

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, July 9, 2026, at 5:03 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 Carlton M. LaFrance, Sr.
Commissioner Mitch Jurisich
Commissioner Mark Cognevich

Kim M. Toups, Council Secretary

ABSENT: Commissioner Patricia L. McCarty

Commissioner McCarty joined the meeting at 5:06 p.m.

The Port Executive Staff were present.

The following items were withdrawn:

- Agenda Item 6b, “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
- 9e, “A Resolution requiring additional information on applications for employment; and otherwise to provide with respect thereto”.

There were no items to address under Agenda Item 2, “Executive Session”; therefore Commissioner Newsom moved to Agenda Item 3, “Status Report by the Executive Staff”. Without objection, so ordered.

Port Marine Operations Update:

- Port Ferries
- M/V Pride is out of service at Belle Chasse due to mechanical issues.
 - M/V PALH continues operation at Belle Chasse to Scarsdale landings
 - PALH ferry landings remain closed.
- MV Belle Chasse II
 - In Sea Trials.
- MV Port Authority II
 - Vessel is at LACAT for repairs due to fire.
- New Build Ferry (Diesel Electric) \$26.5 M
 - Anticipated to go out to bid July 2026

Critical Infrastructure Projects:

Water Booster Station & Feedlines

Project is wrapping up and should be complete July 2026.
Station is operational

Commissioner Newsom moved to Agenda Item 5, “Introduction of Ordinances and Resolutions”. Without objection, so ordered.

1. An Ordinance to authorize Plaquemines Port, Harbor & Terminal District (“Port”) to amend the 2026 Plaquemines Port, Harbor and Terminal District Capital Improvement Budget for the repair and replacement of the aprons of the West and

East Pointe a la Hache Ferry Landings, and otherwise to provide respect thereto.
COMMISSIONER NEWSOM

DIGEST: The Port seeks to amend the 2026 budget for repairs and replacement of the aprons on the Westbank and Eastbank PALH Ferry Barges to ensure the safety and efficiency of the current ferry landing. *The digest is for informational purposes only and is superseded by the language of the actual Ordinance.*

2. A Resolution authorizing Plaquemines Port Harbor & Terminal District (“Port”) to enter into a contract with Cybership, LLC to provide Computer Software management services to the Port; and otherwise to provide with respect thereto.
COMMISSIONER NEWSOM

DIGEST: Plaquemines Port, Harbor & Terminal District requires Computer Software management services to facilitate operations. The Port seeks approval to award the contract to Cybership, LLC. The digest is for informational purposes only and is superseded by the language of the actual ordinance or resolution.

3. A Resolution approving a new visual identity for the Plaquemines Port, Harbor and Terminal District; authorizing trademark registration; and authorizing related actions; and otherwise to provide with respect thereto. COMMISSIONER NEWSOM

DIGEST: Plaquemines Port, Harbor & Terminal District seeks to update its’ visual brand identity. The digest is for informational purposes only and is superseded by the language of the actual ordinance or resolution.

4. A Resolution reaffirming the legal name of Plaquemines Port, Harbor and Terminal District, discontinuing the primary use of the “Louisiana Gateway Port” brand; adopting an interim text-based logo; and authorizing related actions; and otherwise to provide with respect thereto. COMMISSIONER NEWSOM

DIGEST: Plaquemines Port, Harbor & Terminal District seeks to reaffirm use of its’ legal name and discontinue use of the “Louisiana Gateway Port” branding. *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. 26-223

On motion of Commissioner Newsom, seconded by Commissioner Guey, and on roll call all members present and voting “YES”, except Commissioners LaFrance and Cognevich voting “NO”, and Commissioner McCarty who “ABSTAINED” , the following Resolution was adopted:

A Resolution authorizing the offer of appointment of James Ethridge as the Executive Director 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 Executive Director;

NOW, THEREFORE:

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE PLAQUEMINES PARISH COUNCIL, AS THE SOLE GOVERNING AUTHORITY OF THE PLAQUEMINES PORT, HARBOR & TERMINAL DISTRICT, THAT James Ethridge is hereby tendered a conditional offer of appointment to the position of Executive Director 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 Jurisich left the meeting at 5:19 p.m.

