

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, July 10, 2025 at 4:34 p.m., pursuant to notice to all members with a quorum present as follows:

PRESENT: Commissioner Chris Schulz, Chairman
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. Toups, Secretary

ABSENT: Commissioner Tyrone Edwards

Charles Tillotson and Port Staff were present representing the Port.

The following items were deferred:

- 6c, “A Resolution authorizing Charles D. Tillotson, Executive Director of the Plaquemines Port Harbor & Terminal District, to enter into discussions with various Port tenants to activate Federal Trade Zone (FTZ) sites within the boundaries of FTZ 300; and otherwise to provide with respect thereto”; and
- 6f, “An Ordinance to amend the Plaquemines Port, Harbor and Terminal District Manpower Structure and Operating Expenditure Budget for the classified position of Ferry Captain III; and otherwise provide with respect thereto”.

Commissioner Schulz moved to Agenda Item 2, “Executive Session”. Without objection, so ordered.

RESOLUTION NO. 25-209

On motion of Commissioner Schulz, seconded by Commissioner Cognevich, and on roll call all members present and voting “YES”, except Commissioner Edwards 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 resolves itself into Executive Session at 4:35 p.m. pursuant to LRS 42:17 (A)(2) or the purpose of receiving attorney-client privileged information regarding potential litigation involving Danielle Rollo.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE PLAQUEMINES PARISH COUNCIL AS THE SOLE GOVERNING AUTHORITY OF THE PLAQUEMINES PORT, HARBOR & TERMINAL DISTRICT THAT it hereby came out of Executive Session at 4:42 p.m. with no final or binding action taken.

Commissioner Schulz moved to Agenda Item 3, “Status Report by Executive Port Director”. Without objection, so ordered.

Port Ferry and Rescue Boat Projects:

Plaquemines Pride: Thoma-Sea Marine Shipyard

- Final Change order painting bildges
- Estimated completion the week of July 21

MV PALH

- Remains in service in PALH
- Temporary service disruption Sunday 12-2

MV Belle Chasse II

- Entered Drydock for an estimated 210 days

New Build Ferry (Diesel Electric) \$26.5M

- Estimated completion 12/2028
- Conceptual Design phase
- Project is progressing

Human Resource Update:

- HR Analyst-Start Date 7/14/2025
- Legal Secretary-Start Date 7/14/2025

Vacant Positions

- Legal Counsel-Final round of interviews scheduled
- Special Assistant-Advertised and reviewing resumes for first round interviews
- Ferry Security Captain-Advertising

Port Ferry Landing Projects:

PALH Ferry Landing Emergency Repair

- Final punch list completion is underway

PALH Landing Replacement \$18.6M Grant 12/28

- NTP Issued to H&H
- 100% structure replacement
- Engineering has begun
- Monthly meetings
- Existing landing conversion for Rescue Boats

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

Financial Updates:

June 12, 2025 Financial Report:

- Net Position \$111,934,362
- Unrestricted Fund Balance \$3,367,469
- Land Fund Balance \$2,115, 433
- 25 Budgeted Revenue \$37,335,071
- 25 Actual Revenue \$13,486,314
- 25 Budgeted Expenses \$40,162,193
- 25 Actual Expenses \$18,054,645

CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE UPDATE:

- 11 Mile Rail Extension-Engineers: Infinity Engineering, LLC, 360 Rail, Freese & Nicols:
30% Design Alignment Adjustments-Coordinated meetings with stakeholders;
Permit scheduled Submission 10/2025
STB Review underway, estimated completion 12 months
- Peters Road Rail Bypass(City of Gretna, JP, UP, Plaquemines)-Engineers CSRS, HDR
30% Design funded and scheduled Completion 12/2025
Traffic Study and Rail Velocity Study scheduled completion 12/2025
Above Grade Crossing @ 4th Street & LA23 under discussion
Stakeholder Meeting scheduled for August 2025
- Peters Road Bridge LGP’s RAISE grant-Engineers BKI, LADOTD
Awarded to BKI-previous Engineers on project
Preliminary Design scheduled completion 18 months
Anticipated to progress quickly because BKI is the original bridge designer
- Navy Business Case Analysis (Air Cargo)-Consultant: The Bridges Group
NAS JRB dual use
Incorporate commercial cargo operations alongside military operations
Phase 1 scheduled completion Quarter 4/2025

