

Minutes of a meeting of the Plaquemines Parish Council, as the Sole Governing Authority of the Plaquemines Port, Harbor & Terminal District, held in Belle Chasse Council Chambers, 333 F. Edward Hebert Blvd., Bldg. 203, Belle Chasse, Louisiana on Thursday, May 14, 2026, at 3:57 p.m. pursuant to notice to all members with a quorum present as follows:

PRESENT: Commissioner Ronnie Newsom, Chairman
Commissioner Tyrone Edwards
Commissioner Brian Champagne
Commissioner Stuart Guey
Commissioner Patricia L. McCarty
Commissioner Carlton M. LaFrance, Sr.
Commissioner Mitch Jurisich

Kim M. Toups, Council Secretary

ABSENT: Commissioner Chris Schulz
Commissioner Mark Cognevich

The Port Executive Staff were present.

The following items were deferred:

- 9b, “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” fell off of the agenda.
- 9c, “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”;
- 9e, “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”;
- 9f “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”.

The following items were withdrawn:

- 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” and
- 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”.

Commissioner Newsom moved to Agenda Item 3, “Status Report”. Without objection, so ordered.

Port Marine Operations:

--Port Ferries:

In Service-Port Sulphur and Pointe a-la-Hache

-- MV Belle Chasse II

The Vessel is tracking to be complete at the end of this month

Changes had to be made inside the vessel due to the wrong doors installed in the Vessel, and the paint needed to be redone due to a metal slag messing up the paint

--MV Port Authority II

The Vessel is at LCAT, Fire Inspector concluded his assessment and concluded it was a fuel line that was not properly secured

--New Build Ferry(Diesel Electric

Anticipated to go out for bid June 2026

See rendering of final design

Port Marine Landing Projects:

--PALH Ferry Landing Replacement

Project is progressing
Estimated Construction 12/28

--Belle Chasse/Scarsdale Landing

Geotech Data received via FOIA request
Permit drawings anticipated in 2 weeks
Permit anticipated to take 6 months
Naval architect preparing design basis for barges
Engineering & Bid anticipated 7 months
Construction anticipated 9 months

--Belle Chasse Security Dock

Project is progressing
Engineers & Naval architect addressing General Arrangement markups provided by Port
FTA Grant & Port Security Grant

Critical Infrastructure Projects

--LGP Rail Extension Project

Communicating with stake holders
Commission to decide next steps

--Peters Road Rail Bypass

Amendment to CEA Signed and Sent
Waiting on project kick off

--Peters Road Vehicle Bridge

Project is progressing
Box Culverts anticipated by July 2026
Public Meeting May 21st Belle Chasse Auditorium 5:30-7:30

--Water Booster Station & Feedlines

Project is progressing
Anticipated completion end of July 2026
Coordination with PPG & Inframark

There being no matters to address under Agenda Item 4, "Bids and Advertisements", Commissioner Newsom moved to Agenda Item 5, "Introduction of Ordinances and Resolutions". Without objection, so ordered.

- 1) A Resolution authorizing the Chairman of the Board, Lloyd Newsom, to execute a contract with Mercury Public Affairs for professional lobbying and governmental relations services. The contract shall authorize Mercury Public Affairs to represent the Port in matters relating to federal legislative and administrative affairs, including but not limited to matters before the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, as well as State of Louisiana legislative and administrative matters, as well as other matters identified by the Port as relevant or of concern. The contract shall further provide for the delivery of oral and written updates and such other related services as may be necessary in connection therewith. COMMISSIONER GUEY

Digest: To protect and advance the Port's legislative and governmental affairs interests, the Port seeks to retain Mercury Public Affairs under contract for related services. *The digest is for informational purposes only and is superseded by the language of the actual ordinance or resolution.*

- 2) A Resolution authorizing and directing the Port Chairman to reclassify Diesel Mechanics employed by Plaquemines Port, Harbor & Terminal District ("the Port") from Civil Service 2080-hour employees to Civil Service 2184-hour employees; and otherwise to provide with respect thereto. COMMISSIONER NEWSOM

DIGEST: A Resolution requesting the Civil Service employee reclassification of two (2) Diesel Mechanics from 2080 classification to 2184 classification to improve Port operations. *The digest is for informational purposes only and is superseded by the language of the actual ordinance or resolution.*

Commissioner Newsom moved to Agenda Item 6, "Ordinances and Resolutions on second reading and final passage. Without objection, so ordered.

ORDINANCE NO. 26-68

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

An Ordinance to amend the 2026 Manpower Structure and Operating Expenditure Budget; and otherwise, to provide with respect thereto.

DIGEST: An Ordinance to amend the Port, Harbor, and Terminal District (Port) 2026 Manpower Structure and Operating Expenditure Budget to create a Director of Information Technology position by appropriating \$165,940 to fund the said position salary and benefits. The funding source is the unrestricted fund balance.

