

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

**AUGUST 15, 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
Frances Rubio
Deidre Brown
Toddash Kim
Ka'Saundra Jeffery
Tiffany Tran
Deidre Atkinson
Robert Cooper
Euritacee Wilson
William McCulloch

Ricardo Perez
Victor Honorato
Steve Barnes
Jackie Oats
Emily Williams
Yolanda Hamen
Robert Williams
Steven Peterson
Robert Saunders
Miguel Jimenez

Scott Holland
DeAnna Sanderson
George Rubio
Suzanne Sanders
Janet Sanders
Sheila Davis
Dolly Rivas
Shamarie Lerma
Gil Cervantes

OTHERS PRESENT:

Brianda Castro
Mike Sullivan
Ray

Sarah Ricks
Eddy Laine

Irene Enriquez
Norman Franco

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

Roll was taken and all Directors were present.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Director Parra informed the Board that due to last minute changes, Item 1I was being removed from the consent agenda and will be presented in September's Board meeting.

Director Bello seconded a motion by Director Engel to approve the amended consent agenda. (Agenda, Board Minutes of June 20, 2023, Committee Minutes of August 7, 2023, Committee Minutes of August 11, 2023, Accounts Payable Check and ACH Disbursements, Janitorial Services Contract, Fuel Cell Bus Change Order, Fuel Cell Bus Procurement, Customer and Community Survey, 2023 Board Goals Update, FTA Low or No Emissions Grant Authorization Resolution #2023-12, FTA Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Grant Authorization Resolution #2023-13). July 2023 Financial Position and Results of Operations, FY 2022-23 4th Quarter Ridership and Year-End Performance Report. The motion carried on the following roll call vote:

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

NOES: None
ABSTAIN: None

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Frances Rubio (on behalf of Greg Landers, Teamsters #517) was heard regarding upcoming labor union contract negotiations.

Eddy Laine was heard regarding concerns expressed by the Sierra Club of driver shortages and a request for route expansion.

Brianda Castro was heard with a request to present a proposal for a collaborative project between GET and the Central California Asthma Collaborative.

Sarah Ricks was heard concerning evening bus service restoration.

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

Mr. Barnes discussed with the Board the July 2023 financial statements and other matters regarding District finances. This was an informational item only.

FY 2022-23 4TH QUARTER RIDERSHIP AND YEAR-END PERFORMANCE REPORTS – (PEREZ)

Mr. Perez discussed with the Board the performance reports for the Fixed route and On-Demand services. This was an informational item only.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS/BOARD COMMENTS

Director Van De Voorde expressed his gratitude for the hard work and commitment of the drivers and staff.

Director Bello addressed the representative from the Central California Asthma Collaborative and encouraged discussions to continue.

Director Parra inquired further into a question raised by the Sierra Club of comparative salary analysis. Ms. King responded that a survey was completed every three years.

Director Engel inquired if the California Living Museum was within the District's service area. Ms. King replied that On-Demand services are available for that area.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT/COMMENTS

A video was presented highlighting the completion of the FTA tri-annual audit and the CHP audit, a welcome of new hires, the newly completed maintenance bays, an ADA conference, pop-up events for back-to-school, the continuation of the free bus rides for students program, the upcoming picnic at the Kern County Fair, and a future Strategic Planning workshop. Director Parra asked if there were any updates to the High Speed Rail timeline. Ms. King replied that the application for funds was still pending.

Director Parra moved that Open Session was adjourned at 5:16 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board moved into Executive Session at 5:19 p.m. to discuss with Legal Counsel

1. Pending Litigation [Government Code Sections 54956.9(d)(1)] – One (1) Matter
2. Conference with Legal Counsel [Government Code Section 54957(b)(1)] - Appointment of Chief Executive Officer.

Returned to Open Session at 5:43 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 5:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Secretary of the Board of Directors