

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, November 14, 2024, at 5:14 p.m., pursuant to notice to all members with a quorum present as follows:

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

Kim M. Toups, Council Secretary

ABSENT: Commissioner Tyrone Edwards

Charles Tillotson, Jalen Brown and Angelina Vicknair were present representing the Port.

The following items were deferred:

- Agenda Item 2a, “Executive Session to receive attorney-client privileged communications in regard to a contract matter pursuant to LRS 42:17(A)(10)”;
- Agenda Item 6b, “An Ordinance adopting the Original Operating Budget of Revenues and Expenditures for the Plaquemines Port Harbor & Terminal District for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2025, and ending December 31, 2025, and otherwise to provide with respect thereto”;
- Agenda Item 6c, “An Ordinance establishing a policy of budgetary control for the Operating Budget of Expenditures for the Plaquemines Port Harbor & Terminal District for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2025, and ending December 31, 2025, and otherwise to provide with respect thereto”;
- Agenda Item 6d, “An Ordinance adopting the Original Capital Improvement Budget for the Plaquemines Port, Harbor & Terminal District for the five-year period beginning January 1, 2025, and ending December 31, 2029, and otherwise to provide with respect thereto”;
- Agenda Item 6e, “A Resolution certifying that the Plaquemines Port Harbor & Terminal complied with public bid laws in regards to the Alliance Water Booster Station and Feed Lines project; and otherwise to provide with respect thereto”;
- Agenda Item 6f, “RESOLUTION – AWARD PROJECT”;
- Agenda Item 6g, “RESOLUTION CERTIFYING COMPLIANCE WITH THE PUBLIC BID LAWS”;
- Agenda Item 6h, “A Resolution authorizing Charles Tillotson, Executive Director of the Plaquemines Port Harbor & Terminal District to enter into a construction contract with _____ to provide upgrades to the Alliance Water Booster Station and Feed Lines as outlined in Phase II State Project Number H.015656 of the project; and otherwise, to provide with respect thereto”; and
- Agenda Item 6i, “An Ordinance to amend the 2024 Plaquemines Port, Harbor & Terminal District Operating Revenue and Expense Budgets; and otherwise to provide with respect thereto”.

Commissioner Champagne moved to Agenda Item 3, “Status Report by the Executive Port Director”. Without objection, so ordered. Mr. Tillotson provided a Power Point Presentation regarding the following:

- Port Financial Update as of October 24th and November 14th, 2024;
- The Port 2025 Budget Message, Vision and Revenue Drivers;
- Port Ferry Projects and the \$49.7 Million Grant;
- Ferry and Rescue Boat Projects
- Walker Road Extension
- Container Terminal anticipated Milestones
- Human Resources and
- Rebranding

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

- 1) An Ordinance in accordance with Louisiana Revised Statute 34:1351 et seq. and Ordinance No. 12-139, the Plaquemines Port, Harbor & Terminal District is requesting that the Plaquemines Parish Civil Service Commission relinquish all Human Resource functions to the Plaquemines Port, Harbor & Terminal District’s Human Resource Office; and otherwise to provide with respect thereto. COMMISSIONER CHAMPAGNE
- 2) A Resolution to provide Port employee’s group coverages consisting of Health, Dental, Vision and Life for the policy period of January 1, 2025, through December 31, 2025; and otherwise to provide with respect thereto. COMMISSIONER CHAMPAGNE
- 3) A Resolution to provide Insurance for the Plaquemines Port Harbor & Terminal District for all departments; Port Rescue Boats, Ferries and Port Assets for a period of January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025; and otherwise to provide with respect thereto. COMMISSIONER CHAMPAGNE
- 4) An Ordinance to amend and to initiate the collection of the Plaquemines Parish Port, Harbor & Terminal District Harbor Fees (Supplemental Harbor Fees); and otherwise to provide with respect thereto. COMMISSIONER CHAMPAGNE
- 5) An Ordinance to amend and to initiate the collection of the Plaquemines Parish Port, Harbor & Terminal District Security Fees (Security Surcharges); and otherwise to provide with respect thereto. COMMISSIONER CHAMPAGNE
- 6) A Resolution to change the date of the Plaquemines Port, Harbor & Terminal District’s second regularly scheduled meeting in January 2025 from January 23, 2025 to January 30, 2025; 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.

