

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, June 11, 2026, at 5:14 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 Stuart Guey
Commissioner Patricia L. McCarty
Commissioner Mitch Jurisich
Commissioner Mark Cognevich

Kim M. Toups, Council Secretary

ABSENT: Commissioner Carlton M. LaFrance, Sr.

The Port Executive Staff were present.

The following items were deferred:

- Agenda Item 6b, “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, was deferred for the fourth time and fell off the agenda;
- Agenda Item 6c, “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”;
- Agenda Item 6d, “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; and
- 6e, “A Resolution authorizing the offer of appointment of _____ as the Executive Director of the Plaquemines Port, Harbor & Terminal District; and otherwise to provide with respect thereto.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 26-207

On motion of Commissioner Newsom, seconded by Commissioner Cognevich, and on roll call all members present and voting “YES”, except Commissioners LaFrance 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 resolves itself into Executive Session at 5:16 p.m. on the following matter: Executive Session pursuant to LA R.S. 42:17(A)(11) and 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)(4) to discuss personnel matters.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE PLAQUEMINES PARISH COUNCIL THAT it hereby came out of Executive Session at 5:40 p.m. with no final or binding action taken.

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

Port Marine Operations:

- **Port Ferries**
 - M/V Pride is out of service at Belle Chasse due to mechanical issues.
 - M/V PALH is running an extended schedule from 5am to 10:30pm
- **MV Belle Chasse II**
 - Vessel is almost complete; it will begin taking on fuel and other components to be able to return to service.
- **MV Port Authority II**
 - Vessel is at LACAT, notices were sent to LA Cat and CAT Inc. as the fuel line in question is proprietary CAT Inc. equipment. LACAT legal team meeting is contemplated to review issues.
- **New Build Ferry (Diesel Electric) \$26.5 M**
 - Anticipated to go out to bid July 2026
 - See rendering of final design

Port Marine Landing Projects:

PALH Landing Replacement \$18.6 M Grant

Project is progressing

Estimated Construction 12/2028

Belle Chasse/Scarsdale Landing

Replacement Barges

Design has just begun and anticipated to take 7 months. Construction and placement is anticipated to take 9 months.

Revitalization/Repairs

Permit drawings underway (2 weeks). Permit process to take 6 months. Anticipated construction cost \$2 Million

Belle Chasse Security Dock

Has to be looked at as 2 separate projects for funding.

FTA Funding for barge purchase.

Port Security for Barge Dock Support.

Port has supplied markups to the General Arrangement drawing and Design Basis.

Waiting feedback.

Peters Road Rail Bypass

Amendment to CEA signed and sent to CSRS (Matthew Martinec).

CSRS has recently been bought out by Woodward. HDR is handling the actual design.

Looking at a full realignment of Peters Rd. (service road, rail, two lane hwy).

Main push for this project is to get the rail out of downtown Gretna.

Peters Road Vehicle Bridge

DOTD has taken lead on this project with Kurt Brauner being the overall PM.

Box Culverts is scheduled to go to bid July 2026.

Project is progressing with preliminary design and detailed design to follow.

Port, PPG, and BKI have continued collaboration and good working relationship.

Water Booster Station & Feedlines

Collaboration between PPG Engineers and Inframark throughout project.

Fleming is contractor for this final phase.

Project is wrapping up and should be complete July 2026.

DOTD will have to do a walkthrough for Port Priority once project is complete.

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. An Ordinance related to the work hour schedule for classified and unclassified employees of the Plaquemines Port Harbor & Terminal District ("Port"); and otherwise to provide with respect thereto. COMMISSIONER COGNEVICH

DIGEST: To prohibit Port employees from working from home, except as otherwise provided. The digest is for informational purposes only and is superseded by the language of the actual ordinance or resolution.

2. An Ordinance to amend the Plaquemines Port, Harbor and Terminal District 2026 Manpower Structure to fund the vacant full-time Ferry Security Captain classified position, and otherwise, to provide with respect thereto.
COMMISSIONER NEWSOM

DIGEST: An ordinance to amend the 2026 Manpower Structure by funding the vacant Ferry Security Captain position in the General Operations Division by appropriating \$106,454 to fund the said position. The funding source is the unrestricted fund balance. *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.

