

**THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE PORT OF NEW ORLEANS
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING
THURSDAY, MARCH 21, 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 JOSEPH F. TOOMY AT 1:54 P.M.

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

G. Brown, Chief of People & Culture

C. Gilmore, Director, Engineering

S. Granger, Director, Human Resources

Chief M. Montroll, Harbor Police Department

M. Gresham, Chief of Governmental Affairs

M. Scelson, General Counsel

T. Black, Staff Attorney

S. Gauthier, Director, Cruise

C. Rollins, Director, Financial Reporting & Forecasting

K. Gilmore, Director, Real Estate

J. Bruner, Manager, Cruise

B. Skaggs, Manager, Sustainability

E. LeCompte, Environmental

A. Romanov, Manager, Engineering

K. Curth, Press Secretary

K. Mills, Manager, Communications & Community Engagement

A. Randolph, Manager, Communications & Community Engagement

M. Singley, Board Secretariat

A. Johnson, Executive Assistant

GUESTS:

T. Bryant, NOPB

C. Kocur, NOPB

H. Rosenberg, Phelps Dunbar LLP

R. Chauvin, Infinity Engineering

B. Smith, Pivotal
K. Auzenne, GHC Architects
N. Gonzalez, NOSHIP
A. Malik, NOSHIP
S. Bollag, NOSHIP
P. Connolly
L. Moor
L. Marshall
S. Hdsfel, NOSHIP
A. Mac, NOSHIP
M. Rollins
S. Mottamal, NOSHIP
DK, NOSHIP
C. Tresca, Fair Trade Music Labor for Palestine
F. James
C. Dial
S. Vasudevan, NOSHIP
M. Licardo, NOSHIP
K. Noah
Z. Koplín, Gulf South to Gaza Collective & Jewish Voice for Peace
L. LaRue, NOSHIP
J. Ygnatowiz, NOSHIP
L. Murad, NOSHIP
Olive
Taylor R
Hannah B
S. Isham
A. Blackshaw, Hobo Gadget
Maya, NOSHIP
Nawya, NOSHIP
A. Rantigi, NOSHIP
L. Geosits, NOSHIP
K. Auzanne, GHC Arch
S. Borne, NOSHIP
J. Hark, NOSHIP
K. Deroche, NOSHIP
E. Holden

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 1:54 p.m.

II. Report by the President and Chief Executive Officer

Ms. Christian gave an overview of the February 2024 volumes. Afterwards, she recognized the Board executives who completed their Maritime Port Executive Certifications and congratulated the Employees of the Quarter for the Board and the New Orleans Public Belt. She concluded her report by announcing that Commissioner Berger was awarded the 2023 Times Picayune's Loving Cup.

III. Public Comment

Chairman Toomy called for public comment, and Ms. Singley announced that no one had submitted requests for agenda-related public comment but that fifty-one (51) individuals had requested to make public comments of a general nature.

Prior to inviting the speakers to the podium, Ms. Singley read the Board's public comment parameters, and Chairman Toomy called for the first speaker.

Keri Guillot, Kalise DeRoche, Julia Hark, Heather Auuyan, Farihan Hague, Elizabeth Holder, Genevieve Jones, Mir Williams, Kristin Hamilton, Alex Axon, Joshua Tettelbaum, Vi Embers, Avery Smith, Serena Sojic-Borne, Wynn Fisher, Camille Chenevert, Lucia Upham, Barry Connolly, Hakim Murad, Olive L., Tina McCorson, Sophia Earling, Rebecca McLaughlin, Anisah Sahibul, Felix Allen, Lana Allen and Sam Martin expressed their opposition to the war in Gaza, the Innovation Embassy and any business partnership with the Port of Ashdod or Israel.

Due to numerous episodes of disruptive behavior in the Auditorium, Chairman Toomy closed the period for general public comments and called for short recess at 2:53 p.m.

The following attendees had filled out requests to make general public comments but were not able to be heard: Carlo Tresca, Shreyas Vasudevan, Jane Killmar, Finly Janes, Hannah Byrne, Cory Diane, Sultana Isham, Aidan, Amanda Blackshaw, Maya, Navya, Miranda L., Alysia Rantisi, Noah K, Zachary Kopkin, Andres Paniagua, Amna Malik, Sasuha Bollag, Alvy, Fir Xie, Lana, Laura Sage Marshall, Max R. and DK. All had requested to speak in order to express their opposition to the war in Gaza, the Innovation Embassy and any business partnership with the Port of Ashdod or Israel.

