

***Avoyelles Parish Port Commission
170 Honeybee Lