

**THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE PORT OF NEW ORLEANS
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 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 MICHAEL A. THOMAS AT 1:44 P.M.

MEMBERS

Michael A. Thomas, Chairman

PRESENT:

James J. Carter, Jr., Vice-Chairman

Sharonda R. Williams, Secretary-Treasurer

Walter J. Leger, Jr., Member

Jeanne E. Ferrer, Member

Darryl D. Berger, Member

Todd P. Murphy, Member

STAFF:

R. Wendel, Acting President & Chief Executive Officer

S. Porteous, Chief of Staff

J. Escudier, Executive Counsel

A. Evett, Chief of Infrastructure

C. Gilmore, Director, Engineering

A. Coates, Head of Business Development

Chief M. Montroll, Harbor Police Department

G. Brown, Chief of People & Culture

K. Barnes, Manager, Human Resources

S. Granger-Dukes, Director, Human Resources

A. McKnight, Manager, Human Resources

A. Perkins, Human Resources

C. Rollins, Director, Financial Reporting & Forecasting

K. Gilmore, Director, Real Estate

M. Sulser, Manager, Engineering

A. Romanov, Manager, Engineering

E. Federer, Manager, Sustainability

E. Gondek, Manager, Terminal Operations

E. LeCompte, Manager, Environmental

B. Skaggs, Manager, Environmental

S. Schexnayder, Director, Marketing & Communications

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

G. Harris, NOPB

M. Johnson, Speakeasy Farm
L. Giglio, Holy Cross Resident
J. Lavigne, Holy Cross Property Owner
R. Bourne, Holy Cross Resident
L. Edwards, Holy Cross Resident
B. Perez, Holy Cross Neighborhood Association
D. Whatley, Holy Cross Resident
A. Lane, Holy Cross Resident
A. Perez, Holy Cross Neighborhood Association
P. Calder, Holy Cross Homeowner
K. Lavigne, Holy Cross Multi-Property Owner
D. Watson, Holy Cross Multi-Property Owner
J. Wittenbrink, Holy Cross Neighborhood Association
A. Cajemé
A. Lane
P. Frisbie-Calder
J. DePriest
A. Soeder
C. Stewart, Holy Cross Resident
C. McGillivray
J. Lecoyer, Holy Cross Resident
K. Tebeest, Holy Cross Resident
B. Depp, Holy Cross Resident
C. Clement, Holy Cross Resident
Z. Halpern, Holy Cross Resident
O. Gallo, Holy Cross Resident
C. Frances-Lung
Z. Halpern
L. Harris, Bike Easy
J. Fahey, Holy Cross Resident
L. Guerra, Holy Cross Resident
G. Lavigne, Holy Cross Neighborhood Association
J. Wynne, Holy Cross Neighborhood Association
J. Wittenbrink, Holy Cross Neighborhood Association
A. Pridmore, Arabi Resident
J. Pollard, Holy Cross Resident
G. Griscom, Holy Cross Resident
B. Edwards, Holy Cross Resident
J. Ward, Holy Cross Resident
M. Turner, Resident/Arabi Worker
C. Stewart, Holy Cross Resident and Home Owner
M. Bien-Kahn, Holy Cross Resident/Business Owner
G. Kissecc, NOSHIP
S. Vasudevan, NOSHIP
S. Herch, Volker
K. Cadena, Holy Cross Resident

J. Koefer, Holy Cross Neighborhood Association
DK, NOSHIP
L. Walker
L. Ellis

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 1:44 p.m.

II. Public Comment

Chairman Thomas called for public comment and Ms. Singley announced that twenty (20) individuals had requested to make public comments on matters not listed on the agenda.

Chairman Thomas announced that those comments would be heard after the Action Items, prior to the Closed Executive Session.

III. Report by the President and Chief Executive Officer

Mr. Wendel provided an overview of the October 2024 volumes and productivity statistics as well as a summary of the month's main events.

IV. Approval of the Meeting Minutes for October 2024

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

V. Action Items:

A. Acceptance of the Consolidated Financial Statements for October 2024

Ms. Rollins presented the consolidated financial statements for the month of October, 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 President and Chief Executive Officer to Revise the Board's FMC Tariff, T-No. 2.

Mr. Gilmore presented and recommended approval of the resolution. Commissioner Ferrer asked if other ports were going to be notified of the new tariffs and Mr. Gilmore confirmed that, in addition to customers, other ports would be notified. Commissioner Leger moved to approve the resolution and Commissioner Murphy seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

C. Consider Approval of a Resolution Authorizing the President and Chief Executive Officer to Issue a Credit in the Amount of \$502,535 to the New Orleans Cold Storage and Warehouse Company, LLC from its Portion of the Cost of the Rehabilitation and Repairs Project for the Jourdan Road Wharf.

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

Commissioner Berger joined the meeting at 2:28 p.m.

VI. Appointment of the Nominating Committee

Chairman Thomas appointed commissioners Leger, Berger, and Murphy to serve as the Nominating Committee. He stated that the Nominating Committee will meet before the December regular meeting, and will provide a proposed ballot of officers to be approved by the full Board during the regular meeting. Commissioner Leger will serve as Chair of the Nominating Committee.

❖ **Public Comments**

Chairman Thomas asked to proceed with public comments. Prior to inviting the speakers to the podium, Ms. Singley read the Board's public comment parameters.

William Edwards, Gary Lavigne, Bette Perez, Anne Lane, David Whatley, A. Cajemé, Pippin Frisbie-Calder, John DePriest, Allison Soeder, Cars Stewart, Paul Calder, Carl TeBeest, Benjamin Depp, Clem Clement, Olivia Gallo, Carol Frances Lung, Zachary Halpern, Ashley Pridmore, Jennifer Ward, and Jeffrey Wittenbrink expressed their opposition to the lease agreement with Sunrise Foods International, the establishment of an organic grain terminal at the Alabo Street wharf, and the rehabilitation of the rail lines along Alabo Street.

Gina Kissek, Shreyas Vasudevan, and DK expressed their support of the residents of the Alabo Wharf 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 Carter left the meeting at 2:28 p.m.

VII. Closed Executive Session Convened in Accordance with *La. R.S. 42:17A(2)*, to Discuss the Matter Entitled "*In re: Brandon International, L.L.C.*"

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 matter.

Commissioner Leger moved to enter into a closed executive session and Commissioner Williams seconded. The **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY** and the Board entered into closed session at 2:42 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 Leger moved to end the closed executive session and Commissioner Williams seconded. The **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY** and the closed executive session concluded at 3:35 p.m.

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 Leger so moved and Commissioner Ferrer seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY** and Chairman Thomas adjourned the meeting at 3:36 p.m.