

COMMISSION MINUTES
TUESDAY, January 26, 2021 10:00 AM

COMMISSIONER PRESENT: Chairman Flozell Daniels, Commissioner Fred Neal, Jr, Commissioner Mark Raymond, Commissioner Walter Tillery, Commissioner Mostofa Sarwar, Commissioner Laura Bryan, Commissioner Art Walton, and Commissioner Sharon Wegner

COMMISSIONER ABSENT: Commissioner Mostofa Sarwar

1. The meeting was called to order at 10:03am.

2. **Roll Call:** A quorum was confirmed.

3. **Executive Session**

A motion was made by Commissioner Raymond, seconded by Commissioner Neal to go into Executive Session. **The motion approved unanimously.**

Commissioner Raymond moved and seconded Commissioner Wegner to come out of Executive Session. **The motion approved unanimously.**

4. **Consideration: Approval of Minutes**

Minutes were presented and adopted for December 15, 2020. Commissioner Tillery moved and Commissioner Raymond seconded to approve the motion. **The motion approved unanimously.**

5. **Consideration: RTA Chairman's Report**

No Report.

6. **Consideration: Jefferson Parish Report**

No Report

7. **Consideration: RTA General Counsel's Report**

Sundiata Haley stated that everything was addressed in Executive Session.

8. **Consideration: RTA's Chief Executive Officer's Report**

Alex Wiggins reported that service continue to operate at a reduced level and the RTA was starting to see an uptick in streetcar ridership during the weekdays. The RTA was maintaining 80% of its normal service and this amount of service was meeting the needs of the riding public.

Mr. Wiggins reported that the RTA was making sure that the employees had the necessary PPE's and Dr. Corey Herbert had a great discussion with staff regarding the vaccine and the RTA was going to work together with the City of

COMMISSION MINUTES
TUESDAY, January 26, 2021 10:00 AM

New Orleans on a transportation plan for the Mass Vaccination Distribution and RTA employees will be eligible for the vaccine in the next Phase and staff was also working with Ochsner to help develop a plan to vaccinate employees.

Mr. Wiggins reported that Tierrani Clark and Erneston Arnold were the two supervisors that assisted the residents at a five alarm fire in New Orleans East these two supervisors used their owned money to make sure that the residents of the fire were feed and had the necessary shelter out of the elements these two supervisors went over and beyond their job for the these residents.

Chairman Daniels stated that he would like to present the supervisors with a resolution on behalf of the Board. Alex Wiggins stated that he would like to recognize an Administrative Employee and Operations Employee each month at the Board Meeting. Commissioner Wegner stated that management should be able to give them a tangible gift.

Alex Wiggins reported that two of the Transit Police Sergeant Shandrell Privott and Senior Officer Kelsey Lewis went to Washington, DC to help provide additional security and resources to the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority for the inauguration and other transit agencies also sent staff to assist with security.

In response to Chairman Daniels, Mr. Wiggins stated that the RTA was tapped into the National Law Enforcement Intelligence framework and now Robert Hickman has the necessary clearances to work with locally, nationally, and internationally threats.

9. Consideration of DBE Report

Ms. Keziah Cawthorne gave a report to the Commissioners. She stated that this year the RTA awarded \$36.8 million dollars of which \$11.7 million went to DBE's firms and \$4.4 Million of the DBE Contracts was awarded to DBE/SBE Prime Contractors. The RTA has a total 32% and the DBE commitment was 30% for the year.

In response to Chairman Daniels, Keziah Cawthorne stated that staff receives a monthly report from the primes and also from the B2C Now System Report that shows when the primes are paying the subs and these are the two biggest mechanisms that are used to track sub payments.

Alex Wiggins reported that next month Keziah will provide an overview of the DBE Program

COMMISSION MINUTES
TUESDAY, January 26, 2021 10:00 AM

10. Consideration of Consent Agenda

Consent Agenda

Commissioner Raymond moved and Commissioner Tillery seconded to adopt the Consent Agenda. **Resolution No. 21-001 was adopted unanimously.**

To Amend:

- **Canal Street Ferry Terminal Project**

Commissioner Raymond moved and Commissioner Tillery seconded to approve to amend the **Canal Street Ferry Terminal Project. Resolution No. 21-002 was adopted unanimously.**

Cooperative Endeavor Agreement

- **Between the RTA and the City of New Orleans – Ferry Terminal Project (AFT) – West Bank Ferry Terminal Renovations**

Commissioner Raymond moved and Commissioner Tillery seconded to approve the CEA - **Between the RTA and City of New Orleans – Ferry Terminal Project (AFT) – West Bank Ferry Terminal Renovations. Resolution No. 20-003 was adopted unanimously.**

