

Minutes of a meeting of the Plaquemines Parish Council, as the Sole Governing Authority of the Plaquemines Port, Harbor & Terminal District, held in the Belle Chasse Council Chambers, 333 F. Edward Hebert Blvd., Bldg. 203, Belle Chasse, Louisiana on Thursday, April 10, 2025 at 5:12 p.m., pursuant to notice to all members with a quorum present as follows:

PRESENT: Commissioner Chris Schulz, Chairman
Commissioner Tyronne Edwards
Commissioner Brian Champagne
Commissioner Stuart J. Guey
Commissioner Patricia McCarty
Commissioner Ronnie Newsom
Commissioner Carlton M. LaFrance, Sr.
Commissioner Mitch Jurisich
Commissioner Mark Cognevich

Kim M. Touns, Secretary

Charles Tillotson and Port Staff were present representing the Port.

The following items were deferred:

- Item b, “An Ordinance to amend the 2025 Manpower Structure and Operating Expenditure budget for the reallocation of positions within the Ferry and Rescue Boat Departments and otherwise to provide with respect thereto”;
- Item c, “A Resolution adopting the quarterly updates and additions to the Policies and Procedures for Plaquemines Port Harbor & Terminal District (the Port); and otherwise to provide with respect thereto”;
- Item f, “A Resolution authorizing and directing the Port’s Executive Director, Charles Tillotson, to enter into and execute a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement (CEA) between the Plaquemines Port Harbor & Terminal District (Port) and Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (LADOTD) to coordinate grant funding and project management of the Walker Road Bridge project; and otherwise to provide with respect thereto”; and
- Item g, “An Ordinance to authorize the Executive Director of the Port, Charles Tillotson to construct a generator bypass for the Port’s administration building and to amend the 2025 Plaquemines Port, Harbor and Terminal District Operating Expense Budget; and otherwise to provide respect thereto”

The following items were withdrawn:

- Item 2, Executive Session, “Executive Session pursuant to LRS 42:17(A)(1) for the purpose of discussing the character, professional competence, or physical or mental health of Donnie Sexton” and “Executive Session pursuant to LRS 42:17(A)(1) for the purpose of discussing the character, professional competence, or physical or mental health of Danielle Rollo”; and
- Item d, “A Resolution affirming the separation of operations and economic development in the Port District from the Plaquemines Parish Government to the Port Commission in coordination with the Executive Director of the Port”.

There being no matters to address under Agenda Item 2, “Executive Session”, Commissioner Schulz moved to Agenda Item 3, “Status Report by Executive Port Director”. Without objection, so ordered.

Port Ferry Landing Projects:

Ferry Landing Emergency Repair \$5.1 M

- Final acceptance punch list underway
- Inspection Monday regarding ramp & barge

Pointe-a-la-Hache Landing Replacement \$18.6M

- Awaiting design from DOTD
- 100% structure replacement
- Existing landing conversion for rescue boat dual use

Port Ferry and Rescue Boat Projects:

- Plaquemines Pride
 - Thoma-Sea Marine Shipyard
 - May 2025
- Port Authority I & II
 - Estimated completion 2/2025
- New Build Ferry Build (Diesel Electric) \$26.5 M
 - Estimated Completion 12/2028
 - Conceptual Design Phase
 - Meeting on 4-10-25

Container Milestones

- Walker/Peters Rd Update
- 11-mile extension update
- Container Port land purchases
- Water Booster Station

Human Resources:

- IT Manager hired
- Advertising Special Assistant to Executive Director
- Advertising Chief Legal Counsel

Rebranding:

- Phase 1 complete
- Working on Trademarks
- Local and Global Campaign (Phase 2)
- Ongoing website updates
- Increased presence
 - 44% Organic increase impressions on social
 - Rebrand on PR Newswire
 - 3 Organic Media Placements

Commissioner Schulz moved to Agenda Item 3a, “Financial Report/Budget to Actual”. Without objection, so ordered.

April 10, 2025 Financial Report:

- Net Position \$114,849.00
- Unrestricted Fund Balance \$6,282.00
- Land Fund Balance \$2,115.00
- 25 Budgeted Revenue \$35,455.00
- 25 Actual Revenue \$7,322
- 25 Budgeted Expenses \$35,368.00
- 25 Actual Expenses \$7,230.00

There were no matters to address under Agenda Item 4, “Bids and Advertisements”.

Commissioner Schulz moved to Agenda Item 5, “Introduction of Ordinances and Resolutions”. Without objection, so ordered. The following legislation was introduced:

1. An Ordinance to amend the Plaquemines Port, Harbor and Terminal District 2025 Manpower Structure to un-fund the vacant HR Supervisor position and to create and fund one full-time Human Resource Analyst position; and otherwise to provide with respect thereto. COMMISSIONER SCHULZ
2. An Ordinance to amend the Plaquemines Port, Harbor & Terminal District 2025 Manpower Structure and Operating Expenditure Budget to un-fund the Secretary position in the Ferries Division; and otherwise, to provide with respect thereto. COMMISSIONER SCHULZ
3. A Resolution approving and authorizing Chris Schulz, Port Chairman and Charles D. Tillotson, Port Executive Director to execute a Louisiana Compliance Questionnaire to Camnetar and Company, CPA’s; and otherwise, to provide with respect thereto. COMMISSIONER SCHULZ

4. An Ordinance authorizing Charles D. Tillotson, Executive Director, to initiate a Navy Business Case Analysis and amend the 2025 Five-Year Capital Improvements Budget, to appropriate funding for the Project; and otherwise, to provide with respect thereto.
COMMISSIONER SCHULZ

Commissioner Schulz moved to Agenda Item 6a, “Ordinances and Public Hearings pursuant to Article 6, Section 6.01 E of the Plaquemines Parish Charter”. Without objection, so ordered.

