

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, March 26, 2026, at 3:02 p.m., pursuant to notice to all members with a quorum present as follows:

PRESENT: Commissioner Ronnie Newsom, Chairman
Commissioner Tyronne Edwards
Commissioner Brian Champagne
Commissioner Chris Schulz
Commissioner Patricia McCarty
Commissioner Carlton M. LaFrance, Sr.
Commissioner Mitch Jurisich
Commissioner Mark Cognevich

Kim M. Toups, Council Secretary

ABSENT: Commissioner Stuart J. Guey

The Port Executive team was present representing the Port.

The following items were deferred:

- 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 offered for discussion, a discussion was held and then the matter was deferred; and
- Agenda Item 6d, “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” was discussed and then deferred.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 26-131

On motion of Commissioner Edwards, seconded by Commissioner Schulz, and on roll call all members present and voting “YES”, except Commissioners Edwards and Guey 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 3:03 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.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE PLAQUEMINES PARISH COUNCIL THAT it hereby came out of Executive Session at 3:10 p.m. with no final or binding action taken.

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

The Navy Business Case Analysis for the NAS JRB New Orleans Military-Civil Dual Use Airport report was provided to the Commissioners.

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. 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. COMMISSIONER MCCARTY
2. An Ordinance to authorize the Plaquemines Port, Harbor & Terminal District to award a contract for the electrical barge upgrades of the PALH Ferry Landing and to amend the 2026 Plaquemines Port, Harbor and Terminal District Capital Improvement Budget, and otherwise to provide respect thereto. COMMISSIONER LAFRANCE
3. An Ordinance authorizing the Plaquemines Port, Harbor and Terminal District (“the Port”), to issue Task Order #___ to MiNO Marine, LLC for design services in regards to developing a bid package of the Westbank Belle Chasse Ferry Landing Barges and the Eastbank Scarsdale Ferry Landing Barges; and otherwise to provide with respect thereto. COMMISSIONER NEWSOM
4. An Ordinance authorizing Chairman of the Board, Lloyd Newsom, of the Plaquemines Port, Harbor & Terminal District to execute a one-year extension for professional services with EVALV IT to secure Information Technology (IT) services for the Port; and otherwise to provide with respect thereto. COMMISSIONER NEWSOM
5. 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. COMMISSIONER NEWSOM
6. A Resolution authorizing the Plaquemines Port, Harbor & Terminal District, to enter into an entity/state agreement with LA DOTD; for the M/V Pointe a la Hache (“M/V PALH”) Drydock Project and to authorize execution of all related documents and otherwise to provide with respect thereto. COMMISSIONER NEWSOM
7. 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. COMMISSIONER NEWSOM
8. A Resolution adopting amendments to the Administration Policies and Procedures for Plaquemines Port Harbor & Terminal District (the Port); and otherwise to provide with respect thereto. COMMISSIONER NEWSOM

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

ORDINANCE NO. 26-43

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

An Ordinance authorizing Plaquemines Port Harbor and Terminal District, to amend Task Order No. 6 for Infinity Engineering to create Task Order 6a to approve additional scope requirements for additional engineering and design services for LGP Rail Extension project and to amend the Five-Year Capital Improvements Plan 11 Mile Rail-CAD/Surveys Project; and otherwise to provide with respect thereto.

DIGEST: Plaquemines Port Harbor and Terminal District is indebted to Infinity Engineering for providing additional engineering and design services under Task Order No. 6 as the LGP Rail Extension Project, as the previous Executive Director had authorized work within his threshold but never amended the budget for the additional cost. *The digest is for informational purposes only and is superseded by the language of the actual ordinance or resolution.*

WHEREAS, The Plaquemines Parish Council, as the sole governing authority of Plaquemines Port, Harbor & Terminal District, consents to transferring the 11-Mile Rail Extension tasking under the existing Professional Services Agreement with Infinity Engineering solely under a Task Order with a \$1.2 Million change order cost; and

WHEREAS, amending the Plaquemines Port, Harbor, and Terminal District 2026 Five-Year Capital Improvements Plan by appropriating \$97,500 to the 11 Mile Rail-CAD/Surveys Project is requested;

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

The Five-Year Capital Improvements plan is amended by appropriating \$97,500 to the 11 Mile Rail-CAD/Surveys Project from the Plaquemines Port, Harbor and Terminal District, Unrestricted Fund Balance; funding year 2026.

SECTION 2

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

Commissioner Champagne 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, Patricia L. McCarty, Ronnie Newsom, Carlton M. LaFrance, Sr., Mitch Jurisich and Mark Cognevich

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Commissioner Stuart J. Guey

PRESENT BUT NOT VOTING: None

And the Ordinance was adopted on this the 26th day of March

RESOLUTION NO. 26-132

On motion of Commissioner Newsom, seconded by Commissioner Schulz, and on roll call all members present and voting "YES", except Commissioner Guey who were "ABSENT", the following Resolution was adopted:

A Resolution adopting revisions to the Operations Policies and Procedures for Plaquemines Port, Harbor & Terminal District (the Port) regarding Service Animals; and otherwise to provide with respect thereto.

Digest: The revised Service Animal Policy comprehensively updates the Ferry Service's procedures to ensure full compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Title II, 28 CFR Part 35, 49 CFR Part 39 governing Passenger Vessel Operators, and Federal Transit Administration Civil Rights requirements. The amendments clarify statutory authority; adopt the ADA-compliant definition of a service animal; incorporate required miniature horse accommodation standards; expand vessel-specific access provisions; formalize permissible inquiry limitations; strengthen direct threat and removal criteria; preserve legitimate vessel safety authority; and establish enhanced staff training and record retention protocols. These revisions

strengthen legal defensibility, reduce regulatory and audit risk, and formalize operational guidance without materially altering day-to-day ferry operations. *The digest is for informational purposes only and is superseded by the language of the actual ordinance or resolution.*

WHEREAS the Port's Policies and Procedures updates adopted by the Port Commission under resolution 25-339; and WHEREAS, adding to Operations policies a newly defined Service Animal Policy and a newly defined Public Comment Policy as required by the Federal Transit Administration;

NOW, THEREFORE:

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE PLAQUEMINES PARISH COUNCIL AS THE SOLE GOVERNING AUTHORITY OF THE PLAQUEMINES PORT, HARBOR & TERMINAL DISTRICT THAT hereby establishes the updates and additions to the Operating Policies of the Port.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE PLAQUEMINES PARISH COUNCIL AS THE SOLE GOVERNING AUTHORITY OF THE PLAQUEMINES PORT, HARBOR & TERMINAL DISTRICT THAT it does hereby authorize the Executive Director of the Plaquemines Port Harbor & Terminal District to amend and update the attached policies as may be needed keeping within the laws of the State of Louisiana.

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 Port 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. 26-133

On motion of Commissioner LaFrance, seconded by Commissioner Cognevich, and on roll call all members present and voting "YES", except Commissioner Guey 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 March 12, 2026, regular 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 McCarty, and on roll call all members present voting "YES", Commissioner Edwards who voted "NO", and Commissioner Guey who was "ABSENT", the meeting adjourned at 4:33 pm.

Chairman

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 or on YouTube.