RESOLUTION NO. 24-334

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

A Resolution electing the Plaquemines Port, Harbor & Terminal District Chairperson for 2025; and otherwise to provide with respect thereto.

DIGEST: This is an annual piece of legislation to elect a new Chairperson for next year. *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 elects Commissioner Chris Schulz as Chairperson of the Parish Council in its capacity as the sole governing authority of the Plaquemines Port, Harbor & Terminal District to act as Port Chair in meetings of the Council as the Port and in all matters relative to the Port for the term of office effective January 1, 2025, ending at Midnight, December 31, 2025, or until his successor has been appointed.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE PLAQUEMINES PARISH COUNCIL AS THE SOLE GOVERNING AUTHORITY OF THE PLAQUEMINES PARISH 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.

RESOLUTION NO. 24-335

On motion of Commissioner Champagne, 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:

A Resolution electing the Plaquemines Port, Harbor & Terminal District Vice-Chairperson for 2025; and otherwise to provide with respect thereto.

DIGEST: This is an annual piece of legislation to elect a new Vice-Chairperson for next year. *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 PARISH PORT, HARBOR AND TERMINAL DISTRICT THAT it hereby elects Ronnie Newsom as Vice-Chairperson of the Parish Council in its capacity as the sole governing authority of the Plaquemines Port, Harbor & Terminal District to act as Port Vice-Chairperson in meetings of the Council as the Port and in all matters relative to the Port for the term of office effective January 1, 2025, ending at Midnight, December 31, 2025, or until his successor had been appointed.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE PLAQUEMINES PARISH COUNCIL AS THE SOLE GOVERNING AUTHORITY OF THE PLAQUEMINES PARISH PORT, HARBOR AND TERMINAL DISTRICT THAT the Secretary of this Council is hereby authorized and directed to immediately certify and release this Resolution and the 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. 24-222

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

An Ordinance authorizing Executive Director, Charles D. Tillotson, of the Plaquemines Port, Harbor & Terminal District to enter into a three-month professional services contract with GLO Resources to assist in the transition of the Chief Administrative Officer position; and otherwise to provide with respect thereto.

Digest: The Port wishes to enter into a three-month professional services contract with GLO Resources to assist in transition of the Chief Administrative Officer position recently vacated. *The digest is for informational purposes only and is superseded by the language of the actual ordinance or resolution.*

WHEREAS, Ordinance 24-352 authorized the Plaquemines Port, Harbor and Terminal District (the "Port), to enter into a professional services agreement with GLO Resources to assist in securing personnel for maritime positions; and

WHEREAS, the Port currently has a need to enter into a professional services agreement with GLO Resources to assist in the transition process of the Chief Administrative Officer's position for the Port; and

WHEREAS, GLO Resources under this agreement shall be responsible for overseeing and managing all aspects of the contract employee, including but not limited to:

- Recruit, screen, interview, hire, and assign its employees to perform the job functions of specified positions.
- Pay Assigned Employees' wages and benefits that GLO offers.

- Pay, withhold, and transmit payroll taxes; provide unemployment insurance and workers' compensation benefits and handle unemployment and workers' compensation claims involving Assigned Employees.
- Onboard each Assigned Employee by conducting all necessary and appropriate drug screening, i9 verification, and other screening that are specific to a particular job requirement.

NOW, THEREFORE:

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

SECTION 1

It hereby authorizes the Executive Director of the Port, Charles Tillotson, to enter into a three (3)-month professional services agreement with GLO Resources to assist in staffing for the transition of the CAO position as deemed necessary by the Port.

SECTION 2

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.

WHEREUPON, in open session the above Ordinance was read and considered section by section and as a whole.

Commissioner Schulz seconded the motion to adopt the Ordinance.

