

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

**JUNE 20, 2023
4:30 PM**

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

DIRECTORS PRESENT:

Carlos Bello
Cindy Parra

Leasa Engel
Charles Van De Voorde

Kay Henry

DIRECTORS ABSENT:

None

ATTORNEY PRESENT:

Jim Worth

STAFF PRESENT:

Karen King
Deidre Brown

Steve Barnes
Janet Sanders

Robert Williams
DeAnna Sanderson

OTHERS PRESENT:

Bob Snoddy

Sarah Ricks

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:33 p.m.

Roll was taken and all Directors were present.

PUBLIC HEARING – PROPOSED FY 2023-24 BUDGET

Mr. Barnes presented an overview of the Capital Budget that was discussed in the previous Board meeting's workshop. This was an informational item only.

Director Parra opened the public hearing on the Proposed FY 2023-24 Budget and stated that the Golden Empire Transit District would now receive public testimony. Any person wishing to present testimony related to the Proposed FY 2023-24 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. Director Parra asked for public testimony.

No comments from the community were received on the Proposed FY 2023-24 Budget. Director Parra closed the public hearing at 4:40 p.m.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Director Henry seconded a motion by Director Engel to approve the consent agenda. (Agenda, Minutes of May 23, 2023, Minutes of June 6, 2023, Accounts Payable Check and ACH Disbursements, Board Committee Minutes of June 15, 2023, Adoption of Board Policy #23 – Equal Employment Opportunity, State of Good Repair Program Authorization Resolution #2023-10). May 2023 Financial Position and Results of Operations, FY 2023-24 Budget and Authorization for TDA and Federal Funding Resolution #2023-11.:

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

NOES: None
ABSTAIN: None

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Sarah Ricks was heard concerning night service restoration.

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

Mr. Barnes discussed with the Board the May 2022 financial statements and other matters regarding District finances. This was an informational item only.

ADOPTION OF FISCAL YEAR 2023-24 BUDGET (BUDGET RESOLUTION) AND AUTHORIZATION TO APPLY FOR TDA AND FEDERAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE – (BARNES)

Director Engel moved and Director Bello seconded a motion to adopt the Fiscal Year 2023-24 Budget. The motion carried on the following roll call vote:

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

NOES: None
ABSTAIN: None

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER COMPENSATION

Director Parra instructed the Board that this item would be discussed after the Executive Session.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS/BOARD COMMENTS

Director Engel asked that the District provide a user friendly method for applicants to reach Human Resources by phone. Ms. King responded that a direct phone number for job seekers was anticipated to be established as of July 1, 2023.

Director Bello wished to express appreciation for the HR recruiting teams that are spreading awareness of the District throughout the community through job fairs, open houses, and community outreach. The Director also thanked the District for the Leadership Workshop. Director Bello further commended the usefulness of the Transit App and the anticipated increased ridership with night service expansion.

Director Van De Voorde also thanked the District for the Leadership Workshop and indicated that the techniques learned have been implemented within his own staff. The Director further expressed appreciation for the Marketing Department's facts sheets and their creative public billboard advertising.

Director Parra expressed concern for the homeless encampment in the alleyway adjacent to the Downtown Transit Center, its encroachment on the roadway, and bus driver's ability to safely pass. Additionally, Director Parra commended the work done during the Leadership Workshop and excitement for the upcoming conference.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT/COMMENTS

A video was presented highlighting GET's new anniversary shirts, pop-up events around the community, a welcome of new employees, upcoming community events, and the completion of the Maintenance bay project. After the video, Ms. King spoke of the triennial FTA audit that was completed and thanked all staff that participated, especially Mr. Barnes. A TDA audit will be next. Ms. King informed the Board that a High Speed Rail Authority meeting was being held (concurrent with Board meeting) to discuss station design. Transit Planner Ricardo Perez was attending the meeting to represent the District's interests. Additionally, Ms. King has been invited by the City of Bakersfield to participate in a roundtable discussion of community leaders, which will be filmed for the City's annual State of the City address. Ms. King reminded the Board that the regularly scheduled meeting for July 18, 2023 has been cancelled.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board moved into executive session at 5:28 p.m. to discuss Conference with Legal Counsel [Government Code Sections 54957(b)(1) and 54957.6] Discuss Performance Evaluation of the Chief Executive Officer. The Board returned to open session at 6:15 p.m.

OPEN SESSION

Attorney Worth stated the Board discussed the goals and accomplishments of the CEO during the 2022-2023 year in considering a potential salary adjustment. All Board members noted the continued exceptional work of the CEO during this past year. The CEO's ability to keep operations functioning while ensuring the safety of the public was and is of great benefit to the District. The Board feels it is in the best interest of the District to retain CEO Karen King for an additional year to manage the District with all the uncertainty regarding public transit. Director Engel moved and Director Bello seconded that the District and CEO enter into a new one-year Employment Contract, effective July 1, 2023 with the CEO's new salary to reflect a cost-of-living salary adjustment, retroactive to July 1, 2023, as specified in the CEO's Employment

Contract and a one-time “incentive” payment in the amount of \$10,000 to maintain continuity moving forward. The motion carried on the following roll call vote:

AYES: Bello, Engel, Henry, Parra, Van De Voorde

NOES: None

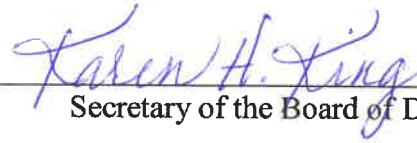
ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Director Parra moved that the meeting be closed. The meeting concluded at 6:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Secretary of the Board of Directors