

MINUTES
SPECIAL CALLED MEETING
CITY TRANSIT TRUST
MARCH 8, 2005 - 6:00 P.M.
WAYNE GILLEY CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Vice Chairman Randy Warren. Notice of meeting and agenda were posted on the City Hall notice board as required by law. Invocation was given by Pastor Curtis Newton, Trinity Assembly of God, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

PRESENTATION OF FLAGS BY GIRL SCOUTS OF LAWTON FT-SILL

PRESENTATION OF FLAGS BY VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA, CHAPTER 751

PRESENTATION OF PROCLAMATION FOR GIRL SCOUTS OF LAWTON-FT SILL MONTH

PRESENTATION OF PROCLAMATION FOR COLORECTAL CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Bill Shoemate, Glenn Devine, Robert Shanklin, Jeffery Patton, Stanley Haywood, Randy Warren.

ABSENT: Mayor John P. Purcell, Jr., Rex Givens and Amy Ewing-Holmstrom

ALSO PRESENT: Larry Mitchell, City Manager; John Vincent, City Attorney; Traci Hushbeck, City Clerk.

Consider approval of minutes of City Transit Trust Special Meeting of November 23, 2004 and January 25, 2005.

MOTION by Patton, SECOND by Haywood, to approve the minutes of the City Transit Trust Special Meetings of November 23, 2004 and January 25, 2005. AYE: Patton, Haywood, Warren, Shoemate, Devine, Shanklin. NAY: None. MOTION CARRIED.

BUSINESS ITEMS:

1. Hold a public hearing to consider changes to the Pink Route service area to include name change and expansion of service. Exhibits: None.

Julie Sanders, Transportation Planner, said the Lawton Area Transit System has been in operation for a little over two years, giving the planners a significant amount of data dealing with ridership, land use pattern changes and socio-economic data. She stated it is now time to make modifications to the routes. The Pink Route has historically had the lowest ridership. They looked at how to expand service and increase ridership. The Pink Route currently does not provide any connectivity, but the proposed modifications would allow riders to transfer to the newly proposed orange route and expand service. She met with Colonel Herring, Fort Sill, who supported the recommendation.

PUBLIC HEARING OPENED.

Connie Kroll, 407 NW 5th, stated she works on base at Ft. Sill and has ridden the LATS bus for the past twenty months. The lighting is poor or non-existent in some spots on the side streets which present a

security concern. There is no shelter available on the route. She currently catches the bus within three blocks. With the proposed change she would have to walk six blocks. Currently she has the option of catching the 6:00 a.m., 6:15 a.m. or the 7:00 a.m. bus and it takes approximately 15 minutes to get to work. With the proposed route, she would have to catch the 6:00 a.m. or the 6:15 a.m. bus, and ride the bus for 32 minutes. She stated she would also have farther to walk when going to the post office or library during her lunch hour. She understood that you cannot change the route for one person, but hoped she would consider the impact it will make on those riding the bus to work on Ft. Sill. She suggested that a survey be made available to the riders and also survey those who currently do not ride the bus. Find out what it would take for them to ride. She said she would not stop riding if the changes occur.

Mary Morrow, 3013 Pioneer Boulevard – She stated the change would heavily impact Pioneer Park. There are many residents in the area that cannot walk and the bus is the only means of affordable transportation. She questioned if they have surveyed the Pioneer Park area for potential riders.

Jim Macannally, 402 NW Sheridan – He stated that he has utilized the bus system since its inception. His concern is with the change in the Geronimo area. He has an autistic grandson who enjoys riding the bus, but with the proposed change he would have to walk an additional $\frac{1}{4}$ of a mile to catch the bus. He stated there were many long time riders in Pioneer Park that will be affected. He questioned if they could buy an additional bus.

Lief Stratmoen, 148 NE Angus – Currently the pink route services Pioneer Park as well as Turtle Creek. He stated the proposed route would eliminate both of these housing areas. He is also concerned that with the proposed route, any resident wishing to go downtown will have to cross Rogers Lane and Laurie Tatum Road, at a busy intersection. His wife rides the bus to work every weekday and there are at least three additional people from Turtle Creek on that bus. He suggested that they try to get additional riders from those areas on the existing route.

PUBLIC HEARING CLOSED.

Patton questioned who came up with the basis on realigning the route.

Sanders stated that a City Planner rode the bus for approximately 40 hours during a month long period and tracked where people were getting on and off the bus. They compiled that information and looked at changing land use patterns and how to provide some connectivity. The current route is very isolated. This proposed route would expand into two other neighborhoods. They are limited by the amount of buses on the routes, with each bus having a maximum of 50-55 minutes to get passengers to the transfer station. She stated they look at where stoplights are located, the pattern of the neighborhood and the density of apartment housing. All of these factors will increase ridership.

Patton questioned if the bus stopped on the North or South side of Rogers Lane and Laurie Tatum Road.

Sanders said it would stop on both sides of the road since the bus will go clockwise and counter clockwise. There is not an actual designated stop in that area, but riders will just waive down the bus. She stated that there have always been stops on busy streets such as Sheridan and Cache. She said that

if a resident was physically unable to get to a stop due to a disability, they could make application to paratransit.

Haywood suggested placing a stoplight at the intersection of Rogers Lane and Laurie Tatum Road.

Sanders stated that would be a question for the Traffic Engineer, but they might consider placing a shelter on the right-of-way. She stated that the pink route has not grown at the rate of the other routes because it does not connect to the other routes.

Patton stated that the proposed route would go through Hilltop, which is currently not serviced. He questioned if they knew that there would be potential riders in that area.

Sanders said the survey showed that there were 3-4 people picked up in that area. She clarified that this is a public hearing to modify the orange route and they would need to publish another hearing notice to continue. The ridership in Pioneer Park is higher than the Hilltop area, but with the new route, both would have access. She stated that might also impact the paratransit service, since they have to provide paratransit service within $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile from a route.

Haywood stated he was thrilled that there are riders from the Pioneer Park and Turtle Creek areas. This transportation was created for low and moderate income residents. They need to find some way to help these individuals.

Warren stated that he is concerned that they have riders in hand and would hate to affect those current riders in an attempt to increase potential ridership.

Patton stated he would like input from Steve Sherrer, General Manager of LATs.

Sherrer stated the survey shows that there is more ridership in the Pioneer Park/Angus area than the Hilltop area.

Patton stated that he is concerned about riders crossing Rogers Lane at Laurie Tatum Road with no stoplight. Riders should only be picked up on the North side. He questioned if staff could continue to look at options.

Sanders stated they would need to advertise for another public hearing.

Sherrer said they would need at least a month

MOTION by Haywood, SECOND by Shanklin, to table for 30 days and direct staff to find additional options to keep the Pioneer Park and Turtle Creek areas included in the route. AYE: Haywood, Warren, Shoemate, Devine, Shanklin, Patton. NAY: None. MOTION CARRIED.

There being no further business to consider, the meeting adjourned at 6:41 upon motion, second and roll call vote.

RANDY WARREN, VICE CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

TRACI HUSHBECK, SECRETARY