

**COMMISSION MINUTES
TUESDAY, APRIL 28, 2020 10:00 AM**

NO AUDIO

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

COMMISSIONER ABSENT: Commissioner Walter Tillery

1. The meeting was called to order at 10:08 am.
2. **Roll Call:** A quorum was confirmed.
3. **Consideration: Approval of Minutes**
Deferred.
4. **Consideration: RTA Chairman's Report**
Chairman Daniels stated that in the next 6-12 months the RTA has to make some tough decisions and he appreciates the leadership of the team.
5. **Consideration: Jefferson Parish Report**
No Report
6. **Consideration: RTA General Counsel's Report**
Sundiata Haley stated that there is an Executive Session
7. **Consideration: RTA's Chief Executive Officer's Report**
The CEO stated that the most important thing is the safety of staff and their families and plexiglass was installed behind the operators on buses and the buses and streetcars were being disinfected on a regular basis.

The CEO stated that 75 employees tested positive for COVID-19.

CARES Act

- Utilizing \$43M in funding made available through the CARES Act, the RTA may be able to cover operating costs for the next 6-9 months. Additionally, an agreement has been reached between the RTA and its contracted transit operators—Transdev and LabMar Ferry Services, which will provide for **80**

**COMMISSION MINUTES
TUESDAY, APRIL 28, 2020 10:00 AM**

NO AUDIO

hours of paid COVID-19 related administrative leave to all employees affected by this crisis.

Chairman Daniels stated that all passengers should have a face-covering to ride the system. Any type of face-covering will be acceptable and if passengers don't have face coverings the operators will provide one.

8. Consideration: Advertising Policy

- The CEO stated that RTA's Advertising Policy need to fit the Best Practices of the Industry and currently the Advertising Policy brings in \$2 Million.
- Commissioner Wegner stated that the RTA would lose money from Political and Religious Advertisement and she was concern about losing revenue at this time with COVID-19.
- The CEO stated that Councilperson Cyndi Nguyen had concerns with certain advertisements that was being placed on the buses.
- Commission Neal stated that these new rules would be applied to the Bus Shelters and the Ferries and the contractor would follow the new rules of the agency regarding advertisement.
- Commissioner Daniels stated that the RTA would not lose a significant amount of revenue by changing the Advertisement Policy.
- Alex Wiggins stated that this was not the final project that staff can work on all the concerns the Board had and can come back before the Board with any necessary revisions.

Commissioner Raymond moved and Commissioner Walton seconded to adopt this policy. Commissioner Wegner voted against the policy and Commissioner Tillery was absent from the meeting.

9. Financial Statements – February 2020

Mark Major stated that - Passenger Revenue – The fallout from the Hard Rock Hotel collapse continued to disrupt service, resulting in passenger fares and ridership dropping below projections in February by 14.8% and 13.4%, respectively

Mark Major stated that Services — Management Service Fees exceeded projections by 6.9% for the month, but lower than projected Professional/Technical Services through February (under 49%) created the positive variance for this expense category through the end of this reporting period. Almost every line item comprising Professional/Technical Services (i.e.,

**COMMISSION MINUTES
TUESDAY, APRIL 28, 2020 10:00 AM**

NO AUDIO

Legal Fees, Consultants, Data Processing Services, etc.) was under budget through February.

Mark Major stated that - Materials and Supplies – Bio-diesel fuel prices slid by another \$0.25/gallon for the month, bringing it under budget by an average of \$0.63/gallon for the month and \$0.49/gallon year-to-date.

10. 2020 Revised Budget

Total Operating Revenues

- Approved CY2020 Operating Budget was \$107,299,007 – Revised CY2020 Projection \$58,423,150 and Total Projected CY2020 Operating Revenue Shortfall (\$48,875,857).

Total Operating Expenses

- Approved CY2020 Operating budget was \$109,348,372 – Revised CY2020 Projection \$109,367,060 and Total Projected Increase in CY2020 Operating Expenses \$18,689.

Net Revenue (Expenses) After CARES Act Proceeds

- CY2020 Budget was \$123,576 – Revised CY2020 Projection (\$4,919,324) and Variance \$43,851,645.

11. Consideration: Consent Agenda

The following items appeared on the consent agenda. Commissioner Wegner moved and Commissioner Sarwar seconded to adopt the Consent Agenda Items. Resolution No. 20-025 was adopted unanimously.

