

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, July 23, 2026, 3:56 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 J. Guey
Commissioner Carlton M. LaFrance, Sr.
Commissioner Mitch Jurisich
Commissioner Mark Cognevich

Kim M. Toups, Council Secretary

ABSENT: Commissioner Patricia McCarty

The Port Executive team was present representing the Port.

The following items were deferred:

- 6d, “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”; and
- 6e, “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”.

Agenda Item 7a(1), “A Resolution authorizing and directing the Plaquemines Port, Harbor & Terminal District Chairman Port Chairman to enter into an Employment contract with James Ethridge for services as Port Executive Director; and otherwise to provide with respect thereto” was withdrawn.

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

- The M/V Pride is back in service in Belle Chasse;
- PALH Ferry landings remain closed;

MV Belle Chasse II

- In sea trials

MV Port Authority II

- Vessel is at LCAT for repairs due to the fire

New Build Ferry

- anticipated to go out to bid July

One of the aprons has gone off to be sandblasted and painted and the other is expected to be done right about now. They are on track to be installed either by Tuesday or Wednesday of next week. More updates will be provided to the community. We hope it will re-open after testing.

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 authorizing and directing the Plaquemines Port, Harbor and Terminal District Chairman (“Port Chairman”) to enter into an Employment Contract with James Ethridge for services as Port Executive Director; 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. 26-112

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

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.

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.*

WHEREAS, Resolution 26-218 authorized the Port to enter a contract with Deep South Construction & Salvage to complete repairs to the aprons of the West and East Pointe a la Hache Ferry Landings; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to amend the 2026 Plaquemines Port, Harbor & Terminal District Capital Improvement Budget to allocate funds for said repairs;

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 Plaquemines Port, Harbor & Terminal District 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.

SECTION 2

The 2026 Plaquemines Port, Harbor and Terminal District, 2026 Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan, is amended by appropriating \$237,000 from the Unrestricted Fund Balance as follows:

Fund: 445 Port Harbor Fund			
Dept/Div: 910-9037 Capital Projects – PALH Ferry Ramp Spinoff -			
Object	Description	Inc/ Dec	Amendment
528.612	Maintenance - Ramps	Inc	\$237,000

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 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, Chris Schulz, Stuart J. Guey, Ronnie Newsom, Carlton M. LaFrance, Sr., Mitch Jurisich and Mark Cognevich

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Commissioners Brian Champagne and Patricia L. McCarty

PRESENT BUT NOT VOTING: None

And the Ordinance was adopted on this the 23rd day of July, 2026

R E S O L U T I O N N O . 26-237

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

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.

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.*

WHEREAS, PPHTD is in the business of operation, management, development of a publicly owned port jurisdiction in Plaquemines Parish, State of Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, the professional has expertise in the area of Computer Software; and

WHEREAS, PPHTD desires to engage the Professional to provide certain services in the area of Professional’s expertise and the Professional is willing to provide such services to the PPHTD on an as needed basis as directed by the Chairman of the Board or his designee;

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 Cybership, LLC to provide Computer Software management services to the Port.

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.

Commissioner Newsom moved to Agenda Item 8, “Approval of the Minutes from the July 9, 2026 Port Meeting”. Without objection, so ordered.

R E S O L U T I O N N O . 26-238

On motion of Commissioner Schulz, seconded, seconded by Commissioner Cognevich, and on roll call all members present and voting “YES”, except Commissioner McCarty 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 July 9, 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 Cognevich, seconded by Commissioner Schulz, and on roll call all members present voting “YES”, except Commissioners Edwards and Schulz who voted “NO” and Commissioner McCarty who was “ABSENT”, the meeting adjourned at 4:09 p.m.

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.