

**THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE PORT OF NEW ORLEANS
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2023**

A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE PORT OF NEW ORLEANS, HELD IN THE FIRST FLOOR AUDITORIUM AT ITS OFFICES LOCATED AT 1350 PORT OF NEW ORLEANS PLACE, NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA, WAS CALLED TO ORDER BY CHAIRMAN JOSEPH F. TOOMY AT 1:45 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Joseph F. Toomy, Chairman
Walter J. Leger, Jr., Vice-Chairman
James J. Carter, Jr., Secretary-Treasurer
Jeanne E. Ferrer, Member
Darryl D. Berger, Member
Todd P. Murphy, Member

MEMBER ABSENT: Sharonda R. Williams, Member

STAFF: B. Christian, President & Chief Executive Officer
R. Wendel, Chief Financial Officer
J. Escudier, Executive Counsel
L. Mellem, Chief of Staff
M. Wypyski, Chief Operating Officer
A. Evett, Chief of Infrastructure
C. Gilmore, Director, Engineering
R. Aragon Dolese, Director, Marketing & Communications
G. Brown, Chief of People & Culture
A. Ferrand-Rodgers, Director, Organizational Development
Chief M. Montroll, Harbor Police Department
M. Gresham, Chief of Governmental Affairs
S. Gauthier, Director, Cruise
K. Gilmore, Director, Real Estate
T. Black, Staff Attorney
A. Winters, Staff Attorney
A. Dawson, Director, Emergency Management
A. Romanov, Manager, Engineering
J. Bruner, Manager, Cruise
T. Williams, Manager, Engineering
C. Nguyen, Manager, Engineering
B. Boughrara, Manager, Engineering
A. Villarrubia, Manager, Commercial
K. Curth, Press Secretary
K. Mills, Manager, Communications & Community Engagement
A. Randolph, Manager, Communications & Community Engagement
M. Singley, Board Secretariat
J. Fields, Executive Assistant, Communications

A. Johnson, Executive Assistant

GUESTS:

T. Bryant, NOPB
C. Kocur, NOPB
G. Harris, NOPB
I. McPherson, NOPB
T. Jarquin, Evans & Graves
T. Wells, Waldemar Nelson
F. Shaw, Leger & Shaw
C. Hill, CRC
O. Freingold, The Free Press
M. Horowitz, The Free Press
J. Fager, The Free Press
Katrina
S. Carminati
G. Treffinger
P. Zarala
Y. Hinnani
T. Neg, NOSHIP
E. Horton, NOSHIP
Mohammad
D. Autry, NOSHIP
F. Allen
Aiden
S. Khan
D. McFarlane, NOSHIP
C. Tresca, IWW
C. Beauchamp
S. Borne
K. Deroche, NOSHIP
I. Heller, NOSHIP
C. Gallagher
L. Caron
S. Dickey
A. Rodriguez
J. Govea, NOSHIP
M. Sanchez
R. Macdonald
Z. Kopkin
K. Eriksen, Interfaith
F. Khan
K. Belhadjali
C. Perez
I. Ahmed

I. Roll Call & Determination of Quorum

Following a roll call of Board members, Chairman Toomy confirmed a quorum and called the meeting to order at 1:45 p.m.

II. Report by the President and Chief Executive Officer

Ms. Christian gave an overview of the November 2023 volumes and reported on the end of year celebrations and employee recognitions. Afterwards, she announced the upcoming departure of Ms. Mellem, Chief of Staff, and expressed her gratitude to Ms. Mellem for her invaluable contributions and leadership. Ms. Christian concluded her report by thanking her staff and all the Board members for their commitment and hard work in the past year and wished everyone a happy and safe holiday season.

III. Agenda-Related Public Comment

Chairman Toomy called for Agenda-Related Public Comment but there were none.

IV. Approval of the Meeting Minutes for November 2023

Chairman Toomy called for a motion to approve the public meeting minutes for November 2023, as previously circulated. Commissioner Leger moved to accept the minutes and Commissioner Carter seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

V. Action Items:

A. Acceptance of the Consolidated Financial Statements for November 2023

Mr. Wendel presented the consolidated financial statements for the month of November, a copy of which is made a part of these minutes. Commissioner Leger moved to accept the consolidated financial statements and Commissioner Ferrer seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

B. Consider Approval of a Resolution Authorizing the President and Chief Executive Officer to Amend the Contract with HDR Engineering, Inc. to Provide Program Management and Program Control (PMPC) Services for the Louisiana International Terminal Project, to Increase the Not-to-Exceed Cost by \$3,000,000 and Extend the Contract Time by Twelve Months.

