



Cape Fear Public Transportation Authority

MINUTES OF THE CAPE FEAR PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY REGULAR MEETING September 24, 2020 Mr. Chris Coudriet, Chairman, Presiding

MEMBERS PRESENT

- Mr. Chris Coudriet, Chairman, New Hanover County Manager
- Mr. Sterling Cheatham, Vice Chairman, City of Wilmington Manager
- Mr. Kemp Burpeau, New Hanover County, Attorney
- Ms. John Joye, City of Wilmington, Attorney
- Mr. Mike Kozlosky, WMPO, Executive Director
- Mr. Paul Lawler, City of Wilmington Appointee
- Ms. Laura Mortell, City of Wilmington, Budget and Research Director
- Ms. Lisa Wurtzbacher, New Hanover County, Chief Finance Officer

MEMBERS ABSENT

- Mr. Woody White, New Hanover County Board of Commissioners Appointee

STAFF PRESENT

- Ms. Megan Matheny, Interim Director
- Mr. Joe Mininni, Director of Finance & Administration
- Ms. Vanessa Lacer, Mobility Manager
- Mr. Cliff Rode, Paratransit Manager
- Ms. Mary Crawford, Accounting Coordinator
- Ms. Kathy Williams, Customer Service Supervisor

CONTRACT MANAGEMENT STAFF PRESENT

- Mr. Matt Daniels, Contractor Maintenance Manager, First Transit
- Ms. Noel Fox, Craige and Fox PLLC, Attorney
- Mr. Bill Harned, Area Vice President, First Transit
- Ms. Dianne Jensen, Contractor General Manager, First Transit
- Mr. Jeremy Smith, Contractor Assistant General Manager, First Transit

GUESTS PRESENT

- Mr. Ben Andrea, Planning and Inspections Director, Town of Leland
- Ms. Tracie Barnhill, Citizen
- Mr. Ehren Bingaman, Principal, TransPro Consulting
- Mr. Kristopher Browning, Project Leader, TransPro Consulting
- Mr. Terrence Dewberry, President, Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU) 1328
- Mr. Curtis Howard, International Vice President, Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU)
- Mr. Ryan Koresko, Citizen
- Ms. Kathryn Jolene Murphy Hall, Citizen
- Ms. Jessica Loeper, Chief Communications Officer, New Hanover County
- Ms. Abby Lorenzo, Deputy Director, WMPO
- Ms. Sherita McCullers, Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU) 1328
- Mr. Tom Pacelli, NHC Senior Resource Center
- Ms. Laura Padgett, Citizen
- Mr. Al Ragland, Human Resources Director, City of Wilmington
- Ms. Yozosne Riley, Citizen

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Secretary - Wave Transit

Ms. Martha Wayne, Deputy Chief Finance Officer, New Hanover County

CALL TO ORDER

- Chairman Coudriet called the meeting to order at 12:30 pm
- The meeting began with a moment of silence followed by the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance

ROLL CALL

- Mr. Coudriet conducted roll call with attendance confirmed by all members except Commissioner White who was not present

APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA

- Mr. Coudriet presented the September 24, 2020 meeting agenda for approval
- Mr. Cheatham made a motion to approve the meeting agenda
- There was a second by Ms. Mortell and the motion carried
- Hearing no further comments, Mr. Coudriet moved to the next item on the agenda

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Mr. Coudriet opened the public comment period
- He recognized Ms. Barnhill for comment
- Ms. Barnhill provided her name and address for record
- She presented a petition containing 179 signatures in opposition to the system redesign
- Ms. Barnhill confirmed customers who provided signature are against the 38% reduction in Wave Transit bus stops and demand more stops, greater frequency, more routes, funding for and retention of bus service to the Senior Resource Center
- She continued noting demands for transparency, accountability. Fiscal liability, adherence with FTA regulations and a reinstatement of weekday and Saturday service hours of 6:00 am to 9:00 pm
- Ms. Barnhill provided the document to the Authority upon departure from the podium
- Mr. Coudriet recognized Ms. Hall to the podium
- Ms. Hall stated she has been a Wave Transit customer for four years
- She requested an increase in frequency of the Carolina Beach bus from three hours to 60 minutes
- Ms. Hall stated we have very good drivers and a really good bus stop
- She spoke to the need to maintain the current bus system
- Mr. Coudriet recognized Mr. Howard for comment
- Mr. Howard introduced himself as the International Vice President of the Amalgamated Transit Union and spoke in support of the community's comments regarding transit service as express by members of the public today
- He stated as operators we feel we have been at the table for over a year now and we keep hearing there is no money and the budget is closed
- Mr. Howard stated he has been doing this for over 20 years and has never heard of a closed budget
- He stated we are in contract negotiations and in a pandemic where people cannot afford health care
- Mr. Howard stated affordable health care for employees and their families vs. hazard pay for essential works is top priority
- He understands the financial challenges and the change in the Board; however, decisions must be made
- Mr. Howard stated we have been nice and confirmed his comments are intended to be respectful; however, we are in the middle of a pandemic; drivers put their lives and the lives of their families on the lines every day and workers should be able to afford health care

