

**THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE PORT OF NEW ORLEANS
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING
THURSDAY, JANUARY 30, 2025**

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 1:54 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Michael A. Thomas, Chairman
Sharonda R. Williams, Vice-Chair
Walter J. Leger, Jr., Member
James J. Carter, Jr., Member
Darryl D. Berger, Member
Todd P. Murphy, Member

MEMBER ABSENT: Jeanne E. Ferrer, Secretary-Treasurer

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
J. Guidry, Director, Terminal and Waterfront Operations
M. Scelson, General Counsel
N. Dietzen, Staff Attorney
T. Black, Staff Attorney
A. Dawson, Director, Emergency Management
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
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
E. Loniello, Deputy Director, Crane Terminal Operations

GUESTS: T. Bryant, NOPB

C. Kocur, NOPB
J. Robichaux, Holy Cross Resident
T. Rezende, Holy Cross Resident
J. Brown, Holy Cross Resident
T. Hunter, AECOM
W. Edwards, Holy Cross Resident
Z. Dowling, NOSHIP
M. Gonzalez, NOSHIP
K. Scott, Holy Cross Resident
P. Murano, Holy Cross Resident
L. Ellis, Holy Cross Resident
R. Brooks, NOSHIP
E. Kimbrough, Holy Cross Resident
K. Lavigne, Holy Cross Resident
B. Perez, Holy Cross Neighborhood Association
P. Fortunati, Holy Cross Neighborhood Association
A. Perez, Holy Cross Resident
B. McPenz, Holy Cross Resident
N. Petr, Holy Cross Resident
F. Pingalore, Holy Cross Resident
G. Lavigne, Holy Cross Resident
N. Blair, Holy Cross Resident
C. Rollins, Holy Cross Resident
A. Thompson, Holy Cross Resident
C. Lung, Holy Cross Resident
L. Edwards, Holy Cross Resident
G. Kissecc, NOSHIP
S. Barber, NOSHIP
Z. Dowling, NOSHIP
Z. Jernsted, NOSHIP
N. Donell, Holy Cross Resident
A. Churchill, Holy Cross Resident
R. Brown, Holy Cross Resident
T. Harris, Holy Cross Resident
T. Barker, Holy Cross Resident
W. Calhoun, Holy Cross Resident
J. Koeferl, Holy Cross Resident
T. Dallal-Harris, Holy Cross Resident
M. Bopp, Crescent River Pilot Association
H. Carrol, SOS Violet
K. Santiago, Down River Consultant

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 1:54 p.m.

In the absence of Secretary-Treasurer Ferrer and, in accordance with the Board's Bylaws, Chairman Thomas appointed Commissioner Darryl D. Berger to serve as temporary Secretary-Treasury for the purpose of certifying the actions taken by resolutions during today's regular meeting. Commissioner Berger accepted the appointment.

II. Public Comment

Chairman Thomas called for public comment and Ms. Singley announced that twenty-one (21) individuals had requested to make public comment in opposition to Items J and K and five (5) attendees 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.

Elizabeth Kimbrough, Joseph M. Lavigne, Gary Lavigne, Willie Calhoun, Patricia Fortunati, Rayah Brown, Jolie Robichaux, Nicole Blair, Farra Pingalore, Amanda Thompson, Tucker Barker, Jeffrey Wittenbrink, Lindsay Edwards, William Edwards, Kayley Scott, Bette Perez, Jonathan Brown, Lauren Ellis, Robin Brooks, John Koefler, and Tamalyn Dallal-Harris expressed their opposition to the Items J and K, as well as 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.

Zach Dowling, Gina Kissek, Meg Gonzalez, Sophie Barker, and Zue Jernsted 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.

III. Report by the President and Chief Executive Officer

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

IV. Approval of the Meeting Minutes for December 2024

Chairman Thomas called for a motion to approve the public meeting minutes for December 2024, 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 December 2024

Ms. Rollins presented the consolidated financial statements for the month of December, a copy of which is made a part of these minutes. Commissioner Murphy moved to approve the consolidated financial statements and Commissioner Williams seconded.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

B. Consider Approval of a Resolution Awarding a Contract to Berard Transportation, Inc. in the Amount of \$1,308,000 for Crane 7 Decommissioning.

Ms. Loniello 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 an Agreement with the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development for Engineering, Design, Construction, and Maintenance of Louisiana Highway 39 (East Judge Perez Drive) in the Vicinity of the Proposed Louisiana International Terminal (LIT).

Mr. Chris Gilmore presented and recommended approval of the resolution. Commissioner Berger 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 Enter into a Reimbursement Agreement with MCImetro Access Transmission Services, LLC (Verizon) in the Amount of \$190,000 to Relocate the Verizon Facilities Along East St. Bernard Highway in Anticipation of the Construction of the Proposed Louisiana International Terminal (LIT).

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

E. Consider Approval of a Resolution Authorizing the President and Chief Executive Officer to Amend the Contract with Ardurra Group, Inc. to Provide Engineering and Professional Services for the Access, Drainage, Earthwork, and Ground Improvement for the Louisiana International Terminal (LIT) to Increase the Not-to-Exceed Cost by \$575,000.

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

F. Consider Approval of a Resolution Authorizing the President and Chief Executive Officer to Amend the Contract with Design Engineering, Inc. for the Relocation of East St. Bernard Highway and Associated Utilities for the Louisiana International Terminal (LIT) to Increase the Not-to-Exceed Cost by \$760,000.

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

- G. Consider Approval of a Resolution Authorizing the President and Chief Executive Officer to Amend the Contract with Linfield, Hunter, & Junius, Inc. to Provide Engineering and Professional Services for the Offsite Terminal Rail Realignment for the Louisiana International Terminal (LIT) to Increase the Not-to-Exceed Cost by \$267,000.**

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

- H. Consider Approval of a Resolution Authorizing the President and Chief Executive Officer to Amend the Contract with HDR Engineering, Inc. for the Louisiana International Terminal (LIT) Program Management and Program Controls (PMPC) Services Project to Increase the Not-to-Exceed Cost by \$3,100,000.**

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

- I. Consider Approval of a Resolution Authorizing the President and Chief Executive Officer to Amend the Contract with AECOM Technical Services, Inc. for the Louisiana International Terminal (LIT) Preliminary Design and Permit Support Services Project to Increase the Not-to-Exceed Cost by \$2,519,725.**

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

- J. Consider Approval of a Resolution Authorizing the President and Chief Executive Officer to Effect the Submission of an Application to the Louisiana Port Construction and Development Priority Program for the Alabo Terminal Revitalization Project.**

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

- K. Consider Approval of a Resolution Amending Board Resolution No. 2024-058 to Authorize the President and Chief Executive Officer to Enter into Agreements for the Acquisition of Three Additional Properties for an Amount Not to Exceed the Cumulative Sum of \$2,500,000.**

Mr. Kyle Gilmore presented and recommended approval of the resolution. Commissioner Berger clarified that the resolution was related to the LIT project. Commissioner Williams moved to approve the resolution and Commissioner Murphy seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

L. Consider Approval of a Resolution Authorizing the President and Chief Executive Officer to Enter into a Contract with Universal Protection Service, LLC d/b/a Allied Universal Security Services to Provide Security Guard Services for a Period of One Year at a Cost Not to Exceed \$650,000.

Chief Montroll presented and recommended approval of the resolution. Commissioner Murphy asked for clarifications on the hiring of a new contractor and moved to approve the resolution. Commissioner Williams seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

VI. Chairman and Commissioners' Comments

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

VII. 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 3:25 p.m.