

Minutes of a meeting of the Plaquemines Parish Council, as the Sole Governing Authority of the Plaquemines Port, Harbor & Terminal District, held in the Pointe-a-la-Hache Council Chambers, 18055 Hwy. 15, Pointe-a-la-Hache, Louisiana on Thursday, April 23, 2026, at 3:20 p.m., pursuant to notice to all members with a quorum present as follows:

PRESENT: Commissioner Ronnie Newsom, Chairman  
Commissioner Brian Champagne  
Commissioner Chris Schulz  
Commissioner Stuart J. Guey  
Commissioner Patricia McCarty  
Commissioner Carlton M. LaFrance, Sr.  
Commissioner Mark Cognevich

Kim M. Toups, Council Secretary

ABSENT: Commissioner Tyrone Edwards  
Commissioner Mitch Jurisich

The Port Executive team was present representing the Port.

The following items were deferred:

- 6a(1), “An Ordinance adopting updates and amendments to Port Tariff and Security fee rates for Plaquemines Port Harbor & Terminal District (the Port) to be added to the Port’s approved Financial Policies and Procedures; and otherwise, to provide with respect thereto”;
- 6a(2), “An Ordinance to amend and to initiate the collection of the Plaquemines Parish Port, Harbor & Terminal District Harbor Fees (Supplemental Harbor Fees); and otherwise to provide with respect thereto”;
- 6c, “A Resolution authorizing the Plaquemines Parish Port, Harbor & Terminal District to enter into agreements with Enterprise FM Trust and Enterprise Fleet Management Inc. for the acquisition, maintenance, management, disposal, and financing of Port fleet vehicles, and otherwise providing with respect thereto”;
- 6d, “A Resolution directing the engagement of an independent governance and technology firm to review and advise as to governance processes and supporting technology systems; and otherwise to provide respect thereto”;
- 6g, “An Ordinance to amend the 2026 Manpower Structure and Operating Expenditure Budget; and otherwise, to provide with respect thereto”; and
- 6h, “An Ordinance authorizing Lloyd “Ronnie” Newsom, Board Chairman, to continue a Navy Business Case Analysis and amend the 2026 Five-Year Capital Improvements Budget, to appropriate funding for the integrated Phase II and III of the Project; and otherwise, to provide with respect thereto”.

Agenda Item 6b, “An Ordinance establishing the policy of the Plaquemines Port, Harbor, and Terminal District in regard to its records; and otherwise to provide with respect thereto” was withdrawn .

Commissioner Newsom moved to Agenda Item 2, “Executive Session”. Without objection, so ordered.

**RESOLUTION NO.26-162**

On motion of Commissioner Newsom, seconded by Commissioner Cognevich, and on roll call all members present and voting “YES”, except Commissioners Edwards and Jurisich who were “ABSENT”, the following Resolution was adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE PLAQUEMINES PARISH COUNCIL AS THE SOLE GOVERNING AUTHORITY OF THE PLAQUEMINES PORT, HARBOR & TERMINAL DISTRICT THAT it hereby resolves itself into Executive Session at 3:22 p.m. on the following matters: Executive Session pursuant to LA R.S. 42:17(A)(10) and in accordance with

Louisiana Attorney General Opinion No. 18-0144, the Commission shall receive attorney-client privileged communications from its legal counsel as provided for by Louisiana Code of Evidence Article 506(B) and pursuant to LA R.S. 42:17(A)(1) to discuss personnel matters

and Executive Session pursuant to LRS 42:16(A)(1) to discuss the character and professional competence of the Chief Operating Officer applicants

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE PLAQUEMINES PARISH COUNCIL THAT it hereby came out of Executive Session at 3:53 p.m. with no final or binding action taken.

Commissioner Edwards joined the meeting at 3:54 p.m.

Commissioner Newsom moved to Agenda Item 3, “Status by the Executive Port Staff”. Without objection, so ordered.

There were no matters to address under Agenda Item 4, “Bids and Advertisements”; therefore, Commissioner Newsom moved to Agenda Item 5, “Introduction of Ordinances and Resolutions”. Without objection, so ordered.

