

**THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE PORT OF NEW ORLEANS  
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2025**

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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 MICHAEL A. THOMAS AT 1:47 P.M.**

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**MEMBERS**

**PRESENT:**

Michael A. Thomas, Chairman  
Sharonda R. Williams, Vice-Chair  
Jeanne E. Ferrer, Secretary-Treasurer  
Walter J. Leger, Jr., Member  
James J. Carter, Jr., Member  
Darryl D. Berger, Member  
Todd P. Murphy, Member

**STAFF:**

B. Branch, President & Chief Executive Officer  
R. Wendel, Executive Vice President & Chief Financial Officer  
J. Escudier, Executive Counsel  
A. Evett, Vice President of Infrastructure  
C. Gilmore, Director, Engineering & Environmental  
Chief M. Montroll, Harbor Police Department  
Lt. C. Clark, Jr., Harbor Police Department  
M. Scelson, General Counsel  
N. Dietzen, Staff Attorney  
T. Black, Staff Attorney  
A. Kacpura, Paralegal  
A. Dawson, Director, Emergency Management  
G. Brown, Chief of People & Culture  
C. Rollins, Director, Financial Reporting & Forecasting  
M. Sulser, Manager, Engineering  
E. Loniello, Deputy Director, Crane Terminal Operations  
M. Naquin, Manager, Real Estate  
A. Bierman, Manager Insurance & FEMA Administration  
A. Romanov, Manager, Engineering  
E. Lecompte, Manager, Environmental  
J. Soileau, Manager, Permit  
L. Charron, Manager, Safety Risk Agency  
S. Schexnayder, Director, Communications & Community Engagement  
K. Curth, Press Secretary  
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  
F. Cabili, Holy Cross Resident  
P. Frisbee-Calder, Holy Cross Resident  
F. Helm, Holy Cross Resident  
L. Knowles, Holy Cross Resident  
J. Berry, The Guardian  
A. Thompson, Holy Cross Resident  
P. Murano, Holy Cross Resident  
S. Smith, Holy Cross Resident  
J. Ward, Holy Cross Resident  
W. Lemmon, Holy Cross Resident  
D. Stennett, Nola.com  
S. Vasudevan, LUNO SDS  
M. Harrell, Holy Cross Resident  
P. Peterson, Holy Cross Resident  
C. Pleska, Holy Cross Resident  
J. Brown, Holy Cross Resident  
J. Robichaux, Holy Cross Resident  
M. Cordray, Holy Cross Resident  
J. Fahey, Holy Cross Resident  
Maya, NOSHIP  
S. Livingston, Holy Cross Resident  
A. Pridmore, Holy Cross Resident  
L. Edwards, Holy Cross Resident  
L. Ellis, Holy Cross Resident  
G. Kissecc  
M. Sylvan  
C. Curr, Arabi Business  
P. Vandercook, Global Maritime Ministries  
S. Livingston  
M. Reed, Holy Cross Resident  
G. Sylvain, Arabi Resident  
S. Kosofsky, Holy Cross Resident  
M. Skelton, Holy Cross Resident  
P. Stelly, Retired Journalist  
J. Stephen, St. Bernard Parish  
D. Lowell, Tulane Environmental Law Clinic  
C. Molnar, Tulane Environmental Law Clinic  
C. Bangser, Holy Cross Resident  
M. Hournell, Holy Cross Resident  
J. Bensen, Holy Cross Resident  
R. Short, Holy Cross Resident  
P. Fortunati, Holy Cross Resident  
A. Perez, Holy Cross Resident  
F. Allen

S. McCledan, Holy Cross Resident  
N. Blair, Holy Cross Resident  
S. Heron, Holy Cross Neighborhood Association  
B. Edwards, Holy Cross Neighborhood Association & L9HA  
J. Koefler, Holy Cross Neighborhood Association  
E. Ashman, Holy Cross Resident  
H. Murad, Holy Cross Resident  
S. McKinney, GMM  
R. Brooks, STGT  
T. Barker, Holy Cross Resident  
D. Christmas, Holy Cross Resident  
T. Dallal-Harris, Holy Cross Neighborhood Association  
N. Costley, Dance for a Cause  
R. Macdonald, NOSHIP  
M. Mellyn, New Orleans Flavor Collective  
C. Cruse, LUNO SDS  
N. Robles, Holy Cross Resident  
J. Pinkham, Holy Cross Resident  
J. Berthelot, LUNO SDS  
E. Collins, Holy Cross Resident

## **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 1:47 p.m.

## **II. Public Comment**

Chairman Thomas called for public comment and Ms. Singley announced that twenty-three (23) individuals had requested to make public comment in opposition to Item B and one (1) attendee had requested to make public comment 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.

Pipper Frisbie-Calder, Mikhayla Harrell, Patricia Fortunati, Jonathan Brown, Devin Lowell, Chad Molnar (on behalf of Jeffrey Wittenbrink), Peter Murano, Amanda Thompson, Felix Allen, Maya, Shreyas Vasuvedan, Jolie Robichaux, Nicole Blair, Wendy Lemmon, Marie Cordray, Lindsay Edwards, Jennifer Ward, William Edwards, Lauren Ellis, John Koefler, Shueldar Livingston, Myrrhia Reed, and Tucker Barker expressed their opposition to Item B as well as 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.

