

Minutes of a meeting of the Plaquemines Parish Council, as the Sole Governing Authority of the Plaquemines Port, Harbor & Terminal District, held in the Pointe-a-la-Hache Council Chambers, 18055 Hwy. 15, Pointe-a-la-Hache, Louisiana on Thursday, April 25, 2024, at 3:48 p.m., pursuant to notice to all members with a quorum present as follows:

PRESENT: Commissioner Brian Champagne, Chairman
Commissioner Tyronne Edwards
Commissioner Chris Schulz
Commissioner Stuart J. Guey
Commissioner Patricia McCarty
Commissioner Mitch Jurisich
Commissioner Mark Cognevich

Kim M. Toups, Council Secretary

ABSENT: Commissioner Ronnie Newsom
Commissioner Carlton M. LaFrance, Sr.

Charles Tillotson, Melissa Folse, Christie Nielsen and Angelina Vicknair were present representing the Port.

Agenda Item 6c, “A Resolution authorizing and directing the Port Chairman, Brian Champagne, to extend the employment contract of Melissa Folse as Deputy Port Director/Executive Counsel; and otherwise to provide with respect thereto” was deferred and fell off the agenda.

Agenda Item 6b, “An Ordinance to amend the Five-Year Capital Improvements Plan, Pointe-ala-Hache Ferry Ramp Repair Project; and otherwise, to provide with respect thereto” was withdrawn.

There being no matters for Executive Session, Commissioner Champagne moved to Agenda Item 3, “Status Report by the Executive Director”. Without objection, so ordered. The following was reported by Mr. Tillotson:

- We continue progressing our ongoing priorities;
- First off, we resolved the Ferry Landing Emergency Repair slope analysis issue and approved the port’s contractor to start the new scope of work. We will provide bi-weekly project progress updates;
- Additionally, we received an update from DOTD on the design of the New Ferry Landing Replacement and the New Build Ferry Boat. These projects are both funded by DOT Grants. The Ferry Landing Replacement is still under negotiations with Hanover & Hardesty, and the New Build Ferry Boat contract was awarded to Pelican Marine. Both Projects are estimated to be completed four years from the contract award date;
- We sent the Master Plan Development review calendar invite to all Commissioners for two separate meetings to be presented by the Bridges Group for May 17. We also invited the Parish President, Senator Connick, Representative Braud, and David Vitter. Please advise if you will attend the morning or afternoon session. We plan to finalize the Master Plan on May 30;
- I applaud the Port staff for completing 99% of the Port’s Policy Renewals for Human Resources, Finance, and Office Operations. We are finalizing a policy for the newly deployed UKG payroll system. We plan to execute the finalized Office Policy version on April 30. We anticipate rewriting and finalizing the Ferry and Rescue Boat Policies by June 30;
- Please join me in congratulating our Deputy Director, Ms. Folse, for completing the Maritime Port Executive Program last month. This is an intensive course offered by the International Association of Maritime Port Executives;
- I attended the House Transportation Committee meeting with a green card, along with David Vitter, last Monday to support Representative Wright on HB 685; and
- Last, but not least, it is time for us to start the rebranding initiative. Why? Most global shippers and ocean carriers simply do not understand our geographic advantage, and more importantly confuse Plaquemines Parish with the city near Baton Rouge (two hundred miles). Our Value Proposition “We turn Bigger Ships Easier and Faster,” offers millions of dollars in shipping cost avoidance annually. We will send calendar invites for a Q&A session next week.

There was no report provided under Agenda Item 3a, “Financial Report/Budget to Actual” and no matters for Agenda Item 4, “Bids and Advertisements”. Therefore, Commissioner Champagne moved to Agenda Item 5, “Introduction of Ordinances and Resolutions”.

1. A Resolution authorizing and directing the Port Chairman, Brian Champagne, to extend the employment contract of Melissa Folse as Deputy Port Director/Executive Counsel; and otherwise to provide with respect thereto. COMMISSIONER CHAMPAGNE

Commissioner Champagne moved to Agenda Item 6, “Ordinances and Resolutions on Second Reading and Final Passage”. Without objection, so ordered.

There were no matters to address under Item 6a.