1. An Ordinance establishing the policy of the Plaquemines Port, Harbor, and Terminal District in regard to its records; and otherwise to provide with respect thereto.  
COMMISSIONER MCCARTY

Commissioner Newsom moved to Agenda Item 6, “Ordinances and Resolutions on Second Final Passage. Without objection, so ordered.

### ORDINANCE NO. 26-58

The following Ordinance was offered by Commissioner Newsom who moved its adoption:

An Ordinance approving Amendment No. 2 to the Cooperative Endeavor Agreement among Jefferson Parish, City of Gretna, and Plaquemines Port, Harbor & Terminal District regarding pre-application activities needed to solicit federal funding for the Westbank Rail Realignment project; and further providing for approval of said amendment by the Plaquemines Parish Council as the governing authority of the Plaquemines Port, Harbor & Terminal District; and otherwise to provide with respect thereto.

DIGEST: This ordinance approves Amendment No. 2 to the Cooperative Endeavor Agreement entered into by Jefferson Parish (PARISH), City of Gretna (CITY), and Plaquemines Port, Harbor & Terminal District (PPHTD) for pre-application activities related to securing federal funding for the West Bank Rail Realignment Project. Amendment No. 2 increases the total maximum funding by \$2,097,775, raising the overall cap from \$4,000,000 to \$6,097,775, to address existing obligations and additional required services. The amendment increases the maximum financial participation of both Jefferson Parish and PPHTD to \$2,286,665 each and increases the City of Gretna’s maximum contribution to \$1,524,445, consistent with the previously approved cost-sharing percentages. This ordinance seeks and authorizes approval of Amendment No. 2 by the Plaquemines Parish Council acting as the governing authority of PPHTD and authorizes execution of all necessary documents to implement the amendment. *The digest is for informational purposes only and is superseded by the language of the actual Ordinance.*

WHEREAS, Jefferson Parish Council Resolution No. 142463, adopted on August 9, 2023, approved the Cooperative Endeavor Agreement among Parish of Jefferson, City of Gretna, and Plaquemines Port, Harbor & Terminal District regarding pre-application activities needed to solicit federal funding for a West Bank rail realignment project; and

WHEREAS, on September 29, 2023, the PARISH, CITY, and PPHTD entered into the Cooperative Endeavor Agreement; and

WHEREAS, Amendment No. 1 to the Cooperative Endeavor Agreement, authorized by Jefferson Parish Council Resolution No. 143992 dated March 27, 2024, increased the total maximum funding provided by the parties to \$4,000,000 and increased the Parish of Jefferson’s maximum cost to \$1,500,000; and

WHEREAS, the maximum expenditures payable by PARISH and PPHTD must be increased by \$786,665 from \$1,500,000 to \$2,286,665 each and the maximum expenditures payable by CITY are increased by \$524,445 from \$1,000,000 to \$1,524,445; and

WHEREAS, current and proposed obligations require an increase in total maximum funding by \$2,097,775, resulting in a revised total maximum funding amount of \$6,097,775; and

WHEREAS, Amendment No. 2 increases the maximum expenditures payable by the Parish of Jefferson and the Plaquemines Port, Harbor & Terminal District to \$2,286,665 each, and increases the City of Gretna’s maximum expenditures to \$1,524,445;

NOW, THEREFORE:

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE PLAQUEMINES PARISH COUNCIL AS THE SOLE GOVERNING AUTHORITY OF THE PLAQUEMINES PORT HARBOR AND TERMINAL DISTRICT THAT:

### SECTION 1

It hereby authorizes Amendment No. 2 to the Cooperative Endeavor Agreement between the Parish of Jefferson, City of Gretna, and Plaquemines Port, Harbor & Terminal District is hereby approved.

### SECTION 2

The Plaquemines Port, Harbor & Terminal Fund, 2026 budget, is amended by appropriating \$147,716.00 from the Port’s Unrestricted Fund Balance as follows:

<b>Fund:</b> 445- Port, Harbor & Terminal District			
<b>Department:</b> 910 Capital Projects			
<b>Division:</b> 9021 Rail Rerouting Plan Jefferson/Gretna Project			
Object	Description	Inc/Dec	Amendment
532.601	Professional Services – Planning & Engineering	Inc	\$786,665

### SECTION 3

The Secretary of this Council is hereby authorized and directed to immediately certify and release this Ordinance and that Port employees and officials are authorized to carry out the purposes of this Ordinance, both without further reading and approval by the Plaquemines Parish Council.