Mr. Gilmore presented and recommended approval of the resolution. Commissioner Leger questioned whether implementation of responses to community input on the LIT project design would be reflected in the services contemplated by this contract amendment. Commissioner Ferrer moved to approve the resolution and Commissioner Carter seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

C. Consider Approval of a Resolution Authorizing the President and Chief Executive Officer to Amend the Contract with Eustis Engineering Services, LLC to Provide Geotechnical Services for the Louisiana International Terminal Project to Increase the Not-to-Exceed Cost by \$400,000.

Mr. Gilmore presented and recommended approval of the resolution. Commissioner Murphy moved to approve the resolution and Commissioner Ferrer seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

VI. Announcement of the Intent to Present a Lease Agreement of Board-Owned Property for Consideration at the Next Regularly-Scheduled Board Meeting, in Accordance with La. R.S. 33:4717.2.

In accordance with La. R.S. 33:4717.2, Mr. Escudier announced the lease of property item to be considered at the next Board meeting.

VII. Chairman and Commissioners' Comments

Chairman Toomy thanked Ms. Christian and her team for a successful year, and expressed his gratitude to Ms. Mellem for her service. Other commissioners also conveyed their gratitude to Ms. Mellem.

VIII. General Public Comment

Chairman Toomy called for general public comments and Ms. Singley announced that twenty-seven individuals had completed a public comment request form.

Prior to inviting the speakers to the podium, Ms. Singley read the Board's public comment parameters. Afterwards, the following individuals made general public comments:

Ms. Katrina expressed her opposition to the war in Gaza and the alleged delivery of weapons from the United States to Israel.

Ms. Carminati expressed her opposition to the war in Gaza and asked for the interruption of all shipments between the Port of the New Orleans and Israel.

Ms. Grace Treffinger expressed her opposition to the agreement between the Port of Ashdod and New Orleans business entities.

Mr. Pablo Zavala asked for the interruption of all business exchanges with Israel and expressed his opposition to the war.

Ms. Yasmeen Hinnawi expressed her opposition to all business exchanges with the Port of Ashdod.

Ms. Neg T. expressed her opposition to the war and encouraged the Port of New Orleans to cut ties with Israel.

Ms. Eliza Horton, representing the NOSHIP organization, asked for the interruption of all exports towards Israel and her opposition to the Innovation Embassy.

Mr. Mohammad expressed his opposition to the Innovation Embassy and all forms of trading with Israel.

Ms. Donaka Autry, representing the organization NOSHIP, asked for the interruption of all business relations with the Port of Ashdod.

Mr. Felix Allen asked for the interruption of all exchanges with the Port of Ashdod.

Ms. Aiden expressed her opposition to the Innovation Embassy and trading with Israel.

Ms. Soufa Khan expressed her opposition to any form of trading with Israel.

Mr. David MacFarlane asked the Port to cut all business ties with Israel.

Mr. Carlo Tresca asked to interrupt all trading with companies involved with Israel.

Mr. Christian Beauchamp expressed his opposition to all trading with Israel.

Ms. Serena Borne expressed her opposition to the war and all business exchanges with Israel.

Ms. Kalise Deroche expressed her opposition to all agreements between the Port of New Orleans and the Port of Ashdod.

Ms. Catalina expressed her opposition to the Innovation Embassy.

Mr. Israel Heller, representing the organization NOSHIP, expressed his opposition to the war in Gaza and asked for ending all business ties with Israel.

Mr. Lex Caron asked for the interruption of shipments between the Port of New Orleans and Israel.

Mr. Samuel Dickey expressed his opposition to all business agreements between the Port of New Orleans and the Port of Ashdod.

Ms. Ana Rodriguez expressed her opposition to the war in Gaza and to the Innovation Embassy.

Ms. Jessica Govea expressed her opposition to the Innovation Embassy and to all exchanges with Israel.

Ms. Maya Sanchez asked for the end of all business relations with Israel.

Mr. Rory MacDonald expressed his opposition to the Innovation Embassy.

Mr. Zachary Kopkin expressed his opposition to any trading with Israel.

Mr. Kevin Ericksen asked for the end of all business relations with Israel.

Ms. Fatima Khan expressed her opposition to any trading with Israel.

Chairman Toomy thanked all speakers for their participation and noted that their comments would be noted in the meeting minutes.

IX. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board, Chairman Toomy called for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Carter so moved and Commissioner Ferrer seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY** and Chairman Toomy adjourned the meeting at 3:06 pm.