

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 Building Chambers, 333 F. Edward Hebert Blvd., Bldg. 203, Belle Chasse, Louisiana on Thursday, August 13, 2020, at 5:00 p.m., pursuant to notice to all members with a quorum present as follows:

PRESENT: Commissioner Richie Blink, Chairman  
Commissioner John L. Barthelemy, Jr.  
Commissioner W. Beau Black  
Commissioner Corey Arbourgh  
Commissioner Stuart J. Guey  
Commissioner Benedict Rousselle  
Commissioner Trudy Newberry  
Commissioner Carlton M. LaFrance, Sr.  
Commissioner Mark Cognevich

Kim M. Toups, Secretary

Sandy Sanders, Paul Matthews, Christie Nielsen, Donald Durr and Chambrel Riley were present to represent the Port.

The Prayer said and the Pledge was recited.

Agenda Item 6c, "An Ordinance to amend and as amended re-adopt Rule 1 in Chapter I of Section 2-18 of the Code of Ordinances for Plaquemines Parish relative to the Plaquemines Port, Harbor & Terminal District; to rescind, annul and set-aside Ordinance No. 19-150; and otherwise to provide with respect thereto" was deferred.

The following items were withdrawn:

- 6b, "An Ordinance to amend and as amended re-adopt Rule 1 in Chapter I of Section 2-18 of the Code of Ordinances for Plaquemines Parish relative to the Plaquemines Port, Harbor & Terminal District; to rescind, annul and set-aside Ordinance No. 19-150; and otherwise to provide with respect thereto";
- 6d, "A Resolution authorizing the Executive Director, Maynard " Sandy" Sanders to engage with Woodland Burrow Pits LLC for the acquisition of a particular tract of land, as described below"; and
- 7b, "A summary of the External Audit findings".

There being no Executive Session, Commissioner Blink moved to Agenda Item 3, "Status report by the Executive Port Director". Without objection, so ordered. The following was reported by Sandy Sanders:

- A meeting was held with the newly appointed commissioner of Multi Modal Commerce, Renee Lapeyrolerie to review the strategic plan and the Port's vision for a container port. Mr. Lapeyrolerie left with an appreciation of the gravity of the vision in our efforts to go from a completely greenfield site to a thriving economic powerhouse that will be the resurgence of economic vitality to our community, region, state and throughout the Mississippi River Basin;
- The Port participated in a joint meeting with Parish President, Mr. John Helmers and Mr. Chip Kline, Executive Director with the CPRA and his top staff members to discuss several coastal restoration projects being undertaken within the Parish. Mr. Helmers reported that the BUDMAP was the focus and we received a verbal commitment from the CPRA. Mr. Helmers further stated that we will proceed so when the 2021 plan comes out, we will have the money allocated. Mr. Helmers also stated that a site has been selected and they are wrapping up the engineering and design at TP 10 which is southeast of the Targa Plant. Commissioner Newberry inquired as to the cost covered by CPRA and was told by Mr. Helmers it is right at \$4 million;
- Mr. Sanders reported that this past week, a very historic event happened with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the State of Louisiana regarding the appropriations for the dredging of the lower Mississippi River which has global economic repercussions. Mr. Sean Duffy, Executive Director of the Big River Coalition, of which our Port Authority is also a member, gave a presentation to encapsulate the impact of this dredging;

- Sandy Sanders also reported on a feasibility report that was conducted which demonstrated how, with the deepening and widening of the Panama Canal, the Port was well suited by geography to take advantage of the anticipated supply chain shift of cargo originating from or being consumed in the Mississippi River Basin. The Port had to convince a terminal operator and a global cargo shipper to partner with Plaquemines Port, Harbor & Terminal District in order to build a new gulf gateway to the Midwest that is environmentally green and could drastically deliver a substantial lowered delivered transportation cost to beneficial cargo owners and farmers throughout the Midwest;
- Yesterday was a huge milestone for the port. A letter of intent was recently signed with a global carrier which kicked off a strategic stakeholder engagement plan. The Port and some Commissioners met with the Governor and the Secretaries of Transportation and Louisiana Economic Development as a follow up to the meeting in May 2019. The Port and Commissioners stressed that it is developing the container port on a public/private partnership as outlined in the strategic development plan and the project is funded solely on private funding. Also, a virtual meeting was held with Senators Connick, Hewitt and Carter, as well as the developer and members of the strategic partner program regarding the project. Letters were also sent to all the board members, beneficial cargo owners, inland ports, the network that we put together, the governance of those inland ports to include 4 governors and their staff and initial response has been overwhelmingly positive; and
- Educational vignettes will be held regarding the Port. The first, which shown at the meeting, will consist of a 6-slide presentation on the site selection. The next presentation will be shown at the August 27<sup>th</sup> meeting and will be on the inland port design.

