



City of Racine

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Legislative Report

File Number: Res. 0022-22

Agenda Date: 01/18/2022

File Type: Resolution

Resolution Authorizing Transition of Transit Management to City of Racine

WHEREAS, public transportation has a long and varied history in the City of Racine; and

WHEREAS, the need for public transit services was first recognized in Racine in 1883 when Racine business people chartered the Belle Urban Street Railway Company and began service in October of that year, using horse-drawn streetcars on one route; and

WHEREAS, public transit service in Racine was provided exclusively by streetcars until 1928, when the Milwaukee Electric Railway & Light Company instituted its first feeder bus route and the company decided to convert to buses rather than replace track when an extensive City repaving program affected the streetcar routes; and

WHEREAS, streetcar lines continued in Racine until October 1, 1940, when the last streetcar ceased operation in Racine, and the system converted to an all-bus operation; and

WHEREAS, for the next several decades a succession of private companies provided bus transit services in Racine; and

WHEREAS, on August 7, 1973, the Common Council recognized the need for changes in the manner that transit services were provided in Racine and, by Resolution 1942, directed that a Mass Transit Development Program be prepared; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with the recommendations set forth in the Mass Transit Development Program, took the necessary steps to purchase the local bus system and, without interruption of bus service, the City of Racine became the new owner and operator of the local bus system on July 1, 1975, renaming it the Belle Urban System; and

WHEREAS, since 1975, the City funded the Belle Urban System and contracted for the management of transit services with private management companies; and

WHEREAS, on June 12, 2017, the name RYDE was adopted for Racine's transit system; and

WHEREAS, RYDE is about to embark upon a new era with the inclusion of electric buses in its fleet of vehicles; and

WHEREAS, upon the expiration of the current transit management contract, it is appropriate that City continue nearly 140 years of public transit services by transitioning transit management to the City of Racine government.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that, effective February 1, 2022, management of RYDE and all attendant City of Racine transit operations shall hereafter be conducted by the City of Racine administration and staff; and

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED, responsibility for transportation services shall be moved from the Department of Public Works and to a newly-authorized City of Racine Transit Department, headed by the Transit Manager, with superintending responsibility for public transit services, acting in compliance with all relevant federal, state, and local law, shall be established; and

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED, that 91 new City of Racine positions shall be created, including the RYDE general manager, transit human resources manager, operations manager, road supervisor, trainer/safety supervisor, office administrator, facility maintenance worker, lead mechanic, four mechanics, two mechanic's helpers, lead dispatcher, three dispatchers, clerk, two information clerks, 38 full-time bus operators, 32 part-time bus operators, and the Transit Manager's administrative assistant; and

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED, the following nonrepresented positions shall be placed on the City of Racine nonrepresented pay scale as follows: general manager, Grade M; transit human resources manager, Grade I; operations manager, Grade H; road supervisor, Grade G; trainer/safety supervisor, Grade G; and office administrator, Grade F; and

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED, the approved City of Racine 2022 budget shall be amended as necessary to carry this Resolution into effect.

Fiscal Note: Funding for transit operations was authorized in the City of Racine 2022 annual budget.