- He stated workers need additional money because they cannot afford health care, and this is a shame
- Mr. Howard confirmed his message today was we are tired of asking; at some point we will be forced to take uncomfortable action as we continue to fight for our workers
- He thanked the Board and stated he hopes everyone remains safe
- Mr. Coudriet recognized Ms. Yozosne Riley for comment
- Ms. Riley introduced herself as the Chief Shop Steward for the Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU) Local 1328
- She spoke to UNCW service reductions in response to the pandemic confirming no employees were laid off and provided kudos to Ms. Jensen
- Ms. Riley spoke in opposition to TransPro's recommendations, citing specific routes including the Downtown Trolley for service reductions, citing specific routes including the Downtown Trolley
- She stated the monies spent with TransPro were better served elsewhere
- Ms. Riley offered network changes including concentration of services in the inner city vs. the outskirts; start with the core and work your way out
- She stated increased frequency is needed on several routes, citing specific routes including Route 210 South 17th St.
- Ms. Riley thanked the Board for their time
- Hearing no further comments, Mr. Coudriet closed the public comment period and moved to the next item on the agenda

CONSENT AGENDA

- Mr. Coudriet entertained a motion to approve the consent agenda
- Mr. Cheatham moved to approve the consent agenda as presented
- There was a second by Mr. Lawler and the motion carried
- Hearing no comments, Mr. Coudriet moved to the next item on the agenda

REPORTS

- Mr. Coudriet recognized Mr. Kozlosky to provide an update
- Mr. Kozlosky deferred to Mr. Al Ragland, Wilmington's HR Director, for presentation on this item
- Mr. Ragland confirmed that six candidates from a pool of 33 applicants were selected for telephone interviews
- He confirmed one applicant withdrew their name leaving a total of five
- Mr. Ragland confirmed the search committee, comprised of Mr. Lawler, Ms. Wurtzbacher and Mr. Kozlosky, conducted three virtual interviews with the remaining two scheduled for tomorrow afternoon
- He stated the top two or three candidates will be selected for in person interviews with the Board
- Mr. Ragland confirmed next steps as identification of the top three candidates, administration of the emotional intelligence testing, and presentation of final candidates to the Board for interview
- He requested confirmation from the Board as to availability for in person interviews
- Mr. Kozlosky requested the Board consider a special meeting for the purpose of conducting interviews
- Mr. Coudriet confirmed the public notification requirement as 48 hours for a specially called, closed session meeting
- Mr. Ragland recommended each candidate receive a staff lead tour of the Wave Transit facilities while on site
- He cited salary negotiation, administrative paperwork, identification of start date and public announcement as next steps once a final candidate has been selected
- Mr. Coudriet stated he will defer to Mr. Kozlosky and the search committee for identified of a date and time for candidate interviews
- Mr. Coudriet recognized Mr. Joye for an update on governance structure

- Mr. Joye confirmed no updates at this time
- Mr. Coudreit recognized Ms. Mortell for an update on funding model
- Ms. Mortell confirmed no updates at this time
- Hearing no further comments, Mr. Coudriet moved to the next item on the agenda

