

CHATHAM AREA TRANSIT  
AUTHORITY

BOARD MEETING

OF

May 13, 2011

10:16 A.M.

CHAIRMAN LIAKAKIS: Good morning glad to have you here for our Chatham Area Transit Authority and I call the meeting to order and I call for Patricia Hawkins who is the Secretary/Treasurer of the Chatham Area Transit Board for the roll call please.

MS. HAWKINS: Good morning. Chairman Liakakis

CHAIRMAN LIAKAKIS: Here

MS. HAWKINS: Vice Chairman Dr. Thomas

CHAIRMAN LIAKAKIS: She's out today.

MS. HAWKINS: Mr. Broker, he will not be here today. Mr. Dawson

MR. DAWSON: Here

MS. HAWKINS: Mr. Farrell

MR. FARRELL: Here

MS. HAWKINS: Mr. Gellatly

MR. GELLATLY: Here

MS. HAWKINS: Mr. Holmes

MR. HOLMES: Here

MS. HAWKINS: Mr. Kicklighter

MR. KICKLIGHTER: Here

MS. HAWKINS: Mr. Odell

MR. ODELL: Here

MS. HAWKINS: Mr. Shay

MR. SHAY: Here

MS. HAWKINS: Ms. Stone

MS. STONE: Present

Also present at the meeting was Ty Butler, Chad Reese, Fredrick Gordon and Patricia Hawkins.

CHAIRMAN LIAKAKIS: Thank you Patricia. All of the members of the Chatham Area Transit Authority were distributed the minutes of the last meeting. We need a motion on the floor for the approval of the minutes.

MS. STONE: So moved.

MR. DAWSON: Second.

CHAIRMAN LIAKAKIS: I have a motion on the floor and a second all in favor please raise your hand. Motion passes. Now the reason why we raise our hands because we have additional appointees to the Chatham Area Transit Authority and we don't have room up on our regular board up there for all of the members. So we go on to item 4 under new business and before I start the new business with Chad Reese who is the Executive Director we have in our audience from Veolia Transportation corporate staff who are in attendance today. We appreciate them coming. And of course we have Mike Ake who is the Vice President of Operations who has been here a number of times to make sure that his Veolia people were doing a really good job and then Ruth Otte and her staff she is Vice President of Marketing and Communication. Ruth, did I pronounce that right?

MS. OTTE: Close enough.

MR. LIAKAKIS: Okay and then we have Janet Davis and her staff who is Vice President of Business Improvements and we thank all of you for coming today and we want all the Veolia staff to know that Chad has done an excellent job. When Mike brought him in and put him in charge he took over immediately, he's got a lot of things going and to help. We had some specific problems in our bus system but we see that a lot of them have been addressed and can't thank Chad enough and Veolia for having Chad here to put things in place to make our transit our bus system better and hopefully that in the future we're going to see a lot more ridership which has increased anyway and a lot of great things for this private public contract that we have with Veolia and Chatham Area Transit Authority so thank you again. Chad.

MR. REESE: First of all as we stated during the budget retreat, we'd like to start off all our meetings with a safety message and all the members of the Board have been given a pin 300 29 10 which signifies a safety training issue we have going forth at Chatham Area Transit. 300 unsafe acts leads to 29 minor accidents or injuries and every for every 29 minor accidents or injury 1 is a major accident resulting in death or fatality. The initiative is to improve the unsafe acts reduce the number of unsafe acts; therefore reducing the number of overall accidents and the number of major fatalities. Its an experiment that we're practicing we're using internally that's also beneficial to the community as well as watching.

CHAIRMAN LIAKAKIS: Okay.

MR. REESE: Thank you sir.

CHAIRMAN LIAKAKIS: Thank you. Alright go ahead Stan.

MR. REESE: Proclamation.

CHAIRMAN LIAKAKIS: Proclamation. Okay Flash Gordon you've heard about him in the comic books and this is his second individual. This is a proclamation from the Chatham Area Transit Authority, The 2011 Annual Bus and Paratransit Roadeo. In recognition of Fredrick "Flash" Gordon. On Sunday, May 1, 2011, CAT held the Annual Bus and Paratransit Roadeo. The Roadeo is designed to allow qualifying operators and mechanics the opportunity to showcase their skills and maneuverability while driving a bus. Each operator must navigate through an obstacle course with twelve (12) stations in less than seven (7) minutes while meeting specific distance and other criteria and without touching any cones. Points are deducted for each infraction and for each second past the seven-minute time limit. Each maneuver is under constant evaluation with judges placed on the bus and at each obstacle. Talk about a pressure situation! High stakes notwithstanding, however, each year one winner is determined by his or her outstanding performance. This year's first place overall winner is Flash Gordon. Flash is no stranger to this honor as he has won several Roadeo events in the past, including placing 1<sup>st</sup> in the State competition 5 times. He has also gone on to the National competition 8 times and placed as high as 6<sup>th</sup> there. Employed with CAT since July 16, 1975, Flash is married to Arlene, has two daughters—Theressa and Carrie—and boasts 5 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren. Flash is certain to take the support of his family along with that from CAT when he takes his skills to the next level, competing at the International Roadeo held in Memphis, TN later this month. I'd like to present this proclamation from CAT to Fredrick "Flash" Gordon who's been a faithful dedicated employee of the Chatham Area Transit and we thank you on behalf of the Board Fredrick for the things that you have done and congratulations on winning the Roadeo.

MR. GORDON: I'm at a loss for words, but I'd just like to thank everybody that got me here. Thank you so much.

