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, October 8, 2026, at 4:44 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 Stuart Guey
Commissioner Patricia L. McCarty
Commissioner Carlton M. LaFrance, Sr.
Commissioner Mitch Jurisich
Commissioner Mark Cognevich

Kim M. Toups, Council Secretary

ABSENT: Commissioner Chris Schulz

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

Agenda Item 9b, "A Resolution authorizing the Plaquemines Port, Harbor & Terminal District to enter into a 12-month Professional Services Agreement with Rockwood Steel to provide grant writing services and administration services; and otherwise to provide with respect thereto fell off of the agenda for being deferred for a 4th time.

Agenda Item 9c, "An Ordinance prohibiting the officials of the Plaquemines Port, Harbor & Terminal District from entering into Non-Disclosure Agreements; and otherwise to provide with respect thereto" was withdrawn.

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:

The Port Director, Mr. Ethridge, reported that financial statements were delivered earlier in the week via email and encouraged commissioners to reach out with any questions. The audit remains underway and is expected to be finalized and submitted by the end of the month. Work has also begun on the 2027 budget, with departments being engaged; the budget presentation is planned for mid-November.

An update was provided on hurricane preparations. The Port continues daily coordination calls with the U.S. Coast Guard and the Corps of Engineers. As of 2:00 p.m., the Captain of the Port issued a modified Condition X-Ray for river miles 20–93, indicating hurricane-force winds possible within 48 hours. Commercial traffic remains open in the lower river. Bar pilots expect their last outbound vessel at 0200 and last inbound at 0400, with normal operations anticipated to resume October 10 pending conditions. Crescent pilots continue normal operations at this time.

The Port has implemented its hurricane plan, relocating the Venice office trailer to the Port Sulphur Government Building and removing the fireboat from the water for secure staging. Ferry service will remain uninterrupted throughout the event. Staff completed a full review of the hurricane plan, updated contacts, and identified improvements for future seasons.

The Director reported ongoing work on employee engagement and departmental needs assessment, particularly for ferry, rescue, and security vessel operations. A significant project underway is the Port Security Dock upgrade, funded by grant dollars. The project includes new dolphins and construction of a new barge with functional workspace, storage, and added conditioned space such as restrooms and a break room. Design is approximately 65–70% complete and expected to be finalized by month's end, with bidding anticipated early next year and operations targeted by the end of next year. Updated designs include accommodations for ferry, fireboat, and security vessel tie-ups.

Ferry operations continue to perform at high capacity. From January through August 2026, the Pride recorded 196 service days and transported approximately 241,000 passengers, with more than 13,000 trips completed; the Point La Hache ferry logged 228 service days, 71,000 passengers, and more than 10,000 trips.

The Director also provided updates from recent participation in the AAPA conference, noting productive commissioner training discussions and strong engagement from Parish representatives. Relationship-building with deep-water ports and AAPA leadership was highlighted.

Positive economic news from Venture Global was also shared. Statewide, Venture Global reports 1,000 Louisiana-based jobs, with 90% permanent positions filled by Louisiana residents. In Plaquemines Parish specifically, $500 million in local taxes has been paid to date, with $2.9 billion anticipated. Approximately 79% of permanent hires for the Plaquemines LNG project are local. Commissioners were encouraged to continue recognizing and promoting the contributions of major local stakeholders.

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

1. A Resolution establishing the date, time and place of public hearings on the proposed 2027 Operating Budget and Capital Improvement Budget as submitted by the Executive Director of the Plaquemines Port Harbor & Terminal District; to authorize the Council Secretary to place the necessary Public Notice in the Plaquemines Gazette; and otherwise to provide with respect thereto. COMMISSIONER NEWSOM

Digest: A resolution to establish the date, time and place of the public hearings on the 2027 Operating Budget and Capital Improvement Budget for the Plaquemines Port, Harbor & Terminal District. *The digest is for informational purposes only and is superseded by the language of the actual ordinance or resolution.*

2. An Ordinance setting the regular meetings of the Plaquemines Parish Council acting as the sole governing authority of the Plaquemines Port Harbor & Terminal District; and to provide for related matters. COMMISSIONER JURISICH

DIGEST: To provided for a single regular meeting of the Council as the governing authority of the Port meeting; providing for the single meeting to be held in Belle Chasse, except in months where the Parish Council meets only in Pointe a la Hache. *The digest is for informational purposes only and is superseded by the language of the actual ordinance or resolution.*

3. A Resolution authorizing the Plaquemines Port, Harbor & Terminal District to enter into a 12-month Professional Services Agreement with Rockwood Steel to provide grant writing and administration services; and otherwise to provide with respect thereto. COMMISSIONER NEWSOM

DIGEST: The Port wishes to enter into a 12-month Professional Services Agreement with Rockwood Steel to assist in acquiring grant funds and their administration to support the Port's infrastructure growth and development projects. 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.

