

# Minutes of the REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Wednesday, October 20, 2021

## Committee Members Present:

Barber, Chamblis, Cummings, Fredson, Gonzalez, Johnson, Lee, Lilligren, Lindstrom, Muse, Sterner, Vento, Wulff, Zelle

## Committee Members Absent:

Ferguson, Zeran

## CALL TO ORDER

A quorum being present, Chair Zelle called the regular meeting of the Council's Committee of the Whole to order at 4:01 p.m. on Wednesday, October 6, 2021 on the following roll call vote:

Aye: 13 Barber, Chamblis, Cummings, Fredson, Gonzalez, Johnson, Lee, Lilligren, Lindstrom, Muse, Vento, Wulff, Zelle

Nay: 0

Absent: 2 Ferguson, Zeran

No response: 1 Sterner

## APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Council Members did not have any comments or changes to the agenda.

## APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Vento, seconded by Lilligren to approve the minutes of the October 6, 2021 regular meeting of the Committee of the Whole. **Motion carried** on the following roll call:

Aye: 13 Barber, Chamblis, Cummings, Fredson, Gonzalez, Johnson, Lee, Lilligren, Lindstrom, Muse, Vento, Wulff, Zelle

Nay: 0

Absent: 2 Ferguson, Zeran

No response: 1 Sterner

## INFORMATION

### 1. Metro Transit Police Work Group Update

Council Member Reva Chamblis gave an update on the Metro Transit Police Work Group and the group's work plan. Council Member Chamblis is the chair of the work group. Lesley Kandaras, Chief of Staff, Metro Transit, began with an overview of the charge and structure of the work group. The charge for the work group is to deliver recommended safety outcomes and strategies to the full Council by 2/28/2022 and provide monthly updates at Committee of the Whole to inform the recommendations. The topics discussed to date are 21<sup>st</sup> Century Policing at Metro Transit Police Department (MTPD), other transit agencies' approaches to

law enforcement and public safety, experiences and perspectives regarding public safety and police interactions, the plan to survey MTPD employees, the Code of Conduct, focused on community partnerships and MTPD contracts with community-based organizations, with guests from A Mother's Love, and the work group has received a Homeless Action Team (HAT) update. Kandaras also shared the current work plan for upcoming meetings as well as future Committee of the Whole update dates. Work Group Chair Chamblis shared the engagement model used to facilitate the discussion of perspectives and values of work group members. Work group members shared their perspectives on safety at the October 8 meeting. Themes discussed include: acknowledgement that individual identities and experiences shape interactions between police and civilians and can lead to very different perspectives and reactions; a common and shared desire to trust authority and those who protect us, community-police relationships remain a priority, individual police officers must demonstrate responsibility that leads to a strong culture of accountability within the entire police force, and enhanced interpersonal (and cross-cultural) communication is needed. Chair Zelle shared an appreciation for the framework provided by Work Group Chair Chamblis. Council Member Lilligren, as a work group member, acknowledged the efficiency of the aggressive schedule and thanked Work Group Chair Chamblis for her work. Council Member Johnson asked if the recommendations would be brought to full Council in February; Work Group Chair Chamblis replied that it would be built into the final Committee of the Whole discussion.

## 2. Zero Emissions Bus Transition Plan Update

Carrie Desmond, Principal Engineer, Metro Transit, gave an update on the Zero Emissions Bus Transition Plan (ZEBTP). The purpose of this project is to establish a plan to move Metro Transit's bus fleet from primarily diesel to zero-emission buses. The Metropolitan Council is required to develop the Transition Plan by State of Minnesota Statute 473.3927, and it is due to the state legislature by February 15, 2022. This transition plan is anticipated to be a requirement of future FTA competitive grant applications. The ZEBTP project goals are to: define guiding principles, set milestones and goals, and to develop strategies. Stakeholder engagement will consist of a virtual ZEB summit, community meetings, and online tools. The benefits of battery-electric buses are less dependence on fossil fuels, fewer greenhouse gases, quieter vehicles, less vibration, and greater comfort. The challenges of battery-electric buses are technology readiness for vehicles and infrastructure, fleet lifecycle/replacement timing, and major facility and operational changes. Desmond also shared an update on the C Line BRT vehicles; factory acceptance testing of new vehicles was completed on 9/23 and replacement charger installation was completed 10/4. Commissioning is ongoing and will be followed by training activities and return to service. Desmond then gave an update on Minneapolis Bus Garage electrification and the FY19 and FY21 Low/No grant spending.

Council members had questions and comments about the FTA grant program for electric vehicles, where Metro Transit ranks in innovation among other transit agencies, and if staff had any information about electric bus programs internationally. Council Member Barber suggested that Metro Transit pay attention to the electric bus program pilot in Toronto, Canada.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Business completed; the meeting adjourned at 4:54 p.m.

Bridget Toskey  
Recording Secretary