for months. The Chairman asked JoAnn Lamb if there are still problems with tablets working properly. Ms. Lamb responded that Route Match was in town Monday evening for repairs, and the tablets were all working until around 4:00 p.m. today. Out of 17 buses, 5 tablets were not working. Ms.

Lamb called Route Match who informed her that sometimes at shift change, it is necessary to switch the bus off, wait a few minutes, turn the bus back on, and restart the tablet to prevent problems. Chairman Ross then asked Ms. Lamb how long we have had the tablets with Route Match just now suggesting this procedure. Ms. Lamb answered that the tablets were purchased in 2010. The Chairman stated that he wants to meet with Route Match at some point, and that Danny Thompson provided him with the figure of over \$700,000.00 that has been paid to Route Match for services since 2010. Chairman Ross declared that we should expect the same service from Route Match that our customers expect of us.

The next agenda item was that of Committee Reports. No Committee reports were offered during this meeting.

The Chairman then discussed research that he is conducting of the transit systems in Athens, Augusta, Columbus, Rome and Savannah. Some of the hours of operation were surprising. Rome shuts down their system at 6:30 p.m. Augusta staggers some of their routes from 5:30 to 10:30 p.m. Of the cities being researched, Savannah is the only system that operates seven days a week, with some routes that end early. Chairman Ross stated that he has discussed some of his findings with Dave Golder and Danny Thompson. We have not analyzed our routes in many years. Demographics have changed, industrial areas are growing, some routes have only one or two riders, and some areas should not be serviced after dark. After all of the collected data is analyzed, needed changes will be made.

The next item on the agenda was General Manager/CEO Search update. The Chairman announced that the search is ongoing, and updates will be given. There will be an Executive Session tonight to discuss the search further.

Old Business was the next agenda item. Last month, Rachel Hollar with Bike Walk Macon, presented us an opportunity to have bike share in Macon. She asked for a letter of support from the Board to receive the transfer of the FTA Seattle Bike Share grant. After Brad Wilson spoke to officials in Seattle, Washington about this opportunity, a letter of support was issued. The Chairman reminded board members of the APTA Expo that will be held October 8 - 11, 2017 at the Georgia World Congress Center in Atlanta. The deadline is August 1, 2017 for Board members to let Brenda Banks know if they want to attend.

Under New Business, The Chairman announced that one of the elevators at the Terminal Station is not working. One quote received estimated the repair cost at \$60,000.00. After the elevator company came out to assess the repairs needed, they reduced the cost to \$38,500.00.

Albany Elevator, Otis Elevator and ThyssenKrupp Elevator are sending in quotes for repair of the elevator. A motion was made by Sheddric Clark to accept a bid up to \$39,000.00 for the repair of the elevator. The motion was seconded by Violet Poe, and approved unanimously.

The Chairman then announced that today at the Board of Commissioners meeting, Mayor Reichert is supposed to nominate Chuck Howard for reappointment, and appoint Jamie Gaudet as a new member to the MTA Board of Directors. These nominations are being postponed. An update will be given regarding these nominations.

The Chairman then stated that the Board needed to go into Executive Session to discuss personnel matters. The Chairman recognized Sheddric Clark who made the motion to go into Executive Session. The motion was seconded by Violet Poe and approved at 6:10 p.m.

The Chairman recognized Frank Tompkins who made the motion that the Board reconvene into Regular Session from Executive Session. The motion was seconded by Sheddric Clark and approved at 7:20 p.m.

The Chairman then recognized Sheddric Clark who made the motion that the Board approve the overtime payment submitted on behalf of Brenda Banks. The motion was seconded by Frank Tompkins and approved.


Frank Tompkins was then recognized and he made the motion that the Board approve an 8% increase in salary for Dave Golder while serving as interim General Manager and CEO. The increase would be effective at this time. The motion was seconded by Violet Poe and approved.

Mr. Clark then made the motion that the Board authorize a request for proposal and advertise for a leadership management consultant. The motion was approved following a second by Nettie Thomas.

Chairman Ross then asked if the Board had any comments. No board member comments were made.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,


Sheddric Clark, Secretary

Approved:


Craig Ross, Chairman