

BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
MACON-BIBB COUNTY TRANSIT AUTHORITY

June 25, 2019

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Macon-Bibb County Transit Authority was held at 5:30 p.m. on June 25, 2019 in the conference room on the third floor of the Terminal Station at 200 Cherry Street, Macon, Georgia. Those present were:

Chairman: Frank Tompkins

Vice-Chairman: Charles Howard

Members: Dr. Tom Ellington, Sheddrick Clark, and Violet Poe.

Members Absent: Jami Gaudet

Also present were S. Craig Ross, President and CEO, Brenda Banks, Executive Assistant, Debbie Vetter, Human Resources Manager, Darrell Lester, Safety and Training Manager, JoAnn Lamb, Operations Manager, Andy Stroud, Business Development Director, June Slaughter, ParaTransit Manager, Lee Brown, CFO, Weston Stroud, Transit Planner, and F. Bradford Wilson, Jr., Counsel for the Authority. A proper Quorum was present.

Also in attendance were Jackie Glover, Wade Horton, David Scott, Ethel Denson, David Dickey, Maia Cheatham, Ada Montgomery and Mike Greenwald.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Tompkins and a moment of silent prayer and reflection was observed. The Chairman recognized President Ross who indicated that the agenda needed to be amended to include at the end of the meeting the presentation of Maia Cheatham on behalf of the Macon Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Clark then made a motion to approve the amended agenda. The motion was seconded by Ms. Poe and approved.

Chairman Tompkins then inquired of the Board Members if they had any comments or questions following their review of the May 28, 2019 Minutes. Hearing none, a motion was made by Mr. Clark to approve the Minutes. The motion was seconded by Mr. Howard and approved.

The Chairman then opened the floor for Public Comments and recognized Mr. David F. Dickey, III, who had indicated that he would like for the Authority to consider placing a bus schedule at bus stops. Mr. Dickey stated he was familiar with MARTA and they have schedules posted at a number of their stops. He thinks it would be an inexpensive and pertinent thing to do

for the Authority. He also stated that the Authority may want to consider setting up a Go Fund Me account to appeal for donations and supplement the budget since its resources are limited.

Ethel Denson was then recognized for her public comments. Ms. Denson stated that she lives in McAfee Towers and wanted to express her appreciation for the changes that had occurred with the big buses now serving the McAfee Tower Route rather than the small buses. She also complimented the Authority for having all the buses arriving at Terminal Station at the same time.

No Financial Report was given due to the absence of Ms. Georgia Slagle, CPA for the Authority.

The next agenda item was that of the Operations Report and the President was recognized by the Chairman for its presentation. President Ross reviewed the report provided to the Board Members noting the bus repairs needed and that the Fixed Route had On Time performance of 86% during May and ParaTransit operated at 88%. Two new ParaTransit buses should arrive in the next four months. President Ross complimented Andy Stroud for his work in marketing and managing Terminal Station with 61 events scheduled in 2019 generating a projected income of approximately \$170,000.00 and 23 events already scheduled for 2020. To date \$4,240,000.00 has been received from GDOT and approximately \$900,000.00 is currently due. There were two preventable accidents that occurred during May. Ridership was down during May but that is a nationwide trend. The Mercer Route performed very well again this school year with 20,546 riders.

The Chairman next requested Mr. Ross address the Items for Discussion on the Agenda. President Ross reported that the Budget Hearing with the County Commissioners went very well. A PowerPoint presentation was given, and Chairman Watkins indicated they would like to increase the budgeted amount to the \$2,500,000.00 requested but funds were not available. A total of \$2,300,000.00 has been approved, which represents a \$300,000.00 increase from the previous year but still down from the \$2,600,000.00 previously received. The Bi-Party Agreement is still a work in process.

The President received a call from David Pilgrim of AARP. He stated that AARP has now offered to take care of the entire expense associated with the printing of Veteran passes or badges. The Authority had previously discussed the possibility of Veteran passes but had placed that on hold. Further discussions need to be held indicating eligibility by age or other factors, with the badge allowing Veterans to ride for free.

Weston Stroud has been working with the Macon Arts Alliance concerning the Bus Shelter Art. Mr. Stroud stated that with the introduction of this idea it was a chance for collaboration to occur with people outside of transit. There is a relationship of art and transportation, with the common factor being they both move people. Simple and practical ideas have been set forth in the art to develop community pride and gain support. Each shelter's artwork will be unique to the area in which they are located. The Downtown Challenge Grant was received in the amount of \$20,000.00 and proposals are now being submitted from various artists. The proposals that were submitted will be reviewed this week and a determination made as to how well they will fit in the various neighborhoods. The Macon Arts Alliance will be engaging the community and doing a lot of outreach.

President Ross was then called on by the Chairman for the items of New Business. President Ross provided the Board with a brief history of the prior negotiations with Greyhound and that their current philosophy has changed. Their ticket kiosk will be inside the Transfer Station and the lease agreement provides for a one-year lease with an automatic renewal for a second year if requested. Sixteen buses a day will arrive with an average of four people getting on and off the bus. They operate 365 days a year and will pay for their own security. Chairman Tompkins noted that parking meters may be installed in the lot behind the Tubman Museum since many individuals are making use of that area at no cost. A motion was made by Dr. Ellington to approve the Greyhound Bus Rental Contract. The motion was approved following a second by Mr. Clark.

President Ross then reported that the contract with Fuel Outdoor Advertising was removed from last month's agenda in order to do some further investigation, and that resulted in a favorable report. The contract provides that the Authority will receive 20% of the net revenue and Fuel Outdoor will provide and install the benches for transit use. The contract will result in savings of approximately \$28,000.00 a year that is currently incurred for mowing grass and keeping the shelters clean. Many of the existing benches will be replaced and we will direct Fuel Outdoor to the locations for the benches. Dr. Ellington seconded the motion of Mr. Clark to approve the contract and such occurred.

A motion was then made by Dr. Ellington to move forward with the Bus Shelter Project as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Howard and approved.

The Chairman opened the floor for Old Business. Hearing none he then moved onto Board Member comments. The Chairman shared that this was Dr. Ellington's final meeting and

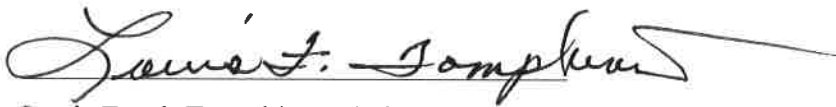
took the opportunity to express his appreciation to him for his excellent service to the Board. Dr. Ellington is continuing his graduate studies at Harvard University and stated it had been an honor to serve on the Board and knows that the Authority is moving in the right direction. Ms. Cheatham was then recognized for her Power Point presentation of the 500 responses they received to the surveys focused on exploring transportation barriers to work force participation. The results were broken down into zip codes and distance to work as well as income. The survey helped to recognize some of the issues that the Authority faces and will hopefully persuade local governments for additional funding. The President noted that we are trying to survey the large factories in the area to determine how we can best increase our ridership.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Sheddric Clark, Secretary

Approved:

  
Louis Frank Tompkins, Chairman