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, September 10, 2026, at 7:02 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 Stuart Guey
Commissioner Patricia L. McCarty
Commissioner Carlton M. LaFrance, Sr.
Commissioner Mitch Jurisich
Commissioner Mark Cognevich

Kim M. Toups, Council Secretary

ABSENT: None

The Executive Director was present, as well as, the Executive Staff members.

There were no items to address under Agenda Item 5, “Executive Session”; therefore, Commissioner Newsom moved to Agenda Item 3, “Status Report by the Executive Port Director provided information regarding the following:

- Mr. Ethridge has been provided with the financials for January through the end of July. Port will provide a monthly financial report.
- We have completed the signatories for Whitney and Regions Bank.
- Two properties in the Piano Keys area that we've been looking at resolutions over the past couple weeks. That closing will take place at 2 o'clock tomorrow.
- Ferries are operational. Both boats are in service
- Venture Global lease was executed at the end of last week
- We have been working on the CEA to be able to market the five Ports together in the Louisiana port system.
- We also attended us a luncheon with the U.S. Coast Guard to better increase and make sure that we were following Coast Guard guidelines in terms of security on the river.
- We met with Stephen McKinney with the Global Maritime
- World Trade Center hosted a meeting yesterday with Port at Antwerp, which I attended
- We also met last week at a round table with the LSU Institute for Economic Development and Real Estate Research.
- Employee evaluations have been done. We are working with Chambrel and she is still focusing on our audit

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

1. An Ordinance prohibiting the officials and employees of the Plaquemines Port Harbor & Terminal District from entering into Non-Disclosure Agreements; and to provide for related matters. COMMISSIONER NEWSOM

DIGEST: To prohibit the officials and employees of the Port from entering into non-disclosure agreements on matters involving the Port, except as authorized by the Council. 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. 26-139

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

> An Ordinance to amend the Plaquemines Port, Harbor and Terminal District 2026 Manpower Structure to fund a salary increase for the full-time Special Assistant to the Executive Director unclassified position, and otherwise, to provide with respect thereto.

DIGEST: An ordinance to amend the 2026 Manpower Structure by funding the salary increase for the Special Assistant to the Executive Director position in the General Operations Division by appropriating $921.78 (nine hundred twenty-one and 78/100 dollars) to fund the said position for the 2026 budget year. 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.*

WHEREAS, after a review of the manpower needs of the Plaquemines Port, Harbor and Terminal District, General Operations Division, it has been recommended to fund a salary increase for the full-time Special Assistant to the Executive Director position;

NOW, THEREFORE:

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

SECTION 1

The 2026 Manpower Structure is amended by funding a salary increase for the Special Assistant to the Executive Director position in the General Operations Division at an annual salary of $75,000 (seventy-five thousand dollars) plus benefits effective August 17,2026.

SECTION 2

The 2026 Port, Harbor, and Terminal District, Operating Expenditure Budget, General Operations Division is amended by appropriating $921.78 (nine hundred twenty-one and 78/100 dollars) 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	$ 819.72
515.005	P/R Taxes-FICA Taxes	Inc	$ 11.89
516.105	Retirement-PERS	Inc	$ 90.17

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

NAYS: Commissioner Mark Cognevich

ABSENT: Commissioner Chris Schulz

PRESENT BUT NOT VOTING: None

And the Ordinance was adopted on the 10th day of September, 2026.

R E S O L U T I O N NO. 26-278

On Motion of Commissioner Newsom, seconded by Commissioner Champagne and on roll call, all members present and voting "YES", the following Resolution was adopted:

> A Resolution authorizing and directing Special Counsel to seek and Attorney General's Opinion in regard to civil service issues; and to provide for related matters.

DIGEST: To authorize and direct Special Counsel to seek and AGO in regard to civil service issues. *The digest is for informational purposes only and is superseded by the language of the actual ordinance or resolution.*

WHEREAS, the employees of the Plaquemines, Port, Harbor and Terminal District have been under the authority of the Plaquemines Parish Civil Service System, since its establishment in 1994; and

WHEREAS, many ports in the state operate under the authority of the State Civil Service Commission; and

WHEREAS, there is a question as to the appropriate civil service system under which the employees of the Plaquemines Port, Harbor, and Terminal System should fall; and

WHEREAS, the advice of the Attorney General will be beneficial to this inquiry.

NOW, THEREFORE:

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE PLAQUEMINES PARISH COUNCIL ACTING AS THE GOVERNING AUTHORITY OF THE PLAQUEMINES PORT, HARBOR, AND TERMINAL DISTRICT hereby authorizes and directs Special Counsel Dannie Garrett to request a formal opinion of the Attorney General of Louisiana on the issue of the appropriate civil service system for employees of the Plaquemines Port, Harbor, and Terminal District.

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

Commissioner Newsom moved to Agenda Item 7a(1), "A Resolution authorizing approval of an addendum to the Executive Director's contract pertaining to the expenditure limit established by Ordinance 25-37; and to provide for related matters.

MOTION TO SUSPEND THE RULES

On Motion of Commissioner Newsom, seconded by Commissioner Edwards and on roll call, all members present voting "YES", except Commissioner Cognevich who voted "NO", the following Motion to Suspend the Rules was adopted by a vote of 8-1.

R E S O L U T I O N NO. 26-279

On Motion of Commissioner Newsom, seconded by Commissioner Edwards and on roll call, all members present and voting "YES", except Commissioner Cognevich who voted "NO", the following Resolution was adopted:

> A Resolution authorizing the approval of an addendum to the Executive Director's contract pertaining to the expenditure limit established by Ordinance 25-37; and to

provide for related matters.

DIGEST: To clarify that the expenditure limit of $125,000 established in Ordinance 25-37 for the Executive Director of the PPHTD applies to the new Executive Director. *The digest is for informational purposes only and is superseded by the language of the actual ordinance or resolution.*

WHEREAS, Ordinance 25-37 set the expenditure limit of the Executive Director of the Plaquemines Port, Harbor, & Terminal District at $125,000; and

WHEREAS, reference to Ordinance 25-37 was not included in the contract for Executive Director James Ethridge; and

WHEREAS, there is a need to adopt an addendum to clarify that Ordinance 25-37 remains in effect;

NOW, THEREFORE:

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE PLAQUEMINES PARISH COUNCIL ACTING AS THE SOLE GOVERNING AUTHORITY OF THE PLAQUEMINES PORT, HARBOR, AND TERMINAL DISTRICT hereby authorizes and directs Chairman Lloyd Newsom to execute the contract addendum attached hereto.

Commissioner Newsom moved to Agenda Item 8, "Approval of the Minutes from the August 27, 2026 regular meeting.

R E S O L U T I O N NO. 26-280

On motion of Council Member Newsom, seconded by Council Member Edwards, and on roll call all members present and voting "YES", the following Resolution was adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE PLAQUEMINES PARISH COUNCIL AS THE SOLE GOVERNING AUTHORITY OF THE PLAQUEMINES PORT, HARBOR AND TERMINAL DISTRICT THAT it hereby approves the minutes from the August 27, 2026 regular Port meeting.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE PLAQUEMINES PARISH COUNCIL AS THE SOLE GOVERNING AUTHORITY OF THE PLAQUEMINES PORT, HARBOR & TERMAIN 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 Schulz, seconded by Commissioner Newsom, and on roll call all members present voting "YES", the meeting adjourned 7:33 p.m.

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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.