RESOLUTION NO. 25-93

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

A Resolution authorizing the Port Director to petition and file an application for a map change pursuant to and in conformity with the Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance to rezone those certain properties located in Point Celeste Farms Subdivision, Phases I and II, identified as follows: Lots 2-A, 35 (not yet acquired), 36 (not yet acquired), 49, 57B, 58B, 60B, which are now owned by or to be acquired by Plaquemines Port, Harbor & Terminal District from Flood Plain (FP) District to Heavy Industrial (I-3) District; and otherwise to provide with respect thereto.

DIGEST: Plaquemines Port, Harbor & Terminal District is rezoning from Flood Plain (FP) District to Heavy Industrial (I-3) District. *The digest is for informational purposes only and is superseded by the language of the actual ordinance or resolution.*

NOW, THEREFORE:

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE PLAQUEMINES PARISH COUNCIL AS THE SOLE GOVERNING AUTHORITY OF THE PLAQUEMINES PORT HARBOR & TERMINAL DISTRICT THAT it hereby authorizes the Port Director to petition and file an application for a for a map change pursuant to and in conformity with the Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance, specifically Section XII, to rezone those certain properties located in Point Celeste Farms Subdivision, Phases I and II, identified as follows: Lots 2-A, 35 (not yet acquired), 36 (not yet acquired), 49, 57B, 58B, 60B, which are now owned by or to be acquired by Plaquemines Port, Harbor & Terminal District from Flood Plain (FP) District to Heavy Industrial (I-3) District.

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.

ORDINANCE NO. 25-67

The following Ordinance was offered by Commissioner Schulz who moved its adoption:

An Ordinance authorizing the Executive Director of the Port, Charles Tillotson to amend the contract with Mercury Public Affairs, Lobbyist, established through Ordinance 23-33 to include State and Local representation necessary to protect its interest in all matters; and to amend the Plaquemines Port Harbor & Terminal District’s 2025 Operating Expenditure Budget, otherwise, to provide with respect thereto.

Digest: To protect the Legislative interests of the Port, the Port seeks to renew the contract for services by Mercury Public Affairs, Lobbyist to include State representation. *The digest is for informational purposes only and is superseded by the language of the actual Ordinance.*

WHEREAS, the Plaquemines Parish Council as the sole governing authority of the Plaquemines Port Harbor & Terminal District deems it necessary to hire a Federal and State lobbyist to protect the interest of the Plaquemines Port Harbor & Terminal District and keep it informed of Federal

Legislation as well as State Legislation which may impact the Port; and

WHEREAS, the term of said contract shall be for one year, with a one-year option to extend the contract at the discretion of the Executive Director; and

WHEREAS, the term of the agreement shall increase from \$10,000 per month to \$15,000 per month; and

WHEREAS, sufficient funds are available in the current Port Budget;

NOW, THEREFORE:

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE PLAQUEMINES PARISH COUNCIL AS THE SOLE GOVERNING AUTHORITY OF THE PLAQUEMINES PORT, HARBOR & TERMINAL DISTRICT THAT:

SECTION 1

It hereby authorizes the Executive Director of the Port, Charles Tillotson to renew the contract with Mercury Public Affairs, Lobbyist, to represent the Port in any upcoming session of the Federal Government but additionally with the Louisiana State Legislature; or any other meetings, etc., deemed necessary to protect its interest in all matters.

SECTION 2

The Plaquemines Parish Port Harbor & Terminal District’s 2025 Operating Expenditure Budget is amended from the Unrestricted Fund Balance as follows:

Fund: 445 Port, Harbor &Terminal			
Dept/Div: 490-2460 General-Operating			
Object	Description	Inc/ Dec	Amendment
534.515	Consulting-Lobbyist	Inc	50,000

SECTION 3

The Secretary of this Council is hereby authorized and directed to immediately certify and release this Ordinance and that Port employees and officials are authorized to carry out the purposes of this Ordinance, both without further reading and approval by the Plaquemines Parish Council.

Commissioner Champagne seconded the motion to adopt the Ordinance.

The foregoing Ordinance having been submitted to a vote, the vote resulted as follows:

YEAS: Commissioners Tyronne Edwards, Brian Champagne, Chris Schulz, Stuart J. Guey, Patricia L. McCarty, Ronnie Newsom, Carlton M. LaFrance, Sr., and Mark Cognevich

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Commissioner Mitch Jurisich

PRESENT BUT NOT VOTING: None

And the Ordinance was adopted on this the 10th day of April, 2025.

There be no matters to address under Agenda Item 7, “New Business”, Commissioner Schulz moved to Agenda Item 8, “Approval of minutes”. Without objection, so ordered.

RESOLUTION NO. 25-94

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

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE PLAQUEMINES PARISH COUNCIL AS THE SOLE GOVERNING AUTHORITY OF THE PLAQUEMINES PORT, HARBOR & TERMINAL DISTRICT THAT it hereby approves the minutes from March 27, 2025, regular meeting.

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.

There being no further business to come before this Council, on motion Commissioner Cognevich, seconded by Commissioner Newsom and on roll call all members present voting “YES, except Commissioner Edwards who voted “NO” and Commissioner Jurisich who was “ABSENT”, the meeting adjourned at 6:04 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.