RESOLUTION NO. 24-134

On motion of Commissioner Champagne, seconded by Commissioner McCarty, and on roll call all members present voting “YES”, except Commissioner Newsom who was “ABSENT”, the following Resolution was adopted:

A Resolution authorizing the Plaquemines Port, Harbor, and Terminal District to dispose of an inoperable movable property. Specifically, to dispose of two (2) generators, on an as-is, where-is basis and in accordance with Louisiana statutes governing the disposal of movable property owned by a political subdivision of the state; and otherwise to provide with respect thereto.

Digest: Plaquemines Port owns two (2) generators, that are non-functional due to extensive wear and mechanical problems. The cost to repair the generators exceeds their current market value, making it financially impractical to invest in their restoration. *The digest is for informational purposes only and is superseded by the language of the actual ordinance or resolution.*

WHEREAS, Plaquemines Port owns two (2) generators that are currently non-functional due to extensive wear and mechanical issues; and

WHEREAS, the cost of repairing the generators exceeds their current market value, making it financially impractical to invest in their restoration, and

WHEREAS, retaining the non-functional generators poses a burden on the organization’s resources and storage capacity without any foreseeable benefit or utility; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana law provides that political subdivisions of the state-i.e., the Plaquemines Parish Council-are permitted to dispose of movable property via online auction and sale; and

WHEREAS, Plaquemines Port has been advised to dispose of the above property through the service provider GovDeals.com;

NOW, THEREFORE:

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE PLAQUEMINES PARISH COUNCIL AS THE SOLE GOVERNING AUTHORITY OF THE PLAQUEMINES PORT, HARBOR & TERMINAL DISTRICT THAT after advertising the auction and sale in the official Parish journal 15 days prior to its listing, Plaquemines Port is hereby authorized to dispose of the following movable property through an online listing on an as-is, where-is basis for fair market value or better and further authorizes GovDeals.com, on an as-needed basis to list and sell these vessels on its website for a period beginning with the adoption of this resolution and continuing until the trailer is successfully auctioned. Item to be auctioned: One (1) Generator, Serial #SGN32BGZB, and One (1) Generator, Serial #SGM32BGZC.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE PLAQUEMINES PARISH COUNCIL AS THE SOLE GOVERNING AUTHORITY OF THE PLAQUEMINES PORT, HARBOR & TERMINAL DISTRICT THAT the Secretary of this Council is hereby authorized and directed to immediately certify and release this Resolution and that Port employees and officials are authorized to carry out the purposes of this Resolution, both without further reading and approval by the Plaquemines Parish Council.

Commissioner Champagne filled in the blanks for Item 6e.

RESOLUTION NO. 24-135

On motion of Commissioner Champagne, seconded by Council Member McCarty, and on roll call all members present voting “YES”, except Commissioners Schulz and Jurisich who voted “NO”, and Commissioner Newsom who was “ABSENT”, the following Resolution was adopted:

A Resolution authorizing the Executive Director of the Plaquemines Port, Harbor, & Terminal District to engage the services of STIFEL to provide financial advisory services for the acquisition of revenue bonds aimed at supporting Port expansion projects; and otherwise to provide with respect thereto.

Digest: The Port wishes to engage the services of STIFEL to assist as a financial advisor in securing revenue bonds to support Port Expansion Projects. *The digest is for informational purposes only and is superseded by the language of the actual ordinance or resolution.*

WHEREAS, the Plaquemines Port Harbor and Terminal District (“the Port”) is actively pursuing port expansion projects to enhance its infrastructure and capabilities; and

WHEREAS, the acquisition of revenue bonds is deemed necessary to provide funding for the aforementioned port expansion projects; and

WHEREAS, the Port seeks to engage a qualified financial firm to provide expert financial advisory services in securing and managing the revenue bonds; and

WHEREAS, STIFEL has demonstrated expertise and experience in providing financial advisory services for infrastructure projects; and

WHEREAS, STIFEL has a proven track record of successfully structuring and managing revenue bonds for similar projects, ensuring optimal financial outcomes; and

WHEREAS, the Port has reviewed the qualifications of multiple financial firms and determined that STIFEL best meets the Port’s needs and objectives;

NOW, THEREFORE

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE PLAQUEMINES PARISH COUNCIL AS THE SOLE GOVERNING AUTHORITY OF THE PLAQUEMINES PORT, HARBOR & TERMINAL DISTRICT THAT the Executive Director of the Port, Charles Tillotson, to utilize the services of STIFEL to assist in the acquisition of revenue bonds.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE PLAQUEMINES PARISH COUNCIL AS THE SOLE GOVERNING AUTHORITY OF THE PLAQUEMINES PORT, HARBOR & TERMINAL DISTRICT THAT the Secretary of this Council is hereby authorized and directed to immediately certify and release this Resolution and that Parish employees and officials are authorized to carry out the purposes of this Resolution, both without further reading and approval by the Plaquemines Parish Council.

