

**THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE PORT OF NEW ORLEANS
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2024**

A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE PORT OF NEW ORLEANS, HELD IN THE FIRST FLOOR AUDITORIUM AT ITS OFFICE LOCATED AT 1350 PORT OF NEW ORLEANS PLACE, NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA, WAS CALLED TO ORDER BY CHAIRMAN MICHAEL A. THOMAS AT 1:41 P.M.

MEMBERS

Michael A. Thomas, Chairman

PRESENT:

James J. Carter, Jr., Vice-Chairman

Sharonda R. Williams, Secretary-Treasurer

Walter J. Leger, Jr., Member

Jeanne E. Ferrer, Member

Darryl D. Berger, Member

Todd P. Murphy, Member

STAFF:

B. Branch, President & Chief Executive Officer

R. Wendel, Chief Financial Officer

S. Porteous, Chief of Staff

J. Escudier, Executive Counsel

A. Evett, Chief of Infrastructure

C. Gilmore, Director, Engineering

Chief M. Montroll, Harbor Police Department

Lt. C. Clark, Harbor Police Department

M. Scelson, General Counsel

N. Dietzen, Staff Attorney

T. Black, Staff Attorney

G. Brown, Chief of People & Culture

C. Rollins, Director, Financial Reporting & Forecasting

K. Gilmore, Director, Real Estate

M. Sulser, Manager, Engineering

A. Romanov, Manager, Engineering

E. LeCompte, Manager, Environmental

S. Schexnayder, Director, Marketing & Communications

K. Curth, Press Secretary

J. Ragusa, Deputy Director, Governmental Affairs

K. Mills, Manager, Communications & Community Engagement

A. Randolph, Manager, Communications & Community Engagement

M. Singley, Board Secretariat

J. Fields, Marketing & Communications Officer

GUESTS:

T. Bryant, NOPB

C. Kocur, NOPB

M. Mittelbronn

J. Robichaux, Holy Cross Community Member

A. Casassa, Holy Cross Resident

K. Jean, Holy Cross Resident
A. Thompson, Holy Cross Resident
E. Robinson, Holy Cross Resident
A. Soeder, Holy Cross Resident
A. Loft, Holy Cross Resident
J. Lavigne, Holy Cross Resident
J. Rosenberg, Holy Cross Resident
R. Barnes, Holy Cross Resident
P. Gosey, Holy Cross Resident
B. Baudier, Holy Cross Resident
D. Stennett, NOLA.Com
D. Whatley, Holy Cross Resident
K. Hanley, Holy Cross Resident
M. Levan, Holy Cross Neighborhood Association
N. Howell, Holy Cross Resident
K. Lavigne, Stop the Grain Terminal
C. Stewart, Stop the Grain Terminal
E. Weston, Stop the Grain Terminal
H. Sandez, Stop the Grain Terminal
P. Calder, Stop the Grain Terminal
G. Lavigne, Stop the Grain Terminal
C. Mangha, Stop the Grain Terminal
S. Hardy, Volkert, Inc.
N. Petr, Stop the Grain Terminal
J. Wittenbrink, Stop the Grain Terminal
T. Dallal-Harris, Stop the Grain Terminal
W. Edward, Stop the Grain Terminal
L. Edwards, Stop the Grain Terminal
A. Lane, Stop the Grain Terminal
J. Fahey, Holy Cross Neighborhood Association
J. Ward, Holy Cross Neighborhood Association
J. Putran, Arabi Neighborhood Association
F. Pingalore, Holy Cross Resident
J. Koeferl, Holy Cross Resident
Z. Halpern, Holy Cross Resident
C. O'Brien, Royal Engineers & Consultants, L.L.C.
R. Klare, Royal Engineers & Consultants, L.L.C.
M. Skelton, Stop the Grain Terminal
D. Dryfoos, The Lens Nola
S. Garcia
C. Johnson
K. Tebeest, Holy Cross Neighborhood Association
L. Ellis, Holy Cross Resident
K. Hanley, Holy Cross Resident
A. Killion, WDSU
H. Miller, WDSU

S. Singh
C. Hochkeppel
O. Gallo, Holy Cross Community Member
M. Sanchez, NOSHIP

I. Roll Call & Determination of Quorum

Following a roll call of Board members, Chairman Thomas confirmed a quorum and called the meeting to order at 1:41 p.m.

