

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

**February 21, 2023
4:30 PM**

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

DIRECTORS PRESENT:

Carlos Bello
Charlie Van De Voorde

Leasa Engel
Kay Henry

Cindy Parra

DIRECTORS ABSENT:

ATTORNEY PRESENT:

Jim Worth

STAFF PRESENT:

Karen King
Robert Williams
Chris James
Michele Warren

Steve Barnes
Janet Sanders
Deidre Brown
Dustin Molieri

Toddash Kim
Ricardo Perez
Melissa Ash

OTHERS PRESENT:

Irene Enriquez
Kimberly Sagardia
Holly Spitzer

Michael Harless
Buddy Graham
Jaime A Valle Castro

Jeannie Lee Mason
Diane Nous

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:31 p.m.

Roll was taken and all directors are present.

PUBLIC COMMENT – UNMET TRANSIT NEEDS

- Jeannie Lee Mason
 - Would like on-demand explained better. Confused regarding various on-demand services and would like later hours of operation

- Michael Harless
 - Would like to see night service return and has reached out to Janet regarding new route idea
- Diane Nous
 - Likes to be heavily involved with the community and must limit herself due to busses closing around 7pm. Would like night service to return so the public can enjoy more community events
- Kimberly Sagardia
 - Concerns regarding bus scheduling and hours of operations. Is fearful that if she doesn't get her errands done in a timely manner, she may be left out without a ride home. Also has concerns regarding the wait times for on-demand

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Director Engal moved and Director Van De Voorde seconded a motion to approve the consent agenda. (Agenda, Minutes of January 17, 2023, Accounts Payable Check and ACH Disbursements, Board Committee Assignments, Paratransit Vehicle Purchase, Hydrogen Fuel Contract, Anti-Drug Policy and the Purchase of 2 Hydrogen Fuel Cell Buses):

AYES: Bello, Engel, Henry, Parra and Van De Voorde
 ABSENT: None

NOES: None
 ABSTAIN: None

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Holly Spitzer
 - Would like busses to wait if they see her approaching
- Jaime A. Valle Castro
 - States that the fares are too expensive, there needs to be better lighting at certain bus stops – can be very dangerous for women, and would like to see night service return.

AB361/AB2449 REMOTE MEETING ATTENDANCE – (KING)

Ms. King introduces AB2449 – quorum must be physically present. If a board member is wanting to join remotely, they must be in a public setting and the location must be publicized to the public. The director must explain emergency if they would like to request remote participation.

A Director cannot miss more than 3 meetings in a row.

The question that remains is if the public will be able to participate remotely; comments, interactions, etc.

The Board directs staff to bring topic back to next meeting. Attorney Jim Worth would also like to bring back options regarding how the public can communicate and participate efficiently

KERN COG APPOINTEE AND ALTERANTE – (BOARD CHAIR)

Chairperson Parra would like to continue to be the appointee and Director Engel will be the alternate.

Director Van De Voorde moved and Director Bello seconded a motion to approve Chairperson Parra as the Kern COG appointee and Director Engel will be the alternate:

AYES: Bello, Engel, Henry, Parra and Van De Voorde
ABSENT: None

NOES: None
ABSTAIN: None

2ND QUARTER RIDERSHIP REPORTS AND PERFORMANCE METRICS – (PEREZ)

Ricardo Perez presents the 2nd Quarter Ridership Reports and Performance Metrics.

JANUARY 2023 FINANCIAL POSITION AND RESULTS OF OPERATIONS – (BARNES)

That the board received the Financial Reports for January 2023.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS/BOARD COMMENTS

Director Bello would like to see expanding the service hours hopefully sooner rather than later.

Director Engel is excited for the new incoming drivers from our various hiring events.

Chairperson Parra would like look into getting solar lights on all the bus stops for added safety in the evenings.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER’S REPORTS/COMMENTS

Would like to remind the board members of all the upcoming events and to RSVP if they would like to attend.

April 20th will be the 50th Anniversary event – more information to come.

Played the “What’s going on at GET” video.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chairperson Parra moved that the meeting be closed. The meeting concluded at 6:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Secretary of the Board of Directors