Commissioner Champagne moved to Agenda Item 7, “New Business”. Without objection, so ordered.

Under Item 7b, Commissioner Champagne offered a Motion to Suspend the Rules to add an item for consideration at today’s meeting titled, “A Resolution changing the meeting location of the May 9, 2024, Plaquemines Port, Harbor & Terminal District Meeting to the Pointe-a-la-Hache Courthouse Chambers and the May 23, 2024, meeting to the Belle Chasse Council Chambers; and otherwise to provide with respect thereto”. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Schulz and on roll call, all members present and voting “YES”, except Commissioner Newsom who was “ABSENT”, the motion was adopted by a vote of 8-0.

RESOLUTION NO. 24-136

On motion of Commissioner Champagne, seconded by Commissioner Schulz, and on roll call all members present voting “YES”, except Commissioner Newsom who was “ABSENT”, the following Resolution was adopted:

A Resolution changing the meeting location of the May 9, 2024, Plaquemines Port, Harbor & Terminal District Meeting to the Pointe-a-la-Hache Courthouse Chambers and the May 23, 2024, meeting to the Belle Chasse Council Chambers; and otherwise to provide with respect thereto.

DIGEST: This Resolution changes the location of the May meetings in order to allow the Council Members and Administration a shorter drive time to attend the South Plaquemines High School Graduation. *The digest is for informational purposes only and is superseded by the language of the actual ordinance or resolution.*

WHEREAS, currently the May 9, 2024 Plaquemines Port, Harbor & Terminal District Meeting is scheduled to be held in the Belle Chasse Council Chambers and the May 23, 2024 meeting is scheduled to be held in the Pointe-a-la-Hache Courthouse Council Chambers; and

WHEREAS, in an effort to allow the Council Members and Administration who are attending the South Plaquemines High School Graduation the opportunity to drive to the event without having to take the ferry to the Westbank and then drive down to the event; and

WHEREAS, it is the desire of this Council to swap the locations of the May 9, 2024 and May 23, 2024 Council meetings;

NOW, THEREFORE:

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE PLAQUEMINES PARISH COUNCIL AS THE SOLE GOVERNING AUTHORITY OF THE PLAQUEMINES PORT, HARBOR & TERMINAL DISTRICT THAT will hold the May 9, 2024 Port Meeting at the Pointe-a-la-Hache Courthouse Council Chambers and the May 23, 2024 Port Meeting at the Belle Chasse Council Chambers. The regular meeting locations shall resume in June.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE PLAQUEMINES PARISH COUNCIL AS THE SOLE GOVERNING AUTHORITY OF THE PLAQUEMINES PORT, HARBOR & TERMINAL DISTRICT THAT the Secretary of this Council is hereby authorized and directed to immediately certify and release this Resolution and that Parish officials and employees are authorized to carry out the purposes of this Resolution, both without further reading and approval by the Plaquemines Parish Council.

Commissioner Champagne moved to Agenda Item 8, “Approval of the minutes” Without objection, so ordered.

RESOLUTION NO. 24-137

On motion of Commissioner Champagne, seconded by Commissioner Schulz, and on roll call all members present and voting “YES”, except Commissioner Newsom who was “ABSENT”, the following Resolution was adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE PLAQUEMINES PARISH COUNCIL THAT it hereby approves the minutes of the April 11, 2024, regular Port, Harbor & Terminal District Meeting as recorded by the Secretary of this Council.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE PLAQUEMINES PARISH COUNCIL THAT the Secretary of this Council is hereby authorized and directed to immediately certify and release this Resolution and that Parish employees and officials are authorized to carry out the purposes of this Resolution.

There being no further business to come before this Council, on motion Commissioner Champagne, seconded by Commissioner Schulz, and on roll call all members present voting "YES", except Commissioner Newsom who was "ABSENT" the meeting adjourned at 4:18 p.m.

Chairman

Secretary

For a full transcript of discussions and presentations a video of this meeting is available for viewing on the Parish website www.plaqueminesparish.com or on YouTube.