The Commissioners had several questions for Mr. Sanders:

- Commissioner Rousselle asked who was conducting the feasibility study and was told by Mr. Sanders that it was a joint study along with the container terminal operator and the cargo carrier who will be paying for the pre-feasibility study;
- Commissioner Rousselle stated that he read that LA 23 Development Company will be seeking funding for rails and highways. He asked if that would include the Peters Road Bypass Bridge. Mr. Sanders said it isn't in his purview because it is a container terminal, but they have been able to piggyback on what Mr. Fetters is doing. Commissioner Rousselle wanted to confirm that private funding is being sought for this project and it will not be a toll road. Sandy Sanders said yes, it is private funding that is being sought and it will not be a toll road;
- Commissioner LaFrance asked if there were any negative issues on the south campus location and was told by Mr. Sanders that it has the best access area for our target markets and the only negative is that we have to bring the rail to it in Pointe Celeste. Sanders also thinks the borrow pit is a positive because you don't have to dig the hole that the construction will occur in and there is borrow to be used either on the levees or for BUDMAT; and
- Commissioner LaFrance asked if the Port plans include speaking to the residents on the proposed location and was told yes; and
- Commissioner Cognevich asked Mr. Sanders if they were going to move Highway 23 to the back levee. Mr. Sanders said that is the plan and that it will strengthen the back levee and they are looking at different scenarios because there are a lot of things to take into account. This would add about 2 miles to the commute for residents and the costs incurred would be part of the project costs. Commissioner Rousselle confirmed that the project will bear the cost of the highway relocation and was told yes by Mr. Sanders.

The floor was then open to the public to comment on the matters previously spoken about in the Executive Director's report.

Under "Status and update on the Executive Calendar". Commissioner Rousselle stated that the calendar has been the same for the last 3 months. He asked how accurate it is and how often is it updated. Mr. Sanders agreed with Commissioner Rousselle that it has not really been updated due to sensitive matters; however, now that the recent announcement has been made, the calendar will be up to date. Commissioner Cognevich asked that the calendar be sent to him.

There being no report under 3b, "Financial Report/Budget to Actual" and no Bids or Advertisements, Commissioner Blink moved to Item 5, "Introduction of Ordinances and Resolutions". Without objection, so ordered. The following item was introduced:

1. A Resolution of the Plaquemines Parish Council, acting as the sole governing authority of the Plaquemines Port, Harbor and Terminal District, authorizing and directing the initiation of litigation related to the proposed Belle Chasse Bridge Project; authorizing and directing the Port Chairman, Richie Blink, to engage special counsel for such litigation; and otherwise to provide with respect thereto. COMMISSIONER ROUSSELLE

There were no matters under Agenda Item 6, "Ordinances and Resolutions on Second Reading and Final Passage".

#### ORDINANCE NO.20-80

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

An Ordinance to amend the Plaquemines Port, Harbor and Terminal District Manpower Structure to remove the unclassified position of Diesel Mechanic and add the unclassified position of Marine Diesel Mechanic; and otherwise to provide with respect thereto.

WHEREAS, the Council as the sole governing authority of the District adopted the 2020 Manpower Budget in December of 2019 that authorized this funded vacant position; and

WHEREAS, Ordinance No. 18-43 approved the Amended Pay Plan adopted by the Civil Service Commission on April 26, 2018, to rename the position of Diesel Mechanic;

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 approves the correction to the Plaquemines Port, Harbor & Terminal District 2020 Manpower Budget to reflect the position of Marine Diesel Mechanic on Pay Grade 17.

#### SECTION 2

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.

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

Council Member Arbourgh seconded the motion to adopt the Ordinance.

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

YEAS: Council Members John L. Barthelemy, Jr., W. Beau Black, Corey Arbourgh, Stuart J. Guey, Benedict Rousselle, Trudy Newberry, Carlton M. LaFrance, Sr., Richie Blink and Mark Cognevich

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

PRESENT BUT NOT VOTING: None

And the Ordinance was adopted on this the 13<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2020.

Commissioner Blink moved to Agenda Item 7, "New Business". Without objection, so ordered.

There were no items under 7a, “Resolutions wherein suspension is being sought”.

Under Item 7c “Update by the No Tolls Group”, Commissioner Rousselle stated that there was a meeting with the Governor concerning the deal that the Parish got on this project. He further stated the contract has been signed and he discussed how bad of a deal it is for the Parish. Mr. Victor Scorsone gave the update on behalf of the group. He discussed the meeting with Governor Edwards and Sean Wilson with the DOTD in which the cost was discussed. He talked about various other bridges and that because of the contract signed, the Parish will be on the hook for 30 years. Maintenance costs are estimated at \$5 million per year with the first year costing us over \$1 million per month and towards the end of the payment, it’s almost \$3 million per month. This information was found out after the contract was signed and that the windfall would go to the state. The topic of the upkeep of the bridge was discussed and Mr. Wilson said in about 20 years the expansion joints would need to be replaced on the bridge. Mr. Scorsone asked Mr. Wilson specific questions regarding what the State has paid for maintenance on other bridges and Mr. Wilson could not give him an amount. Mr. Scorsone further stated that in 30 years the State will receive at least \$632 million per year but it could go up to \$900 million. The Parish will be getting a 70ft bridge for three quarters of a billion dollars.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 20-183

On motion of Commissioner Rousselle, seconded by Commissioner Blink and on roll call all members present and voting “YES”, the following Resolution was adopted.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE PLAQUEMINES PARISH COUNCIL THAT it hereby approves the minutes of the July 23, 2020, Port Meeting, as recorded by the Assistant Secretary of this Council.

There being no further business to come before this Council, on motion Commissioner Cognevich, seconded by Commissioner Rousselle and on roll call all members present and voting “Yes”, the meeting adjourned at 7:06 p.m.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary

