



## CATS Board of Commissioners Meeting

Tuesday, May 16, 2023

4:30 pm

### MINUTES

#### CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the CATS Board of Commissioners Meeting was called to order at 4:30 pm by President DeGeneres. The Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation was held.

#### 1. ROLL CALL

Attendee Name	Title	Status
Dr. Peter Breaux	Member	Present
Carolyn Coleman	Member at Large	Present
Melissa DeGeneres	President	Present
Patrick Downs	Secretary	Absent
Johnathan Hill	Member	Present
Linda Perkins	Member	Present
Antoinette Pierre	Vice-President	Present
Frederick Thomas	Member	Absent
John Vukovics	Treasurer	Absent

#### 2. Public Comment

Public comments were provided by Rob Miller. Commended the board for suspending the rules to allow additional time on public comments. In addition, Mr. Miller was troubled by the current ADA reports and on-time performance.

Public comments were provided by Ralph Cater. Concerns with no lights at bus stops at Earl K Long, Greenwell St at Airline Hwy and many others. Monitors are still not working at the terminal. No notifications of reroutes to customers on Saturday, May 12, 2023, route 22 Winbourne.

#### 3. Approval of the April 18, 2023, Monthly Board Minutes– Ms. Melissa DeGeneres

**RESULT: ACCEPTED**  
**MOVER: Perkins**  
**SECONDER: Hill**  
**YEAS: Breaux, DeGeneres, Hill, Perkins, Pierre,**  
**NAYS:**  
**ABSTAIN:**  
**ABSENT: Coleman, Downs, Thomas, Vukovics**

4. **PRESIDENT'S ANNOUNCEMENTS: Ms. Melissa DeGeneres**  
The board is reviewing the by law and will have the next round of discussions at the June TPP meeting. Standing rules for policies and procedures have started. Policy for the CEO Evaluation process has been submitted to TPP for review. The planning committee has been charged with working on the sections of the strategic plan which includes #3 Capital Investments and #4 Community Stewardship. The APTA BOD meeting is July 15 to July 18. Commissioners DeGeneres and Hill along with Theo will be attending. The July monthly commissioners meeting will be moved to July 25<sup>th</sup>. The remaining board budget can be allocated to board development and training. New buses will be present at the next meeting for board photos.
5. **ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**  
The Executive Report by CATS Executive Staff was presented.
6. **COMMITTEE REPORTS AND ANY ACTION THEREON**
  1. **Finance and Executive: Ms. DeGeneres**
    - Ms. DeGeneres noted the minutes are in the packet and the committee approved the adoption of ad valorem tax millage rate of 10.60 for the City of Baton Rouge and Baker.
  2. **Technical, Policies and Practices: Dr. Peter Breaux**
    - Dr. Breaux noted the minutes are in the packet. The committee did not have a quorum and the Lawsuit Settlement Policy will move forward to the full board with no recommendation.
  3. **Audit: Mr. John Vukovics (no meeting held)**
  4. **Planning: Mr. Patrick Downs.**
    - Mr. Downs noted the minutes are in the packet.
  5. **Community Relations: Ms. Linda Perkins**
    - Ms. Perkins noted the minutes are in the packet.
  6. **CEO Search Committee**
    - Mr. Hill noted the committee did not meet. The committee is preparing to release the RFQ for the Executive Search Firm with transit experience. It will be advertised for 30 days, then evaluated and scored. The board will have to vote on the recommended search firm. Ms. Perkins asked who decided to advertise for a permanent CEO and there hasn't been a meeting. Mr. Hill noted we are not advertising for the job, but search firm. Ms. Pierre asked who made the decision to move forward with the RFQ without the board reviewing it. Mr. Hill noted he sent an outline to the full board and reshare that document. Mr. Hill noted he the plan was to bring it to the board today for approval to issue the RFQ, but after receiving feedback on language he was instructed the board did not necessarily have to approve the issuing of the RFQ. Mr. Hill offered if the board would like to approve it, he had no objection to adding it to the agenda. Ms. Pierre sought clarification that there has been no committee but as Chairman of the committee Mr. Hill has met with the procurement department. Mr. Hill confirmed.