Felix Allen, Maya, and Hakim Murad expressed their support for the residents of the Holy Cross neighborhood and their opposition to the war in Gaza, the Innovation Embassy, and any business partnership or military shipment with the Port of Ashdod or Israel.

Commissioner Berger joined the meeting at 2:32pm

### **III. Report by the President and Chief Executive Officer**

Ms. Branch provided an overview of the January 2025 volumes and productivity statistics as well as a summary of the month's highlights.

### **IV. Approval of the Meeting Minutes for January 2025**

Chairman Thomas called for a motion to approve the public meeting minutes for January 2025, as previously circulated. Commissioner Leger moved to accept the minutes and Commissioner Williams seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

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

#### **A. Acceptance of the Consolidated Financial Statements for January 2025**

Ms. Rollins presented the consolidated financial statements for the month of January, a copy of which is made a part of these minutes. Commissioner Murphy moved to approve the consolidated financial statements and Commissioner Leger seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

#### **B. Consider Approval of a Resolution Authorizing the Sale of up to \$100 Million of Series 2025A, 2025B, and 2025C Revenue Bonds for the Purpose of Funding the Board's Capital Investment Plan, Refunding Series 2021A Notes, and Providing for Other Matters with Respect to the Issuance of these Bonds.**

Mr. Wendel presented and recommended approval of the resolution. Commissioner Berger inquired about the target date for issuing the bonds and asked if market conditions could affect the timing of the sale. Commissioner Carter asked for clarification on the allocation of the funds. Commissioner Murphy recused himself from discussing and voting on this item. Commissioner Berger 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 Amend the Agreement with JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A., for the Series 2021A \$30 Million Taxable Subordinate Lien Revenue Notes, to Obtain an Option to Extend the Maturity to May 1, 2025; and to Take All Necessary Actions with Respect to the Amendments.**

Mr. Wendel presented and recommended approval of the resolution. Commissioner Murphy recused himself from discussing and voting on this item. Commissioner Ferrer moved to approve the resolution and Commissioner Williams seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

- D. Consider Approval of a Resolution Authorizing the President and Chief Executive Officer to Renew the Board's Property, Primary and Excess Liability Insurance, Hull and Machinery and P&I Insurance, Commercial Auto Liability, Vessel Pollution Liability Insurance, Public Official's Liability Insurance, Law Enforcement Liability Insurance, Equipment Breakdown, Architects and Engineers Professional, Government Crime Insurance, Cyber Insurance, and Property Terrorism, at a Not-to-Exceed Cost of \$9,004,828, all Arranged Through Arthur J Gallagher Risk Management Services, LLC.**

Mr. Wendel presented and recommended approval of the resolution. Commissioner Berger inquired about the increase in deductibles. Commissioner Williams moved to approve the resolution and Commissioner Ferrer seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

- E. Consider Approval of a Resolution Awarding a Contract to Core Lifting of Lafayette, LLC, in the Amount of \$178,285 for Crane 9 Headblock Replacement.**

Ms. Loniello presented and recommended approval of the resolution. Commissioner Murphy moved to approve the resolution and Commissioner Williams seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

- F. Consider Approval of a Resolution Awarding a Contract to Star Service, Inc., in the Amount of \$206,890 for Cranes 8 and 9 HVAC Replacement.**

Ms. Loniello presented and recommended approval of the resolution. Commissioner Ferrer moved to approve the resolution and Commissioner Williams seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

- G. Consider Approval of a Resolution Awarding a Contract to Tuna Construction, LLC, in the Amount of \$781,000 for the Removal and Replacement of the Overhead Rollup Doors on the Harmony Street and Seventh Street Wharf Sheds Due to Damage Caused by Hurricane Ida.**

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

- VI. Closed Executive Session Convened in Accordance with *La R.S. 42:17A(2)*, to Discuss the Matters Entitled:**

- ***St. Bernard Parish Government v. Board of Commissioners of the Port of New Orleans*, Docket No. 23-1006, pending before the 34th Judicial District Court for the Parish of St. Bernard, State of Louisiana.**
- ***Bryan Poole, Sr. v. The Board of Commissioners of the Port of New Orleans*, Docket No. 23-05550, pending before the Orleans Civil District Court, State of Louisiana.**

Chairman Thomas read the agenda items aloud and called for a motion to enter into a closed executive session, convened in accordance with La R.S. 42:17(A)(2) to discuss the above matters.

Commissioner Williams moved to enter into a closed executive session and Commissioner Leger seconded. The **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY** and the Board entered into closed executive session at 3:06 p.m.

Following the conclusion of the discussion, Chairman Thomas called for a motion to end the closed executive session and return to the open meeting. Commissioner Williams moved to end the closed executive session and Commissioner Leger seconded. The **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY** and the closed executive session concluded at 3:56 p.m.

**VII. Consider Approval of a Resolution Authorizing the President and Chief Executive Officer to Enter into a Settlement Agreement in the Matter of: *Bryan Poole, Sr. v. The Board of Commissioners of the Port of New Orleans*, Docket No. 23-05550, pending before the Orleans Civil District Court, State of Louisiana.**

Ms. Scelson presented and recommended approval of the resolution. Commissioner Leger moved to approve the resolution and Commissioner Williams 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 Williams so moved and Commissioner Carter seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY** and Chairman Thomas adjourned the meeting at 3:57 p.m.