



The COMET Board Meeting minutes are prepared and presented in summary form. Audio recordings of the meetings are on file at The COMET and are part of the approved minutes. If you would like to hear the recording from the meeting, please contact Paige Jernigan at pjernigan@thecometsc.org.

Per SC Code of Laws, Title 30, Chapter 4, Section 30-4-80 - All public bodies shall notify persons or organizations, local news media, or such other news media as may request notification of the times, dates, places, and agenda of all public meetings, whether scheduled, rescheduled, or called, and the efforts made to comply with this requirement must be noted in the minutes of the meetings. The COMET complied with the notification of this meeting on Wednesday, July 14, 2020 at 3:15 P.M.

**The Central Midlands Regional Transit Authority
Special Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Friday, July 17, 2020 at 2:00 P.M.
3613 Lucius Road, Columbia, SC 29201 – Conference Room A**

Members Present:

Ron Anderson, Chair*
Joyce Dickerson*
John V. Furgess, Sr.*
Carolyn Gleaton*
Mike Green
Representative Leon Howard*
Derrick Huggins*
Skip Jenkins*
Al Koon*
Col. (R) Roger Leaks, Jr.*
Lill Mood*
Dr. Robert Morris*
Andy Smith*
Debbie Summers*
Allison Terracio*
B.J. Unthank
Barry Walker*

Guests Present:

Pam Baker, Attorney, Burr & Forman Law Firm*
Frannie Heizer, Attorney, Burr & Forman Law Firm*
Rick Mogan, Attorney, Burr & Forman Law Firm*

**Indicates participation by phone.*

Absent Board Members:

Geraldine Robinson



The COMET Staff Present

John Andoh, Executive Director/CEO

Paige Jernigan, Administrative & Customer Service Specialist

1. CALL TO ORDER AND DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

Mr. Anderson called the meeting to order at 2:06 P.M. and determined there was a quorum.

2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

A motion was made by Ms. Gleaton and seconded by Mr. Furgess to adopt the agenda.

Ayes: Anderson*, Dickerson*, Furgess*, Howard*, Huggins*, Gleaton*, Leaks*, Mood*, Morris*, Smith*, Terracio*

Nays: None

Absent: None

Voice Vote:

Anderson - Aye*

Dickerson - Aye*

Furgess - Aye*

Gleaton - Aye*

Howard - Aye*

Huggins - Aye*

Leaks - Aye*

Mood - Aye*

Morris - Aye*

Smith - Aye*

Terracio - Aye*

Motion passed.

3. LEGAL/CONTRACTUAL/PERSONNEL (MAY REQUIRE EXECUTIVE SESSION)

Section 30-4-70 (a) (1) Discussion of employee

Motion:

A motion was made by Ms. Gleaton and seconded by Ms. Dickerson to go into Executive Session.

Ayes: Anderson*, Dickerson*, Furgess*, Gleaton*, Howard *, Huggins*, Leaks*, Mood*, Morris*, Smith*, Terracio*

Nays: None

Absent: None

Voice Vote:

Anderson - Aye*

Dickerson - Aye*



Furgess - Aye*
Gleaton - Aye*
Howard - Aye*
Huggins - Aye*
Leaks - Aye*
Mood - Aye*
Morris - Aye*
Smith - Aye*
Terracio - Aye*
Motion passed.

Mr. Andoh and Ms. Jernigan were asked to leave the room at 2:09 P.M.

Entered Executive Session at 2:09 P.M.

Motion:

A motion was made by Mr. Furgess and seconded by Mr. Huggins to exit Executive Session.

Ayes: Anderson*, Dickerson*, Furgess*, Howard *, Leaks*, Mood*, Morris*, Smith*, Terracio*

Nays: None

Absent: Gleaton, Huggins (when did they leave the meeting?)

Voice Vote:

Anderson - Aye*

Dickerson - Aye*

Furgess - Aye*

Gleaton - No response

Howard - Aye*

Huggins - No response

Leaks - Aye*

Mood - Aye*

Morris - Aye*

Smith - Aye*

Terracio - Aye*

Motion passed.

Exited Executive Session at 3:32 P.M.

Ms. Gleaton and Mr. Huggins left the meeting at 3:32 P.M.

Mr. Anderson stated that no action was taken in Executive Session.



Motion:

A motion was made by Ms. Mood and seconded by Mr. Smith to authorize legal counsel to follow up on anonymous allegations as discussed in Executive Session.

Mr. Furgess interjected that the discussion in Executive Session didn't mention the allegations. He stated that the motion should read authorizing legal counsel to do an investigation of the letter. Mr. Furgess requested to amend the motion as stated above. Mr. Anderson informed everyone that Mr. Furgess can make a substitute motion instead.

Mr. Furgess substitute motion is as follows:

Motion:

A motion was made by Mr. Furgess and seconded by Col. Leaks to authorize legal counsel to proceed with an investigation and keep in mind that unnamed personnel is innocent of these charges.

Mr. Anderson asked Attorney Heizer what the next steps should be. Attorney Heizer stated that this substitute motion would replace the original motion. She requested that the Board provide legal counsel with further information, specifically if they were authorized to associate a third party independent law firm to assist in the investigation.

Mr. Furgess amended his previous motion to state:

Motion:

A motion was made by Mr. Furgess and seconded by Col. Leaks to authorize a third party hired by the law firm to proceed with an investigation and keep in mind that unnamed personnel is innocent of these charges.

Mr. Anderson restated the motion to say:

A motion was made by Mr. Furgess and seconded by Col. Leaks to authorize Burr Furriani to proceed with an investigation by hiring a third-party attorney to pursue the investigation keeping in mind, that these are allegations and the unnamed party is innocent until proven guilty.

Representative Howard asked if this would be a partial investigation or all the allegations. It was confirmed that it would be all the allegations. It was discussed and Mr. Anderson's version was the more appropriate motion because the phrase "innocent until proven guilty" was used.

Mr. Green expressed his unhappiness of the use of the employee's name in the original motions as this is a personnel issue. It was discussed and determined that the name would be redacted from the recording and not reflected in the minutes.

Mr. Anderson requested we take the name out of the minutes.



Ayes: Anderson*, Dickerson*, Furgess*, Leaks*, Mood*, Morris*, Smith*, Terracio*

Nays: Howard*

Absent: Gleaton, Huggins

Voice Vote:

Anderson - Aye*

Dickerson - Aye*

Furgess - Aye*

Gleaton - No response

Howard - Nay*

Huggins - No response

Leaks - Aye*

Mood - Aye*

Morris - Aye*

Smith - Aye*

Terracio - Aye*

Motion passed.

4. ADJOURN

Motion:

A motion was made by Representative Howard and seconded by Ms. Dickerson to adjourn.

Ayes: Anderson, Dickerson*, Furgess*, Howard *, Leaks*, Mood*, Morris*, Smith*, Terracio*

Nays: None

Absent: Gleaton, Huggins

Voice Vote:

Anderson - Aye

Dickerson - Aye*

Furgess - Aye*

Gleaton - No response

Howard - Aye*

Huggins - No response

Leaks - Aye*

Mood - Aye*

Morris - Aye*

Smith - Aye*

Terracio - Aye*

Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 3:45 P.M.



CENTRAL MIDLANDS REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY

Adopted this Aug., 2020, Agenda Item _____

Prepared by:

Paige Jernigan, Administrative & Customer Service Specialist

Approved by:

Andy Smith, Board Secretary