Commissioner McCarty offered the following Ordinance with changes:

ORDINANCE NO. 26-107

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

An Ordinance related to the hiring process for unclassified employees of the Plaquemines Port Harbor & Terminal District; and to provide for related matters.

DIGEST: To provide for mandatory information to be provided from every applicant for employment. *The digest is for informational purposes only and is superseded by the language of the actual ordinance or resolution.*

WHEREAS, it is appropriate when considering applicants for employment to request of applicants as to their criminal history;

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 application for employment for any position for unclassified employees with the Plaquemines Port Harbor & Terminal District shall include the following:

Have you ever been convicted of or plead guilty or no contest to a criminal offense, misdemeanor or felony? If so, please provide for each such conviction or plea the following information: criminal offense, date of the conviction or plea, court in which the conviction was adjudicated or plea was entered.

The failure to fully and honestly provide a full and complete response to this inquiry shall disqualify the applicant from employment consideration and, if employed, shall subject the applicant to termination for cause.

SECTION 2

The Secretary of this Council is hereby authorized and directed to immediately certify and release this Ordinance and that Parish 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 LaFrance 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 9th day of July, 2026.

R E S O L U T I O N N O . 26-224

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

A Resolution authorizing Plaquemines Port Harbor & Terminal District to accept the bid proposal of, and enter a contract with Marine Systems, Inc.to complete a Generator Engine Overhaul for M/V Pointe a la Hache during its’ 5-year drydock period; and otherwise to provide with respect thereto.

DIGEST: Plaquemines Port, Harbor & Terminal District advertised competitive bids, in accordance with LRS 38:2212, et seq., seeking bids for mechanical work on the M/V PALH during its 5-year drydock. The chosen vendor submitted a proposal during the advertising period providing the best value and has previously completed satisfactory work; thus, the Port seeks approval to award the contract to Marine Systems, Inc. *The digest is for informational purposes only and is superseded by the language of the actual ordinance or resolution.*

WHEREAS, Plaquemines Port Harbor and Terminal District received three (3) interested bidders during the advertising period; and

WHEREAS, Marine Systems, Inc. was the firm providing the services needed at the best value and has no conflict of interest in Port business; and

WHEREAS, it is the recommendation of Plaquemines Port, Harbor & Terminal District that Marine Systems, Inc.be awarded the contract for M/V PALH Generator Engine Overhaul, for the agreed upon services quoted at \$24,957.00;

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 authorizes the acceptance and recommendation of Plaquemines Port, Harbor & Terminal District to enter into a contract with Marine Systems, Inc.to complete the Generator Engine Overhaul for M/V Pointe a la Hache.

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.

R E S O L U T I O N N O . 26-225

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

A Resolution authorizing Plaquemines Port Harbor & Terminal District to accept the bid proposal of, and enter a contract with Marine Systems, Inc.to complete a Main Engine Overhaul for M/V Pointe a la Hache during its’ 5-year drydock period; and otherwise to provide with respect thereto.

DIGEST: Plaquemines Port, Harbor & Terminal District advertised competitive bids, in accordance with LRS 38:2212, et seq., seeking bids for mechanical work on the M/V PALH during its 5-year drydock. The chosen vendor submitted a proposal during the advertising period providing the best value and has previously completed satisfactory work; thus, the Port seeks approval to award the contract to Marine Systems, Inc. *The digest is for informational purposes only and is superseded by the language of the actual ordinance or resolution.*

WHEREAS, Plaquemines Port Harbor and Terminal District received two (2) interested bidders during the advertising period; and

WHEREAS, Marine Systems, Inc. was the firm providing the services needed at the best value and has no conflict of interest in Port business; and

WHEREAS, it is the recommendation of Plaquemines Port, Harbor & Terminal District that Marine Systems, Inc. be awarded the contract for M/V PALH Main Engine Overhaul, for the agreed upon services quoted at \$89,431.00;

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 authorizes the acceptance and recommendation of Plaquemines Port, Harbor & Terminal District to enter into a contract with Marine Systems, Inc. to complete the Main Engine Overhaul for M/V Pointe a la Hache.