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

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

NAYS: Commissioners Mitch Jurisich and Mark Cognevich

ABSENT: Commissioner Tyronne Edwards

PRESENT BUT NOT VOTING: None

And the Ordinance was adopted on this the 14th day of November, 2024.

RESOLUTION NO. 24-336

On motion of Commissioner Member Champagne, 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:

A Resolution to amend Resolution 24-191 that authorized and directed the Port Executive Director, Charles Tillotson, to amend the Cooperative Endeavor Agreement (CEA) between the Plaquemines Port Harbor & Terminal District (Port) and the Regional Transit Authority (RTA); and otherwise to provide with respect thereto.

Digest: To establish a CEA between the Port and RTA in the effort of utilizing shared resources between both organizations. In the event of ferry boats going out service from either organization, the CEA will allow either organization to charter each other’s vessels. *The digest is for informational purposes only and is superseded by the language of the actual ordinance or resolution.*

WHEREAS A Cooperative Endeavor Agreement was approved by the Plaquemines Parish Council, as the Sole Governing Authority of the Plaquemines Port Harbor & Terminal District to allow the Port to bare boat charter (maritime lease) between the Parties (Port & RTA) during times when the Ferry needs dictate to help mitigate the impact to local travel. The CEA would be amended with bare boat charters if/when they occur; and

WHEREAS practical considerations necessitate that governmental agencies work together to effectively utilize all available resources to provide safety and security for the river, navigable waterways, vessels, and all areas affected by the port, harbor, terminal, water, and maritime activities with the Port's jurisdiction. This will also include future bare boat charters in the event of emergencies; and

WHEREAS, Article VII, Section 14(c) of the Louisiana Constitution of 1974 provides that, for a public purpose, the State and its political subdivisions may engage in cooperative endeavors with each other, with the United States or its agencies or with any public or private association, corporation or individuals;

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 and directs the Executive Director, Charles Tillotson, to amend the Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with the Regional Transit Authority (RTA) to include the future bare boat charters in the event of emergencies for the bare boat charter (maritime lease) between the Parties for Ferry Services for a period of two (2) years.

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 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. 24-223

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

An Ordinance authorizing the Executive Director of the Port, Charles Tillotson to move forward with Phase II of the Plaquemines Port Harbor & Terminal Districts rebranding campaign being facilitated by Palmer Advertising; and otherwise to provide with respect thereto.

Digest: The Port has engaged in a rebrand project and would like to move forward with Phase II of the project to effectively compete and thrive in the global marketplace, Plaquemines Port Harbor & Terminal District must enhance its brand recognition and visibility on an international scale. *The digest is for informational purposes only and is superseded by the language of the actual Ordinance.*

WHEREAS, Ordinance 24-103 authorized the Executive Director to move forward with Phase I of the Re-branding campaign project with the Palmer Agency; and

WHEREAS, the Port is seeking the authority to move forward with Phase II of the Re-branding project;

NOW, THEREFORE:

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

SECTION 1

It hereby authorizes the Executive Director of the Port, Charles Tillotson to begin Phase II of the rebranding project.

SECTION 2

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.

WHEREUPON, in open session the above Ordinance was read and considered section by section and as a whole.

Commissioner McCarty seconded the motion to adopt the Ordinance.

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

YEAS: Commissioners Brian Champagne, 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 the 14th day of November, 2024.

There were no matters to address under Agenda Item 7, “New Business”; therefore, Commissioner Champagne moved to Agenda Item 8, “Approval of Minutes”. Without objection, so ordered.

RESOLUTION NO. 24-337

On motion of Commissioner Newsom, seconded by Commissioner Schulz and on roll call all were 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 of the October 24, 2024, regular Port, Harbor & Terminal District Meeting as recorded by the Secretary of this Council.

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 Schulz seconded by Commissioner Newsom, and on roll call all members present voting “YES”, except Commissioner Schulz who voted “NO”, Commission McCarty who was “PRESENT BUT NOT VOTING”, and Commissioners Edwards who was “ABSENT”, the meeting adjourned at 5:38 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.