

**THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE PORT OF NEW ORLEANS
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING
TUESDAY, MAY 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 WALTER J. LEGER, JR. AT 2:23 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Walter J. Leger, Jr., Chairman
James J. Carter, Jr., Vice-Chairman
Sharonda R. Williams, Secretary-Treasurer
Joseph F. Toomy, Member
Darryl D. Berger, Member
Todd P. Murphy, Member

MEMBER ABSENT: Jeanne E. Ferrer, Member

STAFF: B. Christian, President & Chief Executive Officer
S. Porteous, Chief of Staff
J. Escudier, Executive Counsel
A. Evett, Chief of Infrastructure
C. Gilmore, Director, Engineering
S. Granger, Director, Human Resources
Chief M. Montroll, Harbor Police Department
C. Rollins, Director, Financial Reporting & Forecasting
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
L. Williams
M. Marlin
J. Teltelbaum
K. Stradford, Orion
C. Beauchamp, NOSHIP
M. Hel, NOSHIP
E. Dunaway, NOSHIP
E. Holder, NOSHIP
C. Alex, NOSHIP
S. Gossett, NOSHIP
S. Wang, NOSHIP
N. Tingle

H. Josephs, NOSHIP
I. Apolo, NOSHIP
S. Crean
W. Fisher, NOSHIP
S. Heller, NOSHIP
K. Bleckny, NOSHIP
Z. Jernstedt
B. Smith, Pivotal
F. Allen
A. Miller
G. Kissecc, NOSHIP
A. Cairns
M. Alani

I. Roll Call & Determination of Quorum

Following a roll call of Board members, Chairman Leger confirmed a quorum and called the meeting to order at 2:23 p.m.

II. Report by the President and Chief Executive Officer

Ms. Christian announced that this was her last meeting as Board President and Chief Executive Officer and expressed her gratitude and appreciation to all commissioners and staff for their contributions and support during her tenure. Afterwards, she gave an overview of the April 2024 volumes.

III. Public Comment

Chairman Leger called for public comment and Ms. Singley announced that sixteen (16) 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.

Elizabeth Holder, Sarah Grossett, Stephanie, Alex Cicada, Nyx Tingle, Wynn Fisher, Zue Jernstedt, Stephanie Crean, Felix Allen, Katie Wyssmann, Katrina, Josh Tetelbaum, Gina Kissecc, Anna Miller, Sruly Heller, and Amelia Cairns, expressed their opposition to the war in Gaza, the Innovation Embassy, any business partnership with the Port of Ashdod or Israel, and asked that all charges against Felix Allen be dropped by the City Attorney.

At the conclusion of the public comment all speakers left the Auditorium.

IV. Approval of the Meeting Minutes for April 2024

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

V. Action Items:

A. Acceptance of the Consolidated Financial Statements for April 2024

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

B. Consider Approval of a Resolution Authorizing the President and Chief Executive Officer to Renew the Board's Workers' Compensation Insurance Policy with Louisiana Workers' Compensation Corporation ("LWCC") at an Estimated Cost of \$709,205 Based on Current Estimated Payroll Expenditures, Arranged Through Arthur J Gallagher Risk Services, Inc.

Mr. Escudier presented and recommended approval of the resolution. Chairman Leger commented on the significant decrease in claim costs over the last two fiscal years. 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 Contract with Modjeski and Masters, Inc. for Construction Management Services for the Almonaster Bridge Rehabilitation Project for a Period of Three Years in an Amount Not to Exceed \$2,500,000 for the Full Contract Term.

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

D. Consider Approval of a Resolution Awarding a Contract to Cycle Construction Company, LLC in the Amount of \$720,771 for the Inner Harbor Navigation Canal Florida Avenue Bridge Roadway and Settlement Repairs Project.

Mr. Gilmore presented and recommended approval of the resolution. Commissioner Murphy inquired about the low response on bids for this type of repair work. Commissioner Toomy moved to approve the resolution and Commissioner Murphy seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

- E. Consider Approval of a Resolution Awarding a Contract to Orion Industrial Construction, LLC in the Amount of \$5,194,316.58 for the Nashville B Substructure Repairs.**

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

- F. Consider Approval of a Resolution Authorizing the President and Chief Executive Officer to Enter into a Facilities Study Reimbursement Agreement with Entergy Louisiana, LLC in the Amount of \$1,200,000 to Conduct a Facilities Study for the Entergy Utility Needs Associated with the Louisiana International Terminal (LIT).**

Mr. Gilmore presented and recommended approval of the resolution. Commissioner Toomy moved to approve the resolution and Commissioner Murphy seconded. Commissioner Williams recused herself from voting on this item. **MOTION CARRIED BY MAJORITY**

- G. Consider Approval of a Resolution Awarding a Contract to Thrustmaster of Texas, Inc. in the Amount of \$783,105 for the Purchase and Delivery of Two Hydraulic Outboard Propulsion Units.**

Mr. Gilmore presented and recommended approval of the resolution. Chairman Leger asked for clarifications on the scope of the contract. Commissioner Williams moved to approve the resolution and Commissioner Carter seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

- H. Consider Approval of a Resolution Authorizing the President and Chief Executive Officer to Enter into a Contract with Central Services LLC to Provide Janitorial Services at the Administration Building for a Period of One Year, with Two One-Year Renewal Options, in an Amount Not to Exceed \$480,000 for the Full Contract Term.**

Mr. Gilmore presented and recommended approval of the resolution. Commissioner Carter asked for confirmation of the contractor's DBE-SBE certification status. Commissioner Murphy moved to approve the resolution and Commissioner Toomy seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

- I. Consider Approval of a Resolution Authorizing the President and Chief Executive Officer to Enter into a Two-Year Subrecipient Agreement with the City of New Orleans to Receive a Maximum Amount of \$400,000 in Connection with Leading the Transportation and Logistics Industry Sector Partnership.**

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

J. Consider Approval of a Resolution Authorizing the President and Chief Executive Officer to Enter into a Lease Agreement with the New Orleans Public Belt Railroad for the Port of New Orleans for the Property Located at 6500 Terminal Road.

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

K. Consider Approval of a Resolution Authorizing the President and Chief Executive Officer to Enter into a Lease Agreement with US Depot Services, LLC for the Property Located at 6000 Terminal Road in New Orleans, Louisiana.

Ms. Coates presented and recommended approval of the resolution. Commissioner Murphy asked for additional information on the Lessee's Investments on this site. Commissioner Murphy moved to approve the resolution and Commissioner Williams 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 a lease item to be considered at the next Board meeting.

VII. Report of the Executive Committee

Chairman Leger reported that the Executive Committee had recommended the appointment of Mr. Ronald Wendel, Jr. to be the acting President and Chief Executive Officer for the Board of Commissioners of the Port of New Orleans, upon Ms. Christian's effective date of resignation, with full authority and responsibilities unto the position.

VIII. Vote to Adopt the Recommendation of the Executive Committee Regarding the Position of Acting President and Chief Executive Officer.

Commission Carter moved to approve the recommendation of the Executive Committee regarding the appointment of Mr. Ronald Wendel, Jr. as acting President and Chief Executive Officer. Commissioner Williams seconded and **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

Mr. Wendel accepted the appointment.

IX. Chairman and Commissioners' Comments

Chairman Leger called for Commissioners' comments. Commissioners Toomy, Berger, Carter and Leger expressed their gratitude to Ms. Christian, departing President and Chief Executive Officer, for her services and exceptional leadership during her nine-year tenure.

X. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board, Chairman Leger called for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Murphy so moved and Commissioner Toomy seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY** and Chairman Leger adjourned the meeting at 3:36 p.m.