

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

**JANUARY 16, 2024  
4:30 PM**

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

**DIRECTORS PRESENT:**

Carlos Bello  
Charles Van De Voorde

Leasa Engel

Cindy Parra

**DIRECTORS ABSENT:**

Cathy Abernathy

**ATTORNEY PRESENT:**

Jim Worth

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Lucy Alderete  
Chris James  
Karen King  
Jenny Lee Mason  
Tricia Olague  
Steven Peterson  
Frances Rubio  
Robert Saunders  
Daniel Urban  
Emily Williams

Melissa Ash  
Tamekia Jeffers  
Toddash Kim  
Kathleen McNeil  
Edmund Pascua  
William Poncetta  
George Rubio  
Cleo Stancil  
Jerald Wallace  
Robert Williams

Yolanda Hamen  
M. Jimenez  
Shamarie Lerma  
Emmanuel Mendoza  
Ricardo Perez  
Rafael Prieto  
DeAnna Sanderson  
Tiffany Tran  
Angealisa Warren  
Ryan Young

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Irene Enriquez  
Brenda Toney

Eddie Laine

Greg Landers

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

Roll was taken and Directors Bello, Engel, Parra, and Van De Voorde were present.

## **APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA**

Director Bello seconded a motion by Director Engel to approve the consent agenda (Agenda, Minutes of December 5 and December 12, 2023, Accounts Payable Check and ACH Disbursements, 2024 Strategic Management Plan Initiatives). Nomination and Election of Board Chair and Vice-Chair, December 2023 Financial Position and Results of Operations, 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Ridership Reports and Performance Metrics. The motion carried with the following voice vote:

AYES: Bello, Engel, Parra, and Van De Voorde  
ABSENT: Abernathy

NOES: None  
ABSTAIN: None

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Mr. George Rubio was heard regarding labor negotiations.

Mr. Greg Landers of Teamster's Local #517 was heard regarding labor negotiations.

Mr. Robert Saunders was heard regarding cost of living concerns.

Mr. Steven Peterson was heard regarding cost of living concerns.

Mr. Jerry Wallace was heard regarding retention concerns.

Ms. Frances Rubio was heard regarding labor negotiations.

Mr. Eddy Laine of the Sierra Club was heard regarding labor negotiations.

Mr. Daniel Urban was heard regarding uniform deficiencies.

Ms. Tiffany Tran was heard regarding cost of living concerns.

Ms. Yolanda Hamen was heard regarding employee engagement survey. Ms. King responded.

Ms. Brenda Toney was heard regarding requested route extension.

## **ELECTION OF BOARD CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR**

According to the District's enabling legislation, election of a chair and a vice-chair is to occur at the first meeting of the Board following the first Monday after the first day of January of each year. To be in compliance with the District's enabling legislation, election of Board officers should occur at the January 16, 2024 meeting.

Director Van De Voorde nominated Director Parra for Chair.

Director Van De Voorde moved and Director Engel seconded a motion to approve Director Parra to be re-elected as Board Chair:

AYES: Bello, Engel, Parra, and Van De Voorde  
ABSENT: Abernathy

NOES: None  
ABSTAIN: None

Director Parra nominated Director Van De Voorde to be Board Vice-Chair.

Director Parra moved and Director Engel seconded a motion to approve Director Van De Voorde to be Board Vice-Chair:

AYES: Bello, Engel, Parra, and Van De Voorde  
ABSENT: Abernathy

NOES: None  
ABSTAIN: None

## **DECEMBER 2023 FINANCIAL POSITION AND RESULTS OF OPERATIONS – (BARNES)**

Ms. Melissa Ash, Controller, discussed with the Board the December 2023 financial statements and other matters regarding District finances. This was an informational item only.

## **FY 2023-24 2<sup>nd</sup> QUARTER RIDERSHIP AND PERFORMANCE REPORTS – (PEREZ)**

Mr. Ricardo Perez, Transit Planner, 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 was heard regarding the public comments.

Director Parra was heard regarding the community's Martin Luther King Jr. Awards breakfast.

Director Bello was heard regarding the public comments.

## **CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT/COMMENTS**

Ms. King presented a video covering recent and upcoming events.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The Board moved into executive session at 5:31 p.m. to discuss with Legal Counsel [Government Code Section 54957(b)(1) and 54947.6] – Appointment of Chief Executive Officer. Returned to open session at 5:46 p.m.

## **OPEN SESSION**

Attorney Worth stated that the Board met with legal counsel on the item referenced in the executive session on the agenda. Upon unanimous vote, the Board ratified the appointment and Employment

Contract for GET's new CEO Michael Tree. Mr. Tree will begin his tenure as GET's CEO on February 20, 2024. No other 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 5:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Secretary of the Board of Directors