7. Action Items

APPROVAL - Consideration and approval to adopt and levy the ad valorem tax millage rate of 10.60 mills for the City of Baton Rouge for the year 2023

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE LEVY AND COLLECTION OF A 10.6 MILLS AD VALOREM TAX ON ALL THE PROPERTY SUBJECT TO TAXATION WITHIN THE BOUNDARIES OF THE CITY OF BAKER, STATE OF LOUISIANA, DURING THE YEAR 2023, TO PROVIDE FUNDS TO BE USED ENTIRELY AND EXCLUSIVELY FOR THE PURPOSE OF IMPROVING THE AVAILABILITY AND QUALITY OF PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION FOR THE CITY OF BAKER, INCLUDING DECREASING WAIT TIMES, IMPROVING THE EFFICIENCY OF ROUTES, AND IMPROVING SIGNS AND SHELTERS, AND TO PROVIDE FUNDS FOR THE OPERATION, MAINTENANCE AND ACQUISITION NEEDS OF THE CAPITAL AREA TRANSIT SYSTEM TO PROVIDE TRANSPORTATION SERVICE.

**RESULT: ACCEPTED**

**MOVER: DeGeneres**

**SECONDER: Perkins**

**YEAS: Breaux, DeGeneres, Hill, Perkins, Pierre,**

**NAYS:**

**ABSTAIN:**

**ABSENT: Coleman, Downs, Thomas, Vukovics**

APPROVAL – Consideration and approval to adopt and levy the ad valorem tax millage rate of 10.60 mills for the City of Baker for the year 2023.

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE LEVY AND COLLECTION OF A 10.6 MILLS AD VALOREM TAX ON ALL THE PROPERTY SUBJECT TO TAXATION WITHIN THE BOUNDARIES OF THE CITY OF BAKER, STATE OF LOUISIANA, DURING THE YEAR 2023, TO PROVIDE FUNDS TO BE USED ENTIRELY AND EXCLUSIVELY FOR THE PURPOSE OF IMPROVING THE AVAILABILITY AND QUALITY OF PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION FOR THE CITY OF BAKER, INCLUDING DECREASING WAIT TIMES, IMPROVING THE EFFICIENCY OF ROUTES, AND IMPROVING SIGNS AND SHELTERS, AND TO PROVIDE FUNDS FOR THE OPERATION, MAINTENANCE AND ACQUISITION NEEDS OF THE CAPITAL AREA TRANSIT SYSTEM TO PROVIDE TRANSPORTATION SERVICE.

**RESULT: ACCEPTED**

**MOVER: DeGeneres**

**SECONDER: Perkins**

**YEAS: Breaux, DeGeneres, Hill, Perkins, Pierre,**

**NAYS:**

**ABSTAIN:**

**ABSENT: Coleman, Downs, Thomas, Vukovics**

APPROVAL – Consideration of the approval of the Lawsuit Settlement Policy

**RESULT: ACCEPTED**  
**MOVER: Breaux**  
**SECONDER: Pierre**  
**YEAS: Breaux, DeGeneres, Hill, Perkins, Pierre,**  
**NAYS:**  
**ABSTAIN:**  
**ABSENT: Coleman, Downs, Thomas, Vukovics**

APPROVAL – Consideration of authorization to approve absences of Frederick Thomas

**RESULT: ACCEPTED**  
**MOVER: Hill**  
**SECONDER: Perkins**  
**YEAS: Breaux, DeGeneres, Hill, Perkins, Pierre,**  
**NAYS:**  
**ABSTAIN:**  
**ABSENT: Coleman, Downs, Thomas, Vukovics**

APPROVAL – Consideration of authorization to approve absences of Patrick Downs

**RESULT: ACCEPTED**  
**MOVER: Hill**  
**SECONDER: Perkins**  
**YEAS: Breaux, DeGeneres, Hill, Perkins, Pierre,**  
**NAYS:**  
**ABSTAIN:**  
**ABSENT: Coleman, Downs, Thomas, Vukovics**

Ms. Pierre noted a point of order that the April Board minutes did not record the CEO Search Committee Report.

8. APPROVAL – Approval of the April 18, 2023, Amended Monthly Board Minutes to include a report was provided by the CEO Search Committee– Ms. Melissa DeGeneres

**RESULT: ACCEPTED**  
**MOVER: Pierre**  
**SECONDER: Perkins**  
**YEAS: Breaux, Coleman, DeGeneres, Hill, Perkins, Pierre,**  
**NAYS:**  
**ABSTAIN:**  
**ABSENT:, Downs, Thomas, Vukovics**

Adjournment  
Perkins/DeGeneres