

**COMMISSION MINUTES**  
**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2020 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 10:07am.
2. **Roll Call:** A quorum was confirmed.
3. **Consideration: Approval of Minutes**  
Minutes were presented and adopted for November 17, 2020. Commissioner Tillery moved and Commissioner Raymond seconded to approve the motion. **The motion approved unanimously.**
4. **Consideration: RTA Chairman's Report**  
Chairman Daniels acknowledge the hard work of Alex Wiggins and his staff.
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: Selection of the Official Journal**  
Commissioner Raymond moved and Commissioner Wegner seconded to adopt **The Advocate** as the **Official Journal. Resolution No. 20-087 was adopted unanimously.**
8. **Consideration: Election of Officers**
  - a) **Chairperson**  
Commissioner Raymond moved and Commissioner Tillery seconded to approve **Flozell Daniels as Chairman** of the RTA Board. The Motion was approved unanimously.
  - b) **Vice Chairperson**  
Commissioner Neal moved and Commissioner Wegner seconded to approved **Mark Raymond as Vice Chairman** of the RTA Board. The Motion was approved unanimously.

**COMMISSION MINUTES  
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2020 10:00 AM**

**c) Committee Assignments**

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Mark Raymond, Chairman  
Flozell Daniels  
Fred Neal  
Sharon Wegner

**FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Mark Raymond, Committee Chairperson  
Arthur Walton  
Sharon Wegner  
Walter Tillery  
Dr. Mostofa Sarwar

**OPERATIONS AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE**

Fred Neal, Committee Chairperson  
Sharon Wegner  
Laura Bryan  
Walter Tillery

**9. Consideration: RTA's Executive Officer's Report**

Alex Wiggins reported that he was very proud of the New RTA Leadership Team and the official RTA takeover was scheduled to take place on December 19, 2020.

Alex Wiggins reported that during 2020 staff and the Board worked together to make sure that RTA staff had the necessary PPE's and the RTA maintained full employment for staff with minimal cuts in service. Staff Stabilized Maritime Operations and the RTA has 2 new boats in service and had a groundbreaking for the Ferry Terminal and staff Improved the Safety Culture by Advancing Technology and updating the software systems.

Alex Wiggins reported that Equity staff awarded \$12.6 Million (33%) in DBE contracts throughout the regional and staff brought over \$68 Million in grant monies and the RTA was looking at a \$5 Million surplus savings with everything that went on in 2020 and staff was also looking to Right Size the RTA fares and implement the New Links Project and have a regional fare integration.

**COMMISSION MINUTES  
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2020 10:00 AM**

**10. Consideration: RTA's New Agency Policies**

Yolanda Rodriguez reported that this item was approved on an interim basis at the Executive Committee Meeting that was held on December 11, 2020 and the Committee Members had questions regarding the Family Leave Policies so more information was requested and will be provided at the next Executive Committee Meeting so the RTA's New Agency Policies need to be deferred. Commissioner Wegner moved and Commissioner Tillery seconded to defer the **RTA's New Agency Policies**. The Motion was approved unanimously.

Alex Wiggins reported that he wanted the Board to have time to review the policies.

In response to Commissioner Raymond, Sundiata Haley reported that the full Board should approve the policies on an Interim basis from the recommendations from the Executive Committee.

In response to Commissioner Bryan, Alex Wiggins stated that staff was entitled to 8 weeks of maternity leave.

Commissioner Raymond moved and Commissioner Wegner seconded to approve the **RTA New Agency Policies** were approved on an Interim Basis and will be placed on the January Board Meeting agenda for approval. **Resolution No. 20-095 was approved unanimously.**

**11. Consideration: Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development Update Mr. Kevin Lawson**

Kevin Lawson reported that he was the Safety Oversight Program Manager for the Louisiana Department of Transportation and that he oversees the Safety Program for the Streetcar System to ensure the safety for the traveling public.

Kevin Lawson reported that he does an annual report for the FTA, the State and RTA Board and everything was going great at the RTA.

**12. Consideration of DBE Report**

Ms. Keziah Cawthorne gave a report to the Commissioners. She stated that this year the RTA awarded \$35.5 million dollars of which \$11.6 million went to DBE's firms and \$4.3 Million of the DBE Contracts was awarded to DBE/SBE Prime Contractors. The RTA has a total 33% and the DBE commitment was 30% for the year.