- **Between the RTA and the City of New Orleans – St. Charles Streetcar Line ADA Project**

Commissioner Raymond moved and Commissioner Tillery seconded to approve the CEA - **Between the RTA and City of New Orleans – St. Charles Streetcar Line ADA Project. Resolution No. 20-004 was adopted unanimously.**

11. Consideration: Financial Statements – November

Gizelle Banks presented the November Financial Statements and stated that the Line Item for Operating Revenues were \$6.1 Million which comprise the General Sales Tax Use of \$4.7 Million and under budget by \$2.5 Million and Year-To-Date of \$29 million. She also reported that the Line Item for Fare Passenger Revenues decreased due to the rise of COVID-19 Cases and the RTA was still using the funding from the CARES Act Funding.

Ms. Banks reported that the Line Item Operating Expenses for the month of November was \$9.2 Million as compared to the \$8.9 Million that was budgeted, and this was contributed to the COVID-19 expenses and the bus repair campaign that was done in 2020. She also reported that the Line Item for Net Operating Revenue has a negative \$3.1 Million for the month and Year-To-Date a negative \$28.2 Million that's before any Governmental Assistance was added.

COMMISSION MINUTES
TUESDAY, January 26, 2021 10:00 AM

Ms. Banks reported Maritime Operations was \$2 Million and there was some CARE Act Funding that was allocated for Maritime Operations at \$2.6 Million to subsidize the lost in passenger fares. Government Operating Assistance Preventative Maintenance for the month was \$1.5 Million. Capital Expenditures and Long -Term Debt, the Principal on Long Term Debt was at \$832,000 for the month. The month of November Year-To-Date the RTA was ending the year with \$9.6 million and has spent \$34 Million in CARE Act Funding.

12. Consideration of COVID Relief Funding Update

COVID Funding-Cares Act 2020- \$43.8Million

- Funds utilized through November 2020 - \$37.4
- Funds remaining through November 2020 - \$6.4
- Applied to expenses beginning March 2020 - average of \$4.1 million per million
- Anticipate a carryover of \$13million in 2020 operating revenues and Cares Act funding to use for operating deficits in 2021- Should carry us through 1st Quarter of 2021

Round II Cares Act Funding- Approximately \$26.2 Million- Allocation pending

- Will utilize to keep operating and employment levels consistent with current levels through August 2021
- Government Assistance for Preventative Maintenance -\$16.7 million which is consistent with our budgeted amounts for 2021.

13. Consideration of New Business

Commissioner Raymond moved and Commissioner Wegner seconded to add

- **Paratransit MOVE Grant Update**
- **Temporary Staffing – Contract Extension**

This Motion was approved unanimously.

14. Consideration: Paratransit MOVE Grant Update

Thomas Stringer reported that the MOVE Grant Update stands for Mobility On-Demand Vehicle Express which is a pilot program driven by cutting edge technology that was going to Target New Orleans East to provide better connectivity for low income, seniors, and disabled residents for vital healthcare services and this would include a fleet of 5-12 lift equipped vehicles assigned based on demand by zones an application will be designed specifically for this project and service hours will be Monday-Friday 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and was targeted to beginning in late spring. The RTA would be working with the New

COMMISSION MINUTES
TUESDAY, January 26, 2021 10:00 AM

Orleans Health Department and the National-Accredited Health Department on this project.

Alex Wiggins reported that this project would give the RTA the opportunity to offer Mobility on Demand for the whole transit system.

Commissioner Neal would like this information presented at the Operations and Administration Meeting and at the Riders Advisory Committee.

Commissioner Bryan stated that this was a great way to bridge the gap on service for the riding public.

In response to Commissioner Walton, Thomas Stringer stated that 3 vans were ordered but a total of five vans will be used for this program.

15. Consideration: Temporary Staffing – Contract Extension

Yolanda Rodriguez read the resolution into the record.

Commissioner Raymond moved and Commissioner Wegner seconded to amend the contract with **Robert Half International, in Resolution No. 20-005 was adopted unanimously.**

16. Consideration of Audience Questions and Comments

Leanne McCallum , Strategic Project Manager Louisiana Alliance of Advocacy Center stated that she was in favor of the New Links Project.

Ann Byerly stated that she represents the senior population and she was in favor of the New Links Project.

Judy Stevens stated that she was an RTA rider and the New Links Project would provide a reliable, consistent, and a faster way to commute back and forth around the City.

Derick Breun stated that on behalf of Transdev he wanted to thank the RTA for allowing Transdev to provide service for the last 12 years.

17. Adjournment

Commissioner Raymond moved and Commissioner Tillery seconded to return to adjourn the Board Meeting of January 26, 2021. The motion was approved unanimously.