Commissioner Cognevich seconded the motion to adopt the Ordinance.

The foregoing Ordinance having been submitted to a vote, the vote resulted as follows:

YEAS: Commissioners Tyronne Edwards, Brian Champagne, Chris Schulz, Stuart J. Guey, Patricia L. McCarty, Ronnie Newsom, Carlton M. LaFrance, Sr., and Mark Cognevich

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Commissioner Mitch Jurisich

PRESENT BUT NOT VOTING: None

And the Ordinance was adopted on this the 23<sup>rd</sup> day of April 2026.

### RESOLUTION NO. 26-163

On Motion of Commissioner Edwards, seconded by Commissioner Cognevich, and on roll call, all members present voting “YES”, except Commissioners Champagne, Guey, and Newsom voting “NO”. the Resolution FAILED.

A Resolution authorizing the offer of appointment of Steven Batiste as the Chief Operating Officer of the Plaquemines Port, Harbor & Terminal District; and otherwise to provide with respect thereto.

WHEREAS, Ordinance No. 25-221, adopted on December 11, 2025, created and funded a full-time unclassified Chief Operating Officer position within the Port, Harbor & Terminal District; and

WHEREAS, the Council, as the sole governing authority of the Plaquemines Port, Harbor & Terminal District, has determined that filling this position is necessary to advance the development and operational efficiency of the Port; and

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the Council to appoint a qualified individual to serve as Chief Operating Officer.

NOW, THEREFORE:

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE PLAQUEMINES PARISH COUNCIL, AS THE SOLE GOVERNING AUTHORITY OF THE PLAQUEMINES PORT, HARBOR & TERMINAL DISTRICT, THAT Steven Baptiste is hereby tendered a conditional offer of appointment to the position of Chief Operating Officer of the Plaquemines Parish Port, Harbor & Terminal District.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE PLAQUEMINES PARISH COUNCIL, AS THE SOLE GOVERNING AUTHORITY OF THE PLAQUEMINES PORT, HARBOR & TERMINAL DISTRICT, THAT the Secretary of this Council is hereby authorized and directed to immediately certify and release this Resolution and that Parish employees and officials are authorized to carry out the purposes of this Resolution, both without further reading and approval by the Plaquemines Parish Council.

There were no matters to address under Agenda Item 7, “Resolutions Wherein Suspension is Being Sought”; therefore Commissioner Newsom moved to Agenda Item 8, “Approval of the Minutes”. Without objection, so ordered.

#### RESOLUTION NO. 26-164

On motion of Commissioner Cognevich, seconded by Commissioner LaFrance, and on roll call all members present and voting “YES”, except Commissioner Jurisich who was “ABSENT”, the following Resolution was adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE PLAQUEMINES PARISH COUNCIL AS THE SOLE GOVERNING AUTHORITY OF THE PLAQUEMINES PORT, HARBOR & TERMINAL DISTRICT THAT it hereby approves the minutes from the April 9, 2026, regular and special meeting.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE PLAQUEMINES PARISH COUNCIL AS THE SOLE GOVERNING AUTHORITY OF THE PLAQUEMINES PORT, HARBOR & TERMINAL DISTRICT THAT the Secretary of this Council is hereby authorized and directed to immediately certify and release this Resolution and that Parish employees and officials are authorized to carry out the purposes of this Resolution.

There being no further business to come before this Council, on motion Commissioner Schulz, seconded by Commissioner LaFrance, and on roll call all members present voting “YES”, except Commissioner Edwards who voted “NO”, and Commissioner Jurisich who was “ABSENT”, the meeting adjourned at 4:36 pm.

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Chairman

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Secretary

For a full transcript of discussions and presentations a video of this meeting is available for viewing on the Parish website [www.plaqueminesparish.com](http://www.plaqueminesparish.com) or on YouTube.