**COMMISSION MINUTES  
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2020 10:00 AM**

**13. Consideration of Consent Agenda**

**Consent Agenda**

Commissioner Wegener moved and Commissioner Raymond seconded to adopt the Consent Agenda. **Resolution No. 20-088 was adopted unanimously.**

**To Award:**

- **Clever Device – Maintenance Contract**

Commissioner Wegner moved and Commissioner Raymond seconded to approve to award the **Clever Device - Maintenance Contract. Resolution No. 20-089 was adopted unanimously.**

- **Special Trackwork Installation and Pole Painting Project**

Commissioner Wegner moved and Commissioner Raymond seconded to approve the award the **Special Trackwork Installation and Pole Painting Project. Resolution No. 20-090 was adopted unanimously.**

- **Purchase of 3 Paratransit Vans**

Commissioner Neal moved and Commissioner Tillery seconded to approve **Excess Workers' Compensation Insurance. Resolution No. 20-085 was adopted unanimously.**

**Cooperative Endeavor Agreement**

- **Between the RTA and Audubon Institute for the use of the Bienville Street Wharf for the Canal Street Ferry Terminal Project (CSFT)**

Commissioner Wegner moved and Commissioner Raymond seconded to approve the CEA - **Between the RTA and Audubon Institute for the use of the Bienville Street Wharf for the Canal Street Ferry Terminal Project (CSFT). Commissioner Walton and Commissioner Bryan abstain from this vote. Resolution No. 20-092 was adopted unanimously.**

**14. Consideration 2021 Proposed Budget Presentation**

Gizelle Banks presented the 2021 Proposed Budget and reported that the staff was projecting and Operating Budget of \$82 Million and 101 Million for Expenses.

**COMMISSION MINUTES**  
**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2020 10:00 AM**

Gizelle Banks reported the following:

Operating Revenues	\$ 82,370,577
Government Operating Assistance	\$ 28,689,301
Non-Operating Federal Sources	\$ 12,477,693
Other Local Sources	\$ 3,944,651
FEMA Funding Project Worksheets	\$ 1,058,160
Total Sources	\$128,590,482

Commissioner Raymond moved and Commissioner Wegner seconded to approve the **RTA 2021 Proposed Budget. Resolution No. 20-093 was adopted unanimously.**

**15. Consideration of New Business**

Commissioner Raymond moved and Commissioner Tillery seconded to add

- **To Amend: Labmar Ferry Services, LLC**

**This Motion was approved unanimously.**

**16. Consideration of Labmar Ferry Services, LLC**

Commissioner Raymond moved and Commissioner Wegner seconded to approve to enter in negotiations to amended the contract with **Labmar Ferry Services, LLC. Resolution No. 20-094 was adopted unanimously.**

**17. Consideration of Audience Questions and Comments**

Julius Kimbrough, Executive Director of Crescent City Community Land Trust a transit developer that serve the community in the 9<sup>th</sup> Ward. He stated that his organization support New Links because it was in line with his organization mission.

Nichelle Taylor, LifeCity stated that she was in favor of the New Links Project.

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

Rob Henig Bell, Bike Easy stated that he was in support of the New Links Project the project would create a safe, reliable well-connected transit system and more frequent routes was great for the public.

In response to Jim Goodwin, Alex Wiggins stated that the State has been a great partner and the RTA must look at some upcoming Preventative Maintenance issues that need to be addressed they may exceed the current State allocation.

**COMMISSION MINUTES**  
**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2020 10:00 AM**

Alex Wiggins stated that RTA1 received the COI from the Cost Guard on yesterday and both the RTA1 and RTA 2 will be in service.

Valerie Jefferson stated that she was very happy to work with staff regarding the RTA takeover.

**18. Executive Session**

A motion was made by Commissioner Wegner, seconded by Commissioner Tillery to go into Executive Session.

**19. Adjournment**

Commissioner Tillery moved and Commissioner Raymond seconded to return to the regular Session and adjourn the Board Meeting of December 15, 2020. The motion was approved unanimously.