CHAIRMAN LIAKAKIS: Request approval for change order to upgrade the Gillig bus build of five (5) hybrid buses scheduled for September 2011. Chad, would you explain that.

MR. REESE: Yes sir the request before you is an upgrade of the existing order that scheduled for build in September 2011. A number of modifications to this system would include upgrade of the styling of the bus to make it more rounded. It would expand from a 35ft bus to a 40ft bus, upgrade of the cooling system to make it more environmental friendly, removal of all the coolants, other variables that cause environmental issues. It would lower the temperature of the vehicle itself resulting in approximately \$12,000 a year in savings and upgraded air conditioning system on the vehicle. The cost for the

total program is about \$175,000. We have funding available under existing structure so it's a modification to roughly a \$3million contract.

MR. ODELL: Move for approval.

MR. GELLATLY: Second.

CHAIRMAN LIAKAKIS: All in favor raise your hand. Motion passes. Item 3, request Board approval to donate a Series 50 Detroit Diesel Engine, a Series 50 Engine Stand and a Series 50 Engine Block to Savannah Technical College Automotive Training Division, Chad.

MR. ODELL: Move for approval

MR. GELLATLY: Second

CHAIRMAN LIAKAKIS: All in favor signify by raising your hand. Motion passes. Under 4, Executive Directors report on CAT's April 2011 Key Performance Indicators.

MR. REESE: Yes sir this is for informational purposes only. The most significant thing I'd like to report is we're running about a 16.1% increase in ridership to date. With the change in bus modification with the approval of bus modification will allow us address some our capacity issues we have on Abercorn. If you look further in the Operational Report you'll see on that one particular route ridership is up 123,000 along the Abercorn route. There's also an increase in farebox recovery, reduction in passenger complaints and a reduction in our safety preventable accidents.

CHAIRMAN LIAKAKIS: Okay, any questions. Helen.

MS. STONE: No this is- this is really good. The indicators that should be up are up and the ones that should be down are down so that's great.

MR. REESE: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN LIAKAKIS: Harris.

MR. ODELL: Do you have a list of shelters that will come on board in the next year or so?

MR. REESE: We are compiling that list currently and we will be bringing it to the Board. It will be a multi-year plan by which we implement our shelter program and it will be programmed for the coming years. As opposed – the current way we do it is we do it shelter by shelter; so we're trying to put together a comprehensive approach on how we address the whole shelter issue and put together a bid that would bid it for the next year, 2 years, 3 year, 4 years out.

MR. ODELL: Right for those Commissioners who may not remember approximately 8 years ago we had a consultant come in and do a sampling of all of our ridership and the biggest or the chief concern was shelters. We devised a plan at that point and we completed and installed all of those shelters but in that ridership is growing. Its good to see that we're updating our plan.

MR. REESE: Next month we'll come back with the staff recommendation for the Passenger Amenities Program for our bus shelter and bus bench advertising which will allow us to augment the existing program as well.

MR. ODELL: Thank

CHAIRMAN LIAKAKIS: He Chad lets looks and see if you can find some other manufacturer that will a little larger – we know with the ones that were originally put in were quite expensive but see – the ones that we're putting out now are just a 2 seater and a little small top on it and see if you can find one that's a little larger than that so that they can hold more than 2 people especially when you get on Abercorn and those areas where you have higher ridership because that will be better because it will shelter people better to be able to put some that are larger than those gone out her in the last few months.

MR. REESE: Yes sir.

CHAIRMAN LIAKAKIS: Thank you. Okay, the item 5 Department Updates and this is for information only. Under Safety, we were all distributed all of that information on Safety, Operation, Maintenance and Marketing, but if you'd like to go on any of those particular ones.

MR. REESE: Yes it's submitted for your review and I'll entertain any questions or comments you may have.

CHAIRMAN LIAKAKIS: Yeah and I see under some of those things what you put in in this report about Operations, Safety and things for the bus drivers and all Chad it's a really good report. We appreciate that. Now that's the end of the regular meeting but we have a special executive meeting that the attorney has requested and it's on personnel.

MR. BUTLER: That's correct.

CHAIRMAN LIAKAKIS: And so we will retire to the green room and it'll only take just a few minutes for that.

MR. REESE: Just one comment Mr. Chairman. I also provided to each of the Board members as I promised at the last Board meeting is an update of our newest ridership campaign The Cool Campaign so you'll see these rolling out on buses within the coming days.

CHAIRMAN LIAKAKIS: Okay very good. Thank you and as soon as we do this Executive Session we will reconvene the Chatham County Commission this shouldn't take but a short time.

**BREAK FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION**

CHAIRMAN LIAKAKIS: All right we went into Executive Session to talk on a personnel matter and it's an agreement right here between the Chatham Area Transit Authority and Local and we now need to take a vote on this agreement.

MR. KICKLIGHTER: Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN LIAKAKIS: Yes.

MR. KICKLIGHTER: At this time I'll make a motion to approve the agreement titled Local 1324 ATU and Chatham Area Transit Authority Lift Agreement.

MS. STONE: Second.

CHAIRMAN LIAKAKIS: Have a motion on the floor and a second to approve this agreement. All in favor raise your hand. Motion passes. I'll sign it now and Ty if you'll come out if the attorney will come now I'll sign this and we now adjourn from the Chatham Area Transit Authority and we'll reconvene now as the Chatham County Commission.

Meeting adjourned at 10:38 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted by:

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Patricia R. Hawkins, Secretary-Treasurer  
Chatham Area Transit Authority