RESOLUTION NO. 26-208

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

A Resolution approving and authorizing Lloyd “Ronnie” Newsom, Port Chairman; and Chambrel Riley, Chief Financial Officer; to execute a Louisiana Compliance Questionnaire to Camnetar and Company, CPA’s; and other wise to provide with respect thereto.

WHEREAS, in connection with the audit of financial statements as of December 31, 2025, the Office of the Legislative Auditor of the state of Louisiana has requested Plaquemines Port Harbor & Terminal District complete and adopt a Louisiana Compliance Questionnaire; and

WHEREAS, the Port Administration has assured the Parish Council as the governing authority of the Plaquemines Port, Harbor & Terminal District that the Louisiana Compliance Questionnaire has been completed in accordance with law and that all answers are true and correct to the best of its belief and knowledge;

NOW, THEREFORE:

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE PLAQUEMINES PARISH COUNCIL AS THE SOLE GOVERNING AUTHORITY OF THE PLAQUEMINES PORT, HARBOR & TERMINAL DISTRICT that it hereby approves and authorizes Lloyd “Ronnie” Newsom, Port Chairman; and Chambrel Riley, Chief Financial Officer; to execute a Louisiana Compliance Questionnaire to Camnetar & Co., CPA’s, in connection with the audit of financial statements as of December 31, 2025, and for the year then ended.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE PLAQUEMINES PARISH COUNCIL AS THE SOLE GOVERNING AUTHORITY OF THE PLAQUEMINES PORT, HARBOR & TERMINAL DISTRICT 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.

RESOLUTION NO. 26-209

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

A Resolution approving and authorizing Lloyd “Ronnie” Newsom., Port Chairman; and Chambrel Riley, Chief Financial Officer; to request an extension for completion of the Financial and Single Audit Report for the year ended December 31, 2025 on behalf of the Plaquemines Port, Harbor & Terminal District; and other wise to provide with respect thereto.

WHEREAS, the Port Administration is currently in a state of transition due to the recent resignation of several key members of staff, including the Chief Financial Officer, additional time is needed to reorient and gather the necessary materials to complete the necessary reporting; and

WHEREAS, the Port Administration has assured the Parish Council as the governing authority of the Plaquemines Port, Harbor & Terminal District that, despite significant losses in personnel, the Financial and Single Audit Report shall be completed in accordance with law and that all answers shall be true and correct to the best of its belief and knowledge;

NOW, THEREFORE:

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE PLAQUEMINES PARISH COUNCIL AS THE SOLE GOVERNING AUTHORITY OF THE PLAQUEMINES PORT, HARBOR & TERMINAL DISTRICT that it hereby approves and authorizes Lloyd “Ronnie” Newsom., Port Chairman; and Chambrel Riley, Chief Financial Officer to request an extension for completion of the Financial and Single Audit Report for the year ended December 31, 2025 on behalf of the Plaquemines 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 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.

RESOLUTION NO. 26-210

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

A Resolution authorizing Port Chairman, Commissioner Newsom for and on behalf of the Plaquemines Port, Harbor & Terminal District (“the Port”) to name and accept the proposal of the Plaquemines Gazette, as the Official Journal for the Plaquemines Parish Council/Commission, as the sole governing authority of the Plaquemines Port, Harbor & Terminal District; and otherwise to provide with respect thereto.

DIGEST: The Port must name an Official Journal as a matter of procedure each year. The Plaquemines Gazette is the only newspaper in our jurisdiction that meets these requirements. *This digest is for informational purposes only and is superseded by the language of the actual ordinance or resolution.*

WHEREAS, the Plaquemines Gazette is the only newspaper that meets the qualifications outlined in Louisiana Revised Statute §43:142; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana Revised Statute §43:147 limits the rate of compensation of the newspaper for printing the Official Journal; and

WHEREAS, *The Plaquemines Gazette* has submitted a proposal to be selected as the official journal for the Plaquemines Port Harbor and Terminal District for a period of one year beginning June 1, 2026, and ending May 31, 2027;

NOW, THEREFORE:

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE PLAQUEMINES PARISH COUNCIL AS THE SOLE GOVERNING AUTHORITY OF THE PLAQUEMINES PARISH LOUISIANA GATEWAY PORT THAT it hereby selects Plaquemines Gazette as the Official Journal of the Plaquemines Port, Harbor & Terminal District.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE PLAQUEMINES PARISH COUNCIL AS THE SOLE GOVERNING AUTHORITY OF THE PLAQUEMINES PARISH LOUISIANA GATEWAY