WHEREAS, after a review of the manpower needs of the Port, it has been recommended to create and fund a full-time unclassified Director of Information Technology position at an annual salary of \$120,000 plus benefits; or monthly salary of \$10,000 plus benefits and

WHEREAS, empowered by L.A. R.S.34:1352.....”the Plaquemines Port, Harbor, and Terminal District.... may contract with and employ attorneys, clerks, engineers, superintendents, and such other employees and agents and fix their compensation and term of employment as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of their authority.”; and

WHEREAS, the Civil Service Commission approved the creation of the unclassified Director of Information Technology in its March 25,2026 meeting;

WHEREAS, the Council as the sole governing authority of the Port has determined that to carry out the purposes of advancing Port operations and technical capacity to support port expansion in Plaquemines Parish, it is necessary to create the position of Director of Information Technology and to hire a full-time employee to fill that position;

NOW, THEREFORE:

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

SECTION 1

The 2026 Port, Harbor, and Terminal District Manpower Structure, is amended by creating and funding a full-time unclassified Director of Information Technology position at an annual salary of \$120,000 plus benefits in the General Operations Division.

SECTION 2

The 2026 Port, Harbor, and Terminal District, Operating Expenditure Budget, General Operations Division is amended by appropriating 7 months’ salary and benefits \$109,715 from the Unrestricted Fund Balance as follows:

Fund: 445 Port Harbor Fund			
Dept/Div: 490-2460 General Operations Division			
Object	Description	Inc/ Dec	Amendment
510.005	Salaries & Wages Regular	Inc	70,000
515.005	P/R Taxes-FICA Taxes	Inc	1,015
516.105	Retirement-PERS	Inc	7,700
517.005	Group Insurance-Health	Inc	31,000

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 Guey 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, Stuart J. Guey Patricia L. McCarty, Ronnie Newsom, Carlton M. LaFrance, Sr., and Mitch Jurisich

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Commissioners Chris Schulz and Mark Cognevich

PRESENT BUT NOT VOTING: None

And the Ordinance was adopted on the 14th day of May, 2026.

Commissioner Newsom moved to Agenda Item 7, “New Business”. Without objection, so ordered.

MOTION TO SUSPEND THE RULES

On Motion of Commissioner Newsom, seconded by Commissioner Edwards and on roll call, all members present voting “YES”, except Commissioners Schulz and Cognevich who were “ABSENT”, the following resolution was offered for suspension by a vote of 7-0.

RESOLUTION NO. 26-183

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

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

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 Financial Officer.

NOW, THEREFORE:

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE PLAQUEMINES PARISH COUNCIL, AS THE SOLE GOVERNING AUTHORITY OF THE PLAQUEMINES PORT, HARBOR & TERMINAL DISTRICT, THAT Chambrel Riley is hereby tendered a conditional offer of appointment to the position of Chief Financial 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.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 26-184

On motion of Commissioner Newsom, seconded by Commissioner Edwards, and on roll call all members present and voting “YES”, except Commissioners Schulz and Cognevich 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 4:15 p.m. on the following matters: Executive Session pursuant to LA R.S. 42:16(A)(1) to discuss the character and professional competence of the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) applicants.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE PLAQUEMINES PARISH COUNCIL THAT it hereby came out of Executive Session at 4:39 p.m. with no final or binding action taken

Commissioner Newsom moved to Agenda Item 7 “New Business”. Without Objection, so ordered.

MOTION TO SUSPEND THE RULES TO ADD AN ITEM TO TODAY’S AGENDA

On Motion of Commissioner Newsom, seconded by Commissioner Jurisich, and on roll call, all members present and voting “YES”, the Motion to Suspend the Rules was adopted by a vote of 7-0 with Commissioner Schulz and Cognevich being “ABSENT”

MOTION TO SET SALARY FOR THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

On Motion of Commissioner Newsom, seconded by Commissioner Jurisich, a Motion to set the salary for the Chief Executive Officer for \$250,000 to \$300,000 plus benefits was adopted by a vote of 7-0 with Commissioners Schulz and Cognevich being “ABSENT”.

Commissioner Newsom moved to Agenda Item 8, “Approval of the Minutes from the April 23, 2026 Regular Meeting and the April 30, 2026 Special Meeting”. Without objection, so ordered.

R E S O L U T I O N N O. 26-185

On motion of Commissioner LaFrance, seconded by Commissioner Jurisich, and on roll call all members present and voting “YES”, except Commissioners Schulz and Cognevich 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 approves the minutes from the April 23, 2026, regular meeting and April 30, 2026 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 of Commissioner Jurisich, seconded by Commissioner McCarty, and on roll call all members present voting “YES”, except Commissioner Edwards who voted “NO” and Commissioners Schulz and Cognevich who were “ABSENT”, the meeting adjourned 4:44 p.m.

Chairman

Council 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.