Administration Building Renovation Project-Phase 1-Roof

- Roof completion estimated Mid-August
- Generator Emergency Bypass estimated completion end of July
- HVAC Detailed design underway

There were no matters to address under Agenda Item 4, “Bids and Advertisements”; therefore, Commissioner Schulz moved to Agenda Item 5, “Introduction of Ordinances and Resolutions”. Without objection, so ordered. The following legislation was introduced:

1. An Ordinance authorizing Charles Tillotson, Executive Director of Plaquemines Port, Harbor and Terminal District to purchase land and property, more fully described in Exhibit A, owned by Point Celeste Farms; and otherwise, to provide with respect thereto. COMMISSIONER SCHULZ
2. A Resolution authorizing Charles D. Tillotson, Executive Director of the Plaquemines Port Harbor & Terminal District, to adopt the Port’s Security Plan, Vulnerability Assessment, and updated maritime policies; and otherwise to provide with respect thereto. COMMISSIONER SCHULZ
3. An Ordinance to provide for the hiring of unclassified employees; 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. 25-210

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

A Resolution to adopt a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement (CEA) between the Plaquemines Port, Harbor and Terminal District d/b/a Louisiana Gateway Port and Plaquemines Parish Government for the purpose economic development collaboration; and authorizing Port Executive Director, Charles D. Tillotson, to enter into a CEA Plaquemines Port, Harbor and Terminal District d/b/a Louisiana Gateway Port and Plaquemines Parish Government for the purpose economic development collaboration; and otherwise to provide with respect thereto.

DIGEST: Authorization to adopt and enter into a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement (CEA) between the Plaquemines Port, Harbor and Terminal District d/b/a Louisiana Gateway Port and Plaquemines Parish Government for the purpose of economic development collaboration. *The digest is for informational purposes only and is superseded by the language of the actual Resolution.*

WHEREAS, Art. VII, Sec. 1 4(C) of the Louisiana Constitution of 1974 provides that for a public purpose, the State of Louisiana (the "State"), and its political subdivisions or political corporations may engage in cooperative endeavors with each other or with any other private association, corporation or individuals; and

WHEREAS, the Plaquemines Parish government shall lead and coordinate all operations and economic development that affect property owned by the Port or within the Port District within the Port Commission and Port Director; and

WHEREAS, the Port shall cooperate with the Parish on all economic development, to include providing planning guidance required for maritime related development opportunities where decisions are to be made by a combination of the Parish, Port, or Client on the suitability of the property as relates to the cargo/commodity type, community or environmental fit, and/or the logistics feasibility; and

WHEREAS, and that the Port District shall authorize and approve all permitting and infrastructure improvements as located in the Port District where the property is adjoined to the batture and the Mississippi River and/or and economic development as set forth in the Port’s Master Plan and Capital Improvement Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Port Commission governs the Port’s operations and taxing authority, including setting charges, fees and tariffs; and

WHEREAS, The Plaquemines Port, Harbor and Terminal District is a public corporation and political subdivision of the State of Louisiana, created by the Louisiana Legislature and ratified, pursuant to Section 31 of Article XIV of the Constitution of the State of Louisiana for the year 1921, as amended; and

WHEREAS Louisiana Revised Statute Title 34:1351, *et seq.* provides that the Plaquemines Parish Port Authority shall have territorial limits coextensive with the parish of Plaquemines, Louisiana, as presently constituted and has certain authority regarding operations within the Port District; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana Revised Statute 34:1360 provides that the Port District shall have the power to regulate commerce and traffic within the Port District in such a manner as it determines is in the public's best interest; and

WHEREAS, in 2012, the Plaquemines Parish Commission Council issued Ordinance No. 12-139 (hereafter the "Separation Ordinance"), that separates the Port Commission from the Plaquemines Parish government and civil service; and

WHEREAS, the Separation Ordinance affirmed that Plaquemines Parish government retained certain rights and powers within the Port District to ensure that no additional police powers were conferred on the Port; and

WHEREAS, practical considerations necessitate that governmental agencies work together in order to effectively utilize all available resources to provide safety and security services of the river, river-front, docks, wharves, navigable waterways, vessels adjacent to or away from docks and wharves, as well as the banks, battures and contiguous and adjacent areas affected by port, harbor, terminal, water, and marine activities within the Port and Parish jurisdictions;