SYSTEM REDESIGN PROPOSAL

- Mr. Coudriet recognized Mr. Browning to speak to any changes made to the proposal since the last meeting and address Ms. Riley's remarks as to TransPro's involvement in service recommendations and route changes prior to
- Mr. Browning thanked the Board and spoke to minor revisions to the report following the September 9th special workshop
- He spoke to Ms. Riley's comments confirming TransPro has not been involved in any system redesign efforts for Wave Transit in the past speaking only to their engagement in a short-term efficiency study conducted in 2018
- Mr. Browning confirmed the process under the current study as data driven, identifying a network design implementing a ground up approach to build the right size system
- A full presentation and subsequent discussion can be found beginning at time stamp 30:00 on the following link:
<https://transcripts.gotomeeting.com/#/s/8e7485d3eaa8a0da86a2fa83e42f8efcdf7aa58c332ce998d5e13bb25500691>.
- No action was taken on the recommendations contained within the draft network redesign proposal presented by TransPro Consulting
- Mr. Coudriet charged Mr. Browning with preparing a presentation inclusive of feedback received from members and Ms. Riley for the October meeting
- Hearing no further comments, Mr. Coudriet moved to the next item on the agenda

SEPTEMBER 2020 FINANCIAL REPORT

- Mr. Coudriet recognized Mr. Mininni to provide an update on the September financials
- Mr. Mininni stated the financial report is located on page 15 of the agenda packet
- He entertained questions regarding the update as provided in the packet
- Mr. Lawler asked if services are currently fare free
- Mr. Mininni confirmed the Authority is not charging fares at this time
- Hearing no further comments, Mr. Coudriet moved to the next item on the agenda

STAFF REPORT

- Mr. Coudriet recognized Ms. Matheny to provide an update on this item
- Ms. Matheny stated the report disseminated in advance of the meeting is located on page 16 of the agenda packet summarizes operational changes for FY21 to scale services to meet current demand
- She confirmed the report speaks to the financial impact of said changes, net zero, and introduces the contract addendum
- Ms. Matheny confirmed UNCW's legal counsel has requested further consideration of item (b) the 60-day notification provision
- She confirmed Ms. Fox is addressing and confirmed a finalized contract addendum will be presented to the Board for consideration during the October 22nd meeting
- Ms. Matheny stated the permanent protective barriers for the Gillig buses are slated to arrive on October 2nd and staff is recommended a tentative date of Monday, November 9th for return to revenue service and facility reopening
- She stated a date for both activities will be confirmed upon arrival of the equipment; however, a tentative date of November 9th is recommended by staff
- Hearing no comments, Mr. Coudriet moved to the next item on the agenda

UPDATE ON LABOR NEGOTIATIONS

- Mr. Coudriet recognized Mr. Harned to provide the update
- Mr. Harned stated labor negotiations resumed for two days in early September and noted progress on several items
- He confirmed discussions on economics, which include wages, pension plan, insurance, hazard pay, etc. have not yet been finalized
- Mr. Harned stated negotiations are slated to reconvene Friday, October 2nd
- Mr. Mortell requested further insight regarding issues pertaining to health insurance as referenced during the public comment period
- Hr. Harned confirmed the company pays 75% for employee coverage and 81% for the employee/family coverage
- He stated the request is for an increase in the percentages, as referenced, to help offset a 58% increase in premiums for FY20
- Mr. Harned confirmed increases were not realized in FY21
- Hearing no further comments, Mr. Coudriet moved to the next item on the agenda

CONTRACTOR REPORT

- Mr. Coudriet recognized Ms. Jensen to provide the report
- Ms. Jensen confirmed a copy of the report can be found on page 24 of the agenda packet
- She spoke to the safety plan as outlined in her report before entertaining questions
- Hearing no comments, Mr. Coudriet moved to the next item on the agenda

NEW BUSINESS

- None

OLD BUSINESS

- None

CLOSED SESSION PURSUANT TO NCGS 143-318.11(a)(3) - ATTORNEY/CLIENT PRIVILEGE

- Mr. Coudriet entertained a motion to move into closed session pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11(a)(3) attorney/client privilege
- Mr. Joye made a motion to go into close session pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11(a)(3) attorney/client privilege
- There was a second by Mr. Cheatham and the motion carried

ADJOURNMENT

- Absent objection of the Board, Chairman Coudriet moved to recess the September 24, 2020 to 8:30 am on Tuesday, September 29, 2020

Respectfully Submitted,



Megan Matheny
Interim Director
/Kathy Williams