

**GOLDEN EMPIRE TRANSIT DISTRICT
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**JUNE 15, 2021
5:30 PM**

**1830 GOLDEN STATE AVENUE
BAKERSFIELD, CALIFORNIA 93301**

DIRECTORS PRESENT:

Carlos Bello
Cindy Parra

Erika Dixon
Rueben Pascual

Leasa Engel

DIRECTORS ABSENT:

None

ATTORNEY PRESENT:

Jim Worth

STAFF PRESENT:

Karen King
Steve Barnes
Chris James
Jesse Hicks
Jill Smith

Deidre Brown
Janet Sanders
Victor Honorato
Ricardo Perez
Sharon Pierce

Jeanie Hill
Candra Cheers
Robert Williams
Melissa Ash

OTHERS PRESENT:

Bob Snoddy

Neeraj Datta

Wayne Kress

The Chair called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: None.

PUBLIC HEARING – PROPOSED FY 2020-21 BUDGET

Director Parra opened the public hearing on the FY 2021-22 Proposed Budget at 5:33 p.m. and stated that the Golden Empire Transit District would now receive public testimony. Any person wishing to present testimony related to the FY 2021-22 Proposed Budget may do so at this time. Persons were asked to state their name and address for the record. If they wished their statements to be verbatim, they must be in writing for inclusion in the official record of this hearing. Notice of the hearing was placed in *The Bakersfield Californian*, *The Bakersfield News Observer* and *El Popular* newspapers, on the GET website, and on GET's Facebook page. Director Parra asked for public testimony.

No comments were made on the FY 2020-21 Proposed Budget. Director Parra closed the public hearing at 5:38 p.m.

GOVERNMENT FINANCE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION AWARD

Mr. Barnes introduced Mr. Neeraj Datta from Brown, Armstrong Associates LLC. Mr. Barnes stated that this award recognizes the dedication and outstanding work of the Finance Department staff. Mr. Datta commented that the GFOA began the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting Program (CAFR Program) in 1945. This program encourages better, more thorough financial reporting beyond annual audit reporting with the preparation and use of a more comprehensive format and in-depth analysis known as a Comprehensive Annual Financial Report, or CAFR. The District was notified by GFOA earlier this year that the report merited their highest honor, Excellence in Financial Reporting, and a certificate and plaque commemorating this achievement. This is the eighth year in a row that GET has received this award.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Director Pascual moved and Director Engel seconded a motion to approve the consent agenda (Agenda, Minutes of May 18, 2021, Accounts Payable Check Disbursements, State of Good Repair Authorization Resolution No. 2021-06 Maintenance Facility 2nd Phase and Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan (PTASP)). The motion carried on the following roll call vote:

AYES: Bello, Dixon, Engel, Parra, and Pascual
ABSENT: None

NOES: None
ABSTAIN: None

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Mr. Charles Van De Voorde submitted an email stating: “ Good afternoon. My name is Charlie Van De Voorde. I am a student at CSUB that has a passion to repress the epidemic with Homelessness and Addictions that are plaguing our community. I have written a community project and am now in the process of reaching out to you to be a part of this. I have attached a short summary with the question. God bless.” (See Exhibit 1)

Mr. Bob Snoddy shared that this was his last time to attend a GET Board meeting. Ms. Suzanne Campbell will be attending in the future.

COMMUNITY TRANSIT ADVISORY GROUP

Ms. Sanders shared that the purpose of the Community Transit Advisory Group (CTAG) is to represent the public’s voice and guide GET on matters most important to the Bakersfield Community transit needs. Diverse perspectives will help to influence how transit systems will move forward in the future. The CTAG members will review transit issues pertaining to the District’s area of operation. The Marketing and Business Development Committee met on June 3, 2021 and June 9, 2021 to review the current bylaws/operating guidelines of the Community Transit Advisory Group.

After some discussion, Director Engel moved and Director Pascual seconded a motion to approve the revised Operating Guidelines for the Community Transit Advisory Group (CTAG). The motion carried on the following roll call vote:

AYES: Bello, Dixon, Engel, Parra, and Pascual
ABSENT: None

NOES: None
ABSTAIN: None

MAY 2021 FINANCIAL POSITION AND RESULTS OF OPERATIONS

Mr. Barnes reviewed the May 2021 financial reports. This was an informational item only.

ADOPTION OF FISCAL YEAR 2021-22 BUDGET (BUDGET RESOLUTION NO. 2021-07) AND AUTHORIZATION TO APPLY FOR TDA AND FEDERAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Mr. Barnes commented that a public hearing took place at the June 15, 2021 meeting of the Board of Directors. Chairperson Parra conducted the hearing and no comments were offered. All available financial information that may impact the fiscal year has been considered as well as the latest changes to the estimates received from various state and federal agencies.