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. 26-226

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

A Resolution authorizing Plaquemines Port Harbor & Terminal District to accept the bid proposal of, and enter a contract with Sewart Supply, LLC to complete a clutch overhaul for M/V Pointe a la Hache during its’ 5-year drydock period; and otherwise to provide with respect thereto.

DIGEST: Plaquemines Port, Harbor & Terminal District advertised competitive bids, in accordance with LRS 38:2212, et seq., seeking bids for mechanical work on the M/V PALH during its 5-year drydock. The chosen vendor made the only proposal submission during the advertising period; thus, the Port seeks approval to award the contract to Sewart Supply, LLC. *The digest is for informational purposes only and is superseded by the language of the actual ordinance or resolution.*

WHEREAS, Plaquemines Port Harbor and Terminal District received one (1) interested bidder during the advertising period; and

WHEREAS, Sewart Supply, LLC was the firm providing the services needed at the lowest cost; and

WHEREAS, it is the recommendation of Plaquemines Port, Harbor & Terminal District that Sewart Supply, LLC be awarded the contract for Janitorial Services, for the agreed upon services quoted at \$48,667.00;

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 authorizes the acceptance and recommendation of Plaquemines Port, Harbor & Terminal District to enter into a contract with Sewart Supply, LLC to complete the clutch overhaul for M/V Pointe a la Hache.

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. 26-227

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

A Resolution authorizing Plaquemines Port Harbor & Terminal District to accept the bid proposal, and enter a contract with Underwater Engineering Services, Inc. for repairs to the Westbank Ferry Landing Barge; and otherwise to provide with respect thereto.

DIGEST: Plaquemines Port, Harbor & Terminal District advertised competitive bids, in accordance with LRS 38:2212, et seq., seeking bids for repairs to the Westbank Ferry Landing Barge. The chosen vendor submitted the lowest bid proposal during the advertising period; thus, the Port seeks approval to award the contract to Underwater Engineering Services, Inc. *The digest is for informational purposes only and is superseded by the language of the actual ordinance or resolution.*

WHEREAS, Plaquemines Port Harbor and Terminal District received three (3) interested bidders during the advertising period; and

WHEREAS, Underwater Engineering Services, Inc. was the firm providing the services needed at the lowest cost; and

WHEREAS, it is the recommendation of Plaquemines Port, Harbor & Terminal District that Underwater Engineering Services, Inc. be awarded the contract for repairs to the Westbank Ferry Landing Barge, for the agreed upon services quoted at \$186,140.00;

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 authorizes the acceptance and recommendation of Plaquemines Port, Harbor & Terminal District to enter into a contract with Underwater Engineering Services, Inc. to complete repairs to the Westbank Ferry Landing Barge

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.

ORDINANCE NO. 26-108

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

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.

DIGEST: To establish a policy that the members of the Parish Council, in their role as the governing authority of the Port, may access Port records without the need for a formal public records request. *The digest is for informational purposes only and is superseded by the language of the actual ordinance or resolution.*

WHEREAS, the elected members of the Plaquemines Parish Council serve as the sole governing authority for the Plaquemines Port, Harbor, and Terminal District (“Port”); and

WHEREAS, in their role as members of the governing authority of the Port, council members need access to Port records to help to ensure that the decisions members are called upon to make are fully informed; and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Public Records Law provides access to members of the general public to the records of the Port, subject to limitations set forth therein and subject to a public records request process; and

