

# Item No. B.-1.

## OTTUMWA CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

SPECIAL MEETING NO. 3  
Council Chambers, City Hall

January 14, 2020  
5:30 O'Clock P.M.

The meeting convened at 5:30 P.M.

Present were Council Member Meyers, Berg, Roe, Stevens and Mayor Pro Tem Dalbey.

Roe moved, seconded by Meyers to approve the agenda as presented. All ayes.

Presentation by David Silverio, Director and Mary Kirk, Assistant Director, of Ottumwa Transit on the fixed route system.

The Federal Transit Admin. (FTA) has categorized Ottumwa Transit as one of seven Municipal Transits in the State of IA (Burlington, W. Burlington, Clinton, Ft. Dodge, Marshalltown, Mason City and Muscatine make up the remainder).

Fixed route operates from 6:45 A.M. to 6:00 P.M., Monday through Friday. OTA also offers complimentary paratransit as a door to door service for people with disabilities and shuttles for groups who are low income, elderly and/or disabled.

Ridership for FY18 is 138,019, with the airport route making up approximately 25% of this total.

Transit achievements: voted most improved transit system in 2013 from IDOT and FTA based upon increased ridership and decreased operating cost; increased driver safety training; increased from 2 full-time drivers to 7 (2014-present); in 2016 partnered with Wapello County Veterans Affairs to provide free rides to Veteran's and their families; purchased 3 light duty buses and 2 mini vans; on-site gasoline fuel tank purchased in 2019; contractual agreements with Logisticare and Access2Care to provide Medicaid/Waiver trips.

Transit future goals: decrease transit levy that's currently at \$496,000; decrease the cost of fares; increase ridership and revenue.

Strategic Plan: expand service, open on Saturdays, increase ridership, create more full-time driver positions, open on the holidays for riders with dr. appointments, etc., increase revenue.

Total of 10 full time employees (7 of these being drivers) and 12 part time employees (drivers, bus washer and dispatchers).

Current Transit Fleet: 9 Medium Duty 36 passenger buses, 3 Light Duty 18 passenger buses and 5 ADA compliant Mini Vans.

Plan to purchase 5 light duty buses in 2020 totaling \$654,395 with IDOT Reimbursement of 85% brings total cost for Transit to \$98,159.25. These will be more fuel efficient and will decrease maintenance expenses.

Transit is self-funded and receives no money from the City's General Fund.

Any federal unappreciated funds must be paid back to the Federal Government (approximately \$307,000).

Ottumwa Transit pays the City of Ottumwa \$47,253 annually for Admin. fees that goes into the General Fund.

IDOT requested both Ottumwa Transit and 10-15 Transit to create a MOU to satisfy the need for two public transit systems to operate in the same area; however, it became clear that a compromise could not be reached. A legislative decision will not be made tonight; but at the next regularly scheduled City Council mtg. on January 21, 2020.

Jay Allison presented on behalf of 10-15 Transit on the proposal sent to the City of Ottumwa on 11/14/2019.

In FY18, 10-15 Transit operated 326 days (including 44 Saturdays, 24 Sundays and 9 Holidays) providing 12,182 rides within the City of Ottumwa. Ridership continues to increase: FY19 18,353; FY20 (first 6 months) over 11,000.

10-15 first offered Ottumwa Transit all of the nursing homes and assisted living transportation that they currently provide in the City of Ottumwa and Ottumwa Transit was not interested. The only thing Ottumwa Transit was interested in was all of the insurance trips in Ottumwa and a two-block buffer of the fixed route bus system.

The proposal created by the 10-15 Board will allow 10-15 Transit to merge the fixed route and ADA Paratransit at a lower rider cost in conjunction with door to door demand response.

Reminder that the 10-15 Transit is the company they are today because of instructions received when we separated from the City on January 1, 2014. If the decision is made to not accept the proposal from 10-15 Transit, they will direct all transportation inside the city limits of Ottumwa over to Ottumwa Transit starting March 1, 2020.

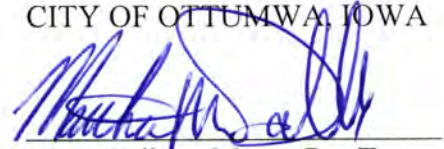
10-15 Transit Proposal would provide all transportation in the City of Ottumwa starting July 1, 2020 and would not ask for any property, tools or employees. They would request fleet and vehicle lift for their operation and would significantly lower all rates for services. 10-15 Transit would use the current tax levy for 3 years and provide more service for holidays. Services will not be discontinued, but will be maintained. The initial proposal is 3 years with financial responsibility of the City being done after that time.

Mayor Pro Tem Dalbey inquired if there was anyone from the audience who wished to address an item on the agenda. Public comments were received from: Terry Bradley, Director of Wapello County VA; Terri Shaw, resident; Doris Whitten, resident; Mary Margaret Butler, Whatsoeveryou do non-profit organization; Heather Jones, resident; Robert LaPoint, resident.

Mayor Pro Tem Dalbey inquired if anyone from the audience wished to address an item not on the agenda. Mr. Terry Bradley asked for the City to consider a liaison with his office so we are informed of what is going on with our veteran population.

There being no further business, Berg moved, seconded by Meyers that the meeting adjourn. All ayes. Adjournment was at 6:49 P.M.

CITY OF OTTUMWA, IOWA

  
Matt Dalbey, Mayor Pro Tem

ATTEST:

  
  
Christina Reinhard, City Clerk