A. To Award:

1. Construction of the Canal Street Ferry Terminal
Resolution No. 20-026 was adopted unanimously.
2. Purchase and Installation of Bus Decals for the 15 – 2020 New Flyer XD40 Buses
Resolution No. 20-027 was adopted unanimously.
3. Purchase and Installation of Bus Radios for the 15-2020 New Flyer XD40 Buses
Resolution No. 20-028 was adopted unanimously.
4. Trapeze Software
Resolution No. 20-029 was adopted unanimously.

**COMMISSION MINUTES
TUESDAY, APRIL 28, 2020 10:00 AM**

NO AUDIO

- B. Grants:
1. Fiscal Year 2020 Section 5337 Grant Application
Resolution No. 20-030 was adopted unanimously.
 2. Fiscal Year 2020 Section 5307 Grant Application
Resolution No. 20-031 was adopted unanimously.
 3. Fiscal Year 2020 Section 5339 Grant Application
Resolution No. 20-032 was adopted unanimously.
 4. Fiscal Year 2020 Section CARES ACT 5307
Resolution No. 20-033 was adopted unanimously.
- C. The approval of a Right of Use Agreement between the RTA and Domain Companies of Louisiana LLC
Commissioner Sarwar and Commissioner Walton seconded to enter into the **Right of Use Agreement between the RTA and Domain Companies of Louisiana LLC**. Resolution No. 20-034 was adopted unanimously.
- D. Termination of Bareboat Charter Order
1. Senator Alvin T. Stumpf Ferry Vessel
Commissioner Sarwar moved and Commissioner Walton seconded to approve the **Termination of the Bareboat Charter Order for the Senator Alvin T. Stumpf Ferry Vessel**. Resolution No. 20-035 was adopted unanimously.
 2. St. John Ferry Vessel
Commissioner Sarwar moved and Commissioner Walton seconded to approve the **Termination of the Bareboat Charter Order for the St. John Ferry Vessel**. Resolution No. 20-036 was adopted unanimously.
- E. To Amend:
1. Retif Oil Fuel
Commissioner Wegner moved and Commissioner Walton seconded to amend the contract with Retif Oil Fuel. **Resolution No. 20-037 was adopted unanimously.**

COMMISSION MINUTES
TUESDAY, APRIL 28, 2020 10:00 AM

NO AUDIO

F. Grants:

1. 2020 Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD)
Commissioner Raymond moved and Commissioner Wegner seconded to file a grant application for 2020 Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD). **Resolution No. 20-038 was adopted unanimously.**

2. FY20 Passenger Ferry Program
Commissioner Wegner moved and Commissioner Raymond seconded to file a grant application for FY20 Passenger Ferry Program. **Resolution No. 20-039 was approved unanimously.**

3. Fiscal Year 2020 Section 5339 (B) – Bus and Bus Facility Competitive Grants
Commissioner Raymond moved and Commissioner Wegner seconded to file a grant application for Fiscal Year 2020 Section 5339 (B) – Bus and Bus Facility Competitive Grants. Resolution No. 20-040 was approved unanimously.

12. New Business

Commissioner Raymond moved and Commissioner Wegner seconded to go into Executive Session for:

- Personnel Matters.

Motions was approved unanimously,

Commissioner Raymond moved and Commissioner Sarwar seconded to come out of Executive Session. Motion was approved unanimously.

13. Audience Questions and Comments:

- Carla from Mel's Transportation asked questions regarding Mel's Transportation contract with Transdev.
- Dorien Nunez , Harvard Club (No Audio)
- Jim Goodwin he wanted to know information regarding the Ferry Terminal walkway and Alex Wiggins stated that staff was going over the final design elements.

**COMMISSION MINUTES
TUESDAY, APRIL 28, 2020 10:00 AM**

NO AUDIO

- Alex Posorske commented on the Build Grant how was RTA going to seek public feedback regarding the grant and how was the Hope Grant going to fit into the New Links Projects.
- Valerie Jefferson thanked staff for stepping up and making all the necessary equipment was on the buses and she stated that there were 3 deaths and 91 operators tested positive for COVID-19.

14. Adjournment

Commissioner Raymond moved and Commissioner Wegner seconded to adjourn the Board Meeting of April 28, 2020. The motion was approved unanimously.