

**THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE PORT OF NEW ORLEANS  
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2024**

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**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 JOSEPH F. TOOMY AT 1:49 P.M.**

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**MEMBERS**

Joseph F. Toomy, Chairman

**PRESENT:**

Walter J. Leger, Jr., Vice-Chairman

James J. Carter, Jr., Secretary-Treasurer

Sharonda R. Williams, Member

Jeanne E. Ferrer, Member

Todd P. Murphy, Member

Darryl D. Berger, Member

**STAFF:**

B. Christian, President & Chief Executive Officer

S. Porteous, Chief of Staff

R. Wendel, Chief Financial Officer

J. Escudier, Executive Counsel

M. Wypyski, Chief Operating Officer

A. Evett, Chief of Infrastructure

R. Aragon Dolese, Director, Marketing & Communications

G. Brown, Chief of People & Culture

S. Granger, Director, Human Resources

Chief M. Montroll, Harbor Police Department

M. Gresham, Chief of Governmental Affairs

M. Scelson, General Counsel

S. Gauthier, Director, Cruise

K. Gilmore, Director, Real Estate

A. Dawson, Director, Emergency Management

C. Rollins, Director, Financial Reporting & Forecasting

A. Villarrubia, Manager, Commercial

C. Gibson, Manager, Business Development

E. Federer, Manager, Sustainability

A. Romanov, Manager, Engineering

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

K. Santiago, Community Engagement Consultant

**GUESTS:**

T. Bryant, NOPB

C. Kocur, NOPB

C. Hill, CRC

C. Cassady, The People  
D. Lambert, GEC  
H. Gonzales, NOSHIP  
C. Ponstein, Former Commissioner  
A. Rega, GIS Engineering, LLC  
A. de Montagne  
S. Moushebeck  
H. Murad  
A. Miller  
K. DeRoche, NOSHIP  
E. Wikinson, NOSHIP  
B. Rouselle, P.E.E.S.  
F. Allen  
Q. Fuentes, G.I.S.  
B. Sheth, Pivotal  
N. Gonzales, NOSHIP  
C. Beauchamp, NOSHIP  
I. Heller, NOSHIP  
T. Wells, Waldemar S. Nelson, Co.  
M. Ricciardo, NOSHIP  
Tweedie, NOSHIP  
J. Baum, Antigravity  
DK, NOSHIP  
I. Ahmet  
S. Martin  
S. Sojic-Borne, NOSHIP  
A. Murad, NOSHIP  
E. Holder  
Kay  
Z. Kopkin, NOSHIP  
Maya, NOSHIP  
C. Tresca, NOSHIP

**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 1:49 p.m.

**II. Report by the President and Chief Executive Officer**

Ms. Christian gave an overview of the January 2024 volumes. She also announced the upcoming departure of Ms. Aragon Dolese, Director of Marketing and Communications, and expressed her gratitude to Ms. Aragon Dolese for her leadership and exceptional talent during the last 12 years. Ms. Christian also offered her condolences to the families and friends of former Board Commissioners Daniel Packer and Edgar “Dooky” Chase, III who recently passed away.

Chairman Toomy and Commissioners Carter and Leger congratulated Ms. Aragon Dolese and recognized former Commissioners Packer and Chase for their outstanding commitment to the New Orleans community.

### **III. Public Comment**

Chairman Toomy called for public comment and Ms. Singley stated that twenty (20) individuals had completed a general public comment request form.

Prior to inviting the speakers to the podium, Ms. Singley read the Board's public comment parameters.

Mr. Felix Allen, Ms. Kay, Mr. Aidan, Ms. Serena Sojic-Borne, Ms. Niki Gonzales, Mr. Sam Martin, Ms. Kalise Deroche, Mr. Hakim Murad, Mr. Chad Cassady, Ms. Eliza Wikinson, Mr. Christian Beauchamp, Ms. Ava de Montagne, Mr. Simon Monshabeck, Mr. Israel Heller, Ms. Anna Miller, Ms. Tweedie, Ms. DK, Mr. Islam Ahmed, Mr. Zachary Hopkin, Ms. Maya, and Ms. Elizabeth Holder expressed their opposition to the war in Gaza, the Innovation Embassy and any business partnership with the Port of Ashdod or Israel.

### **IV. Approval of the Meeting Minutes for January 2024**

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

### **V. Action Items:**

#### **A. Acceptance of the Consolidated Financial Statements for January 2024**

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

#### **B. Consider Approval of a Resolution Authorizing the President and Chief Executive Officer to Renew the Board's Primary and Excess Liability Insurance, Hull and Machinery and P&I Insurance, Vessel Pollution Liability Insurance, Public Official's Liability Insurance, Law Enforcement Liability Insurance, Equipment Breakdown, Government Crime Insurance, Cyber Insurance, and Property Terrorism, at a Not-to-Exceed cost of \$1,933,660, all Arranged Through Arthur J Gallagher Risk Services, Inc.**

Mr. Wendel presented and recommended approval of the resolution. Commissioner Carter moved to approve the resolution and Commissioner Berger seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**C. Consider Approval of a Resolution Awarding a Contract to LMB Services, LLC in the Amount of \$3,867,530.90 for the Nashville B Substructure Repairs.**

Mr. Evett presented and recommended approval of the resolution. Commissioner Ferrer moved to approve the resolution and Commissioner Carter 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 item to be considered at the next Board meeting.

**VII. Appointment of the Nominating Committee**

Chairman Toomy appointed commissioners Ferrer, Berger and Murphy to serve as the Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee will meet before the March regular Board Meeting, and will provide a proposed ballot of officers to be approved by the full Board during the regular meeting. Commissioner Ferrer will serve as Chair of the Nominating Committee.

**VIII. Chairman and Commissioners' Comments**

Vice-Chairman Leger and Chairman Toomy briefly responded to some of the earlier public comments. Chairman Toomy also commented on a social event that was held welcoming former Board commissioners.

**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 3:07 p.m.