R E S O L U T I O N NO. 26-308

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

> A Resolution to cancel the November 26, 2026, and December 24, 2026, regularly scheduled Port Meetings due to the Thanksgiving Holiday and the Christmas Holiday; and otherwise to provide with respect thereto.

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 cancels November 26, 2026, and December 24, 2026, regularly scheduled Port Meetings due to the Thanksgiving Holiday and Christmas Holiday.

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. 26-152

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

> An ordinance approving an amendment to the Five Deepwater Ports Cooperative Endeavor Agreement authorized by Ordinance No. 25-178 and related to the collaborative market study authorized by Ordinance No. 24-99; increasing the Plaquemines Port, Harbor & Terminal District's budget by $100,000 in support of the obligations established under said agreement; authorizing the Executive Director to execute the amendment and related documents; and otherwise, to provide with respect thereto.

DIGEST: Ordinance No. 24-99, adopted June 13, 2024, authorized funding for a collaborative market study with Louisiana's four other deepwater ports. Ordinance No. 25-178, adopted September 11, 2025, authorized the Executive Director to enter into a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with the five Lower Mississippi River Ports to develop a collaborative marketing strategy and authorized the District's $49,000 contribution. This ordinance approves an amendment to that Cooperative Endeavor Agreement and increases the Plaquemines Port, Harbor & Terminal District's 2026 budget by $100,000 to support the obligations established under the amended agreement. *The digest is for informational purposes only and is superseded by the language of the actual Ordinance.*

WHEREAS, Ordinance No. 24-99, adopted on June 13, 2024, authorized the Executive Director of the Plaquemines Port, Harbor & Terminal District to provide $60,000 in funding for a collaborative market study with the four other deepwater ports in Louisiana and amended the District's operating expenditure budget for that purpose; and

WHEREAS, Ordinance No. 25-178, adopted on September 11, 2025, authorized the Executive Director of the Plaquemines Port, Harbor & Terminal District to enter into a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with the Commissioners of the Port of New Orleans, the Greater Baton Rouge Port Commission, the Port of South Louisiana, and the St. Bernard Port, Harbor and Terminal District, collectively with the District known as the Lower Mississippi River Ports, to develop a collaborative marketing strategy, and authorized the District's $49,000 contribution toward the project; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Ordinance No. 25-178, the Plaquemines Port, Harbor & Terminal District is a party to the Five Deepwater Ports Cooperative Endeavor Agreement; and

WHEREAS, the parties desire to amend the Five Deepwater Ports Cooperative Endeavor Agreement to continue and support the cooperative purposes established therein; and

WHEREAS, the amendment requires an increase of $100,000 in the Plaquemines Port, Harbor & Terminal District's 2026 budget; and

WHEREAS, the Plaquemines Parish Council, acting as the sole governing authority of the Plaquemines Port, Harbor & Terminal District, finds that approving the amendment and increasing the budget by $100,000 serve a public purpose and are in the best interest of the District;

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 amendment to the Five Deepwater Ports Cooperative Endeavor Agreement authorized by Ordinance No. 25-178 is hereby approved, and the Executive Director of the Plaquemines Port, Harbor & Terminal District is authorized to execute the amendment and any related documents necessary to carry out its terms.

SECTION 2

The Plaquemines Port, Harbor & Terminal Fund, 2026 budget, is hereby increased by $100,000 by appropriating $100,000 from the Port's Unrestricted Fund Balance as follows:

Fund: 445- Port, Harbor & Terminal District
Department: 490-PPHTD
Division: 2460-General -Op

Object	Description	Inc/Dec	Amendment
532.680	Pro-Svcs-Collaborative Market Study	Inc	$100,000

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 Jurisich 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 and Mark Cognevich

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Commissioner Chris Schulz

PRESENT BUT NOT VOTING: None

And the Ordinance was adopted on the 8th day of October, 2026.

There were no matters to address Under Agenda Item 7, “New Business”.

Commissioner Newsom moved to Agenda Item 8, “Approval of the Minutes from the September 24, 2026 Port Minutes. Without objection, so ordered.

R E S O L U T I O N NO. 26-309

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

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE PLAQUEMINES PARISH COUNCIL THAT it hereby approves the minutes from the September 24, 2026, regular meeting.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE PLAQUEMINES PARISH COUNCIL 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 LaFrance, seconded by Commissioner Newsom, and on roll call all members present voting "YES", except Commissioner Edwards who voted "NO", the meeting adjourned 5:09 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.