NOW, THEREFORE:

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE PLAQUEMINES PARISH COUNCIL AS THE SOLE GOVERNING AUTHORITY OF THE PLAQUEMINES PORT, HARBOR AND TERMINAL DISTRICT THAT it hereby authorizes Charles D. Tillotson, Executive Director of Plaquemines Port, Harbor and Terminal District d/b/a Louisiana Gateway Port, to adopt and enter into a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement (CEA) between the Plaquemines Port, Harbor and Terminal District d/b/a Louisiana Gateway Port and Plaquemines Parish Government for the purpose of economic development collaboration.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE PLAQUEMINES PARISH COUNCIL AS THE SOLE GOVERNING AUTHORITY OF THE PLAQUEMINES PORT, HARBOR AND 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.

ORDINANCE NO. 25-132

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

An Ordinance to amend the 2025 Operating Budget of the Plaquemines Port Harbor and Terminal District to appropriate Water Resources Reform and Development Act (WRRDA) funding; and otherwise provide with respect thereto.

DIGEST: The USACE has funding available for the Port to accept WRRDA funding regarding the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund with Plaquemines Parish Government. *The digest is for informational purposes only and is superseded by the language of the actual ordinance or resolution.*

WHEREAS, the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), through the WRRDA, has allocated federal funding to support infrastructure improvements and dredging activities within the Port; and

WHEREAS, WRRDA funding for Fiscal Years 2024 and 2025 has been authorized and

designated for harbor-related projects essential to navigation, safety, and economic development; and

WHEREAS, the funding available for FY 24 is \$830,967, and for FY 25 is \$874,415.52

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 Charles D. Tillotson, Executive Director of Plaquemines Port, Harbor & Terminal District to amend the 2025 Operating Budget to appropriate Water Resources Reform and Development Act (WRRDA) funding.

SECTION 2

The 2025 Port, Harbor and Terminal District, Operating Budget is amended by appropriating \$1,705,382.52, as follows:

Fund: 445 Port Harbor Fund			
Dept/Div: 497-2490 Port Energy /Dredging			
Object	Description	Inc/Dec	Amendment
205.001	Deferred Grant Revenue	Inc	\$1,705,382.52

SECTION 3

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 Newsom seconded the motion to adopt the Ordinance.

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

YEAS: Commissioners Brian Champane, Chris Schulz, Stuart J. Guey,
Patricia L. McCarty, Ronnie Newsom, Carlton M. LaFrance, Sr., Mitch Jurisich
and Mark Cognevich

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Commissioner Tyronne Edwards

PRESENT BUT NOT VOTING: None

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

RESOLUTION NO. 25-211

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

A Resolution for the establishment of two bank accounts with Regions Bank for the issuance and sale of Revenues Bonds, Series 2025, Plaquemines Port, Harbor and Terminal District; and otherwise to provide with respect thereto.

Digest: The Port needs to establish two new bank accounts with Regions Bank for the issuance and sale of Revenue Bonds. *The digest is for informational purposes only and is superseded by the language of the actual ordinance or resolution.*

WHEREAS, A resolution has been approved authorizing the issuance and sale of Thirty-Five Million Dollars (\$35,000,000) of Revenue Bonds, Series 2025 of the Port, Harbor and Terminal District; and

WHEREAS, new bank accounts are required by Regions Bank to account for the funds received from this bond;

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 Executive Director, Charles T. Tillotson, to open two accounts with Regions Bank and sign any and all documents necessary to carry out the purposes of this resolution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE PLAQUEMINES PARISH COUNCIL AS THE SOLE GOVERNING AUTHORITY OF THE PLAQUEMINES PORT, HARBOR & TERMINAL DISTRICT THAT the Executive Director, Charles T. Tillotson, the Port Chief Administrative Officer, Patrice Bell and the Chief Financial Officer, Shannon Glapion are hereby authorized to execute any and all documents and enter into any and all agreements, including without limitation the Deposit Agreement.

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.

RESOLUTION NO. 25-212

On motion of Commissioner LaFrance, seconded by Commissioner Cognevich, and on roll call all members present and voting “YES”, except Commissioner Edwards 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 June 26, 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 LaFrance, seconded by Commissioner Cognevich, and on roll call all members present voting “YES, except Commissioner Edwards who voted was “ABSENT”, the meeting adjourned at 5:25 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.