II. Public Comment

Chairman Thomas called for public comment and Ms. Singley announced that one (1) individual had requested to make public comment in opposition to Item D and twenty-one (21) attendees had requested to make public comments on matters not listed on the agenda.

Chairman Thomas announced that the agenda related comments would be heard first. Prior to inviting the speakers to the podium, Ms. Singley read the Board's public comment parameters.

Michele Mittelbroon was called to the podium but declined to speak. Jolie Robichaux, Amanda Casassa, Amanda Thompson, Raiyah Brown, Charlie Booker, Jr., Elliot Robinson, Pippin Frisbie-Calder, Gary Lavigne, Cars Stewart, Paul Calder, Robin Barnes, David Whatley, Jeffrey Wittenbrink, Kerry Hanley, Joseph Lavigne, Farra Pingalore, Nicolas Petr, Bill Edwards, Laurence Copel, and Max Skelton expressed their opposition to the lease agreement with Sunrise Foods International, Inc., the establishment of an organic grain terminal at the Alabo Street wharf, and the rehabilitation of the rail lines along Alabo Street.

Maya Sanchez expressed her support for the residents of the Alabo Wharf neighborhood and her opposition to the war in Gaza, the Innovation Embassy, and any business partnership or military shipment with the Port of Ashdod or Israel.

III. Report by the President and Chief Executive Officer

Ms. Branch provided an overview of the November 2024 volumes and productivity statistics as well as a summary of the month's main events.

IV. Approval of the Meeting Minutes for November 2024

Chairman Thomas called for a motion to approve the public meeting minutes for November 2024, as previously circulated. Commissioner Berger moved to accept the minutes and Commissioner Ferrer seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

V. **Action Items:**

A. Acceptance of the Consolidated Financial Statements for November 2024

Ms. Rollins 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 approve the consolidated financial statements and Commissioner Murphy seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

B. Consider Approval of a Resolution Authorizing the President and Chief Executive Officer to Enter into Two Separate Contracts with Royal Engineers and Consultants, L.L.C. and Meyer Engineers, Ltd. for As-Needed Construction Management Services, for a Period of Three Years with Two One-Year Renewal Options, in an Amount Not to Exceed \$1,500,000 per Contract for the Full Contract Term.

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

C. Consider Approval of a Resolution Authorizing the President and Chief Executive Officer to Enter into a Lease Agreement with Magnolia Fleet, LLC for the Property Located at 3601 France Road, New Orleans, Louisiana.

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

D. Consider Approval of a Resolution Authorizing the President and Chief Executive Officer to Enter into a Professional Services Contract with GHD, Inc. to Update the Board's 2018 Master Plan as Well as Develop a Correlating NOPB's Master Plan, for an Amount Not to Exceed \$400,000.

Ms. Porteous presented and recommended approval of the resolution. Commissioner Leger moved to approve the resolution and Commissioner Carter seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

E. Consider Approval of a Resolution Authorizing the President and Chief Executive Officer to Amend the Lease with and Accept a Transfer of the Improvements Owned by Brandon International, LLC, in Relation to the Premises Comprising Approximately 5.1743 Acres Located in Squares 78, 73, and 70 of the Third Municipal District of the City of New Orleans, as Well as for the Termination of the Lease of the Subject Premises.

Mr. Escudier presented and recommended approval of the resolution. Commissioner Berger moved to approve the resolution and Commissioner Ferrer seconded.
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

VI. Report of the Nominating Committee

Chairman Thomas invited Commissioner Leger to present the report of the Nominating Committee. Commissioner Leger reported that the Nominating Committee had proposed the following ballot of Board officers for consideration by the full Board: Sharonda R. Williams as Vice-Chairman and Jeanne E. Ferrer as Secretary-Treasurer. These officers will serve nine-month terms, effective at the conclusion of today's meetings through September 2025.

VII. Election of Board Officers

Chairman Thomas called for a motion to approve the Nominating Committee's proposed ballot of officers. Commissioner Leger so moved and Commissioner Murphy seconded.
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

VIII. Chairman and Commissioners' Comments

Chairman Thomas asked for Commissioners' comments but there were none.

IX. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board, Chairman Thomas called for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Carter so moved and Commissioner Leger seconded.
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY and Chairman Thomas adjourned the meeting at 2:52 p.m.