The public meeting resumed at 3:02 p.m. and Chairman Toomy called for the next agenda item.

IV. Approval of the Meeting Minutes for February 2024

Chairman Toomy called for a motion to approve the public meeting minutes for February 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 February 2024

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

B. Consider Approval of a Resolution Authorizing the President and Chief Executive Officer to Renew the Board's Property and Commercial Auto Liability Insurance at a Cost Not-to-Exceed \$7,756,683, 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 Ferrer seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

C. Consider Approval of a Resolution Authorizing the President and Chief Executive Officer to Enter into an Amendment in an Amount Not to Exceed \$177,668 to the Contract with D & D Construction LA, LLC for Repairs to the Almonaster Avenue Bridge Dolphin and Fender System.

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

D. Consider Approval of a Resolution Approving the Termination of the Lease with Bollinger Algiers, L.L.C. for the Powder Street Wharf and Authorizing the President and Chief Executive Officer to Enter into an Act of Transfer to Acquire Bollinger's Assets Landside of the Powder Street Wharf.

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

E. Consider Approval of a Resolution Approving the Termination of the Land Lease with Riverside Properties, L.L.C. for 5200 Coffee Drive and Authorizing the President and Chief Executive Officer to Enter into an Act of Transfer to Acquire the Warehouse Located on this Property for \$6,600,000.

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

F. Consider Approval of a Resolution Authorizing the President and Chief Executive Officer to Enter into a Lease Agreement with The Kearney Companies, Inc. for the Property Located at 5200 Coffee Drive in New Orleans, Louisiana.

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

G. Consider Approval of a Resolution Authorizing the President and Chief Executive Officer to Enter into a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with the Downtown Development District, New Orleans & Company, Ernest N. Morial New Orleans Exhibition Hall Authority and the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development in Connection with the Calliope Corridor Beautification and Landscaping Project.

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

VI. Report of the Nominating Committee

Chairman Toomy invited Commissioner Ferrer to present the report of the Nominating Committee. Commissioner Ferrer reported that the Nominating Committee had proposed the following ballot of Board officers for consideration by the full Board: Walter J. Leger, Jr. as Chairman, James J. Carter, Jr. as Vice-Chairman and Sharonda R. Williams as Secretary-Treasurer. These officers will serve nine-month terms, effective at the conclusion of today's meetings, through December 2024.

VII. Election of Board Officers

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

VIII. Chairman and Commissioners' Comments

Chairman Toomy expressed his gratitude to his fellow commissioners and to Board staff for their assistance during his term as Chairman. He also reflected on his nine-month tenure and made some recommendations to continue to improve the Port's competitiveness.

Newly-elected Chairman Leger praised Chairman Toomy for his leadership and expressed his gratitude for his nomination.

Ms. Christian and others commissioners joined in to express their gratitude to Chairman Toomy and to congratulate newly-elected Chairman Leger.

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

- *Coastal Cargo Company, L.L.C. v. Board of Commissioners of the Port of New Orleans*, Docket No. 2023-2511, pending before the Civil District Court for the Parish of Orleans, State of Louisiana.
- *Stop the Destruction of St. Bernard, Inc., et al. v. Board of Commissioners of the Port of New Orleans and St. Bernard Port, Harbor and Terminal District*, Case No. 2023-CA-0323, pending before the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals, State of Louisiana.
- *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.
- *James G. Delery and Edward J. Delery, Jr. v. The Borgnemouth Realty Company, Ltd., et al.*, Docket No. 2023-0017, pending before the 22nd Judicial District Court for the Parish of St. Tammany, State of Louisiana.
- *Alora Madere, in her official capacity as Custodian of Records for the Board of Commissioners of the Port of New Orleans v. St. Bernard Parish Government and David C. Jarrell*, Case No. 2023-9600, pending before the Civil District Court for the Parish of Orleans, State of Louisiana.

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

Commissioner Leger moved to enter into a closed executive session and Commissioner Carter seconded. The **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY** and the Board entered into closed session at 3:44 p.m.

Following the conclusion of the discussion, Commissioner Murphy moved to end the closed executive session and return to the open meeting, Commissioner Ferrer seconded. The **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY** and the closed executive session concluded at 4:43 p.m.

X. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board, Chairman Toomy passed the gavel to newly-elected Chairman Leger who called for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Carter so moved and Commissioner Williams seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY** and Chairman Leger adjourned the meeting at 4:44 p.m.