PORT THAT is hereby authorized and directed to accept Plaquemines Newspaper Publishing, Inc. publishers of The Plaquemines Gazette as the Official Journal of the Plaquemines Port, Harbor & Terminal District, which is on file with the Secretary of the Council and under such other terms and conditions as he deems to be in the best interest of the Plaquemines Port, Harbor & Terminal District.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE PLAQUEMINES PARISH COUNCIL AS THE SOLE GOVERNING AUTHORITY OF THE PLAQUEMINES PARISH LOUISIANA GATEWAY PORT 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.

RESOLUTION NO. 26-211

On Motion of Commissioner Edwards, seconded by Commissioner Jurisich, and on roll call, all members present voting “YES”, except Commissioner Guey who voted “NO”, Commissioner Cognevich who “ABSTAINED” and Commissioner LaFrance who was “ABSENT”, the following Resolution was adopted:

A Resolution terminating the employment of Jacob Lee, Chief Legal Officer, Plaquemines Port, Harbor, and Terminal District; and otherwise to provide with respect thereto.

WHEREAS, Jacob Lee currently serves in the at-will and unclassified position of Chief Legal Officer, Plaquemines Port, Harbor, and Terminal District; and

WHEREAS, in response to multiple claims pertaining to work-related complaints as to multiple current and former employees of the Plaquemines Port, Harbor, and Terminal District an investigation was conducted; and

WHEREAS, the investigation revealed, in part, instances of inappropriate comments made in the workplace, attributed to and admitted by Mr. Lee; and

WHEREAS, the Plaquemines Parish Council, as the governing authority of the Plaquemines Port, Harbor, and Terminal District has determined that it is in the best interests of the Plaquemines Port, Harbor, and Terminal District that Jacob Lee be terminated, from his position as Chief Legal Officer with the Plaquemines Port, Harbor, and Terminal District;

NOW, THEREFORE:

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE PLAQUEMINES PARISH COUNCIL AS THE SOLE GOVERNING AUTHORITY OF THE PLAQUEMINES PORT, HARBOR AND TERMINAL DISTRICT THAT the employment of Jacob Lee, as Chief Legal Officer of the Plaquemines Port, Harbor, and Terminal District be and is hereby terminated effective 11:59 pm June 15, 2026.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE PLAQUEMINES PARISH COUNCIL AS THE SOLE GOVERNING AUTHORITY OF THE PLAQUEMINES PORT, HARBOR AND TERMINAL DISTRICT THAT the Secretary of this Council is hereby authorized and directed to immediately certify and release this Resolution providing a copy thereof to each member of the Council, to Mr. Lee, and to the appropriate human resource officer of the Plaquemines Port, Harbor, and Terminal District to be included in Mr. Lee’s personnel file.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE PLAQUEMINES PARISH COUNCIL AS THE SOLE GOVERNING AUTHORITY OF THE PLAQUEMINES PORT, HARBOR AND TERMINAL DISTRICT THAT the proper administrative staff of the Plaquemines Port, Harbor, and Terminal District take such actions necessary to effectuate such termination including but not limited to issuing payment to Mr. Lee of any accrued unused leave, in accordance with the policy of the Plaquemines Port, Harbor, and Terminal District, obtain from Mr. Lee any keys, key cards, or other property of the Plaquemines Port, Harbor, and Terminal District, and secure the email account and other IT access that had been issued to Mr. Lee.

There were no matters to address under Agenda item 7, “New Business”; therefore, Commissioner Newsom moved to Agenda Item 8, “Approval of the Minutes from the May 28, 2026 Regular Meeting and the June 3, 2026 Special Meeting”. Without objection, so ordered.

RESOLUTION NO. 26-212

On motion of Commissioner Schulz, seconded by Commissioner Newsom, and on roll call all members present and voting “YES”, except Commissioner LaFrance 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 May 28, 2026, regular meeting and the June 3, 2026 Special Port 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 Cognevich, seconded by Commissioner Schulz, and on roll call all members present voting “YES”, except Commissioner Edwards who voted “NO”, and Commissioner LaFrance who was “ABSENT”, the meeting adjourned 6:41 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.