WHEREAS, the members of the governing authority of the Port have the need to access records that may not be available to the general public, such as records that are specifically exempt, as the members of the governing authority will be called upon to vote to determine the actions and obligations of the Port, which decisions may depend upon information included in such records; and

WHEREAS, the Port staff should not be in a position to restrict the access by members of the governing authority to documents that members believe are necessary to their decision making;

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 policy of the Plaquemines Port, Harbor, and Terminal District in regard to access to records is as follows:

1. The Port Executive Director shall comply with the most recent public records policy in regard to requests for access to and copies of public records pursuant to requests by members of the general public.
2. Members of the Plaquemines Parish Council shall have access to all records of the Port, upon request, without following the general public records request policy applicable to the general public.
3. Port Executive Director and staff shall comply written (including email) requests from a member for records, without regard to whether the records are subject to access under Louisiana public records law.
4. Port records maintained on an accessible server shall be available to members, subject to the same security measures as applicable to Port staff that have access to those records; however no member shall alter any document maintained on such server.
5. Staff compliance will be as promptly as practicable, so as not to unduly interrupt the daily operations of the staff. Any delay in providing access to records should be expressed to the member in the same manner as the request was made, including the reason for the delay and a good faith estimate of when the records will be made available.
6. In the event that a record requested by a member is confidential, proprietary, or otherwise exempt from the public records law, staff shall, nevertheless, provide access to the record, but shall advise the member that the record is confidential, proprietary, or otherwise exempt from the public records law, citing the nature of such exemption. However, nothing herein is intended to provide access to any person’s medical record. In the event that the record is subject to a written nondisclosure agreement the member shall be required to execute the nondisclosure agreement and be subject to the terms thereof.
7. Any person provided access in accordance with this policy to a record that is confidential, proprietary, subject to a nondisclosure agreement, or otherwise exempt from the Louisiana Public Records Law, shall maintain the confidentiality thereof, and shall be prohibited from sharing or disclosing such record, or the content thereof, with any person other than another member of the governing authority.
8. The Port shall maintain a log documenting the access, by any person, provided under this

ordinance, to any record that is confidential, proprietary, subject to a nondisclosure agreement, or otherwise exempt from the Louisiana Public Records Law, including the name of the person to who access is provided, the date of access, and a description of the record. Such log shall be a public record and shall not be considered by the custodian as being confidential, proprietary, subject to a nondisclosure agreement, or otherwise exempt from the Louisiana Public Records Law.

9. Any member of the governing authority that fails to maintain the confidentiality of a record shall forfeit the authority provided to the member in this policy, and shall, thereafter, no longer have access to the records of the Port beyond that of a member of the general public under the Louisiana Public Records Law.

SECTION 2

The Secretary of this Council is hereby authorized and directed to immediately certify and release this Ordinance and that Parish 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 Edwards 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, Patricia L. McCarty, Carlton M. LaFrance and Mark Cognevich

NAYS: Commissioners Brian Champagne, Chris Schulz, Stuart J. Guey, and Ronnie Newsom

ABSENT: Commissioner Mitch Jurisich

PRESENT BUT NOT VOTING: None

And the Ordinance FAILED on this the 9th day of July, 2026.

Commissioner Guey left the meeting at 5:53 p.m.

There were no matters to address under Agenda Item 7, "New Business"; therefore, Commissioner Newsom moved to Agenda Item 8, "Approval of the Minutes". Without objection, so ordered.

R E S O L U T I O N NO. 26-228

On motion of Commissioner Newsom, seconded by Commissioner Cognevich, and on roll call all members present and voting "YES", except Commissioners Guey and Jurisich who were "ABSENT" and 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 June 25, 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.

Commissioner Cognevich asked for who vehicles were for and wants a list.

There being no further business to come before this Council, on Motion of Commissioner Schulz, seconded by Commissioner Cognevich, and on roll call all members present voting "YES", Commissioner Edwards who voted "NO", and Commissioners Guey and Jurisich who were "ABSENT", and the meeting adjourned 5:58 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.