After some discussion, Director Pascual moved and Director Bello seconded a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2021-07 and authorize the CEO to file and execute TDA and Federal funding agreements. The motion carried on the following roll call vote:

AYES: Bello, Engel, Parra, and Pascual
ABSENT: None

NOES: None
ABSTAIN: Dixon

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS/BOARD COMMENTS

Director Bello asked if minutes of the CTAG meetings could be provided to Board members to keep abreast of CTAG activities and interests. Director Bello asked if GET has any additional incentives for staff to become vaccinated, i.e. clinic on campus, raffles. He thanked Ms. King for the updates on the recruitments for bus operators and maintenance staff.

Director Pascual is looking forward to receiving an update on the California High Speed Rail Authority. He asked that the updates continue to be provided.

Director Dixon thanked the Board members and staff for welcoming her aboard the GET team.

Director Engel asked that Board members send Janet contact info for potential members of the CTAG.

Director Parra stated that the state and Kern County seem to be coming out of the pandemic. GET took a lot of heat, but we operated in the best interests of the public and staff. Thank you Essential Workers!!

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT/COMMENTS:

Ms. King shared that she did have a bit of an update. She has spoken with Garth Fernandez. The CHSRA is not able to engage on acquiring out property until they receive additional funding. Yesterday the State legislature passed a budget that included funding for the CHSRA and \$1 billion has been returned to the project from the federal government. She commented that she will continue to keep in regular contact with Mr. Fernandez and the CHSRA. Hopefully this next year will have a break through. The local press has picked up our press release sharing that GET is subject to CDC and TSA rules regarding mask wearing on public conveyances until September 13, 2021. However, social distancing has been lifted and service is now at full capacity. 74 staff members have tested positive in the last year. 130 staff members are now fully vaccinated.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board moved into executive session at 6:46 p.m. to discuss Conference with Legal Counsel [Government Code Section 54956.8] Portion of APN 173-200-09, District Negotiator: Karen King; Negotiating with: John Ritchie, ASU & Associates and Conference with Legal Counsel – [Government Code Section 54957(b)(1)] – Discuss Performance Evaluation of the Chief Executive Officer. The Board returned to open session at 7:18 p.m.

OPEN SESSION

Attorney Worth stated that the Board met with legal counsel and staff on the items referenced in the executive session on the agenda. No action was taken that would require disclosure under the Brown Act.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Director Parra moved that the meeting be closed. The meeting concluded at 7:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Secretary of the Board of Directors

Sharon Pierce

From: Charles Van De Voorde <cvan-de-voorde@csub.edu>
Sent: Monday, June 14, 2021 12:11 PM
To: Public Comment
Subject: Golden Empire Bus.docx
Attachments: Golden Empire Bus.docx

06/14/2021

Dear Golden Empire Transit Board of Directors,

Good afternoon. My name is Charlie Van De Voorde. I am a student at CSUB that has a passion to repress the epidemic with Homelessness and Addictions that are plaguing our community. I have written a community project and am now in the process of reaching out to you to be a part of this. I have attached a short summary with the question. God bless.

Sincerely,
Charlie Van De Voorde

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

Links contained in this email have been replaced. If you click on a link in the email above, the link will be analyzed for known threats. If a known threat is found, you will not be able to proceed to the destination. If suspicious content is detected, you will see a warning.

Public Participation and Accessibility

Golden Empire Transit District Board of Directors Meetings

Good afternoon. My name is Charlie Van De Voorde. I have a question about a specific item. I am currently writing a community project proposal for the City of Bakersfield and the County of Kern.

I am asking that Golden Empire Transit donate a retired bus. If the retired GET bus is donated it will be retrofitted to supply showers, hygiene, and a barber chair to the Homeless as a Mobile Hygiene Unit. Along, with offering additional services. It's about restoring confidence, self-esteem, dignity, showing humanity to others. This community project if approved will help to set up a clean atmosphere at the Golden Empire Transit Bus Depots. Supplying a donated bus will make it ADA accessible allowing Homeless individuals access to grooming, medical, dental, podiatrist, vision, and aid in curbing the spread of Hepatitis B virus infection, syphilis, gonorrhea, germs, skin infections, fungal infections, staph, and parasites(lice) to name a few. Providing access to these services for homeless individuals results in cost savings for our community because homeless individuals are less likely to use emergency services and hospitals. Our community parks are a living space for our homeless community where our children play, and families gather.

I am asking that the Golden Empire Transit Board of Directors will take this into account and donate a retired bus to this community project. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Charlie Van De Voorde

(661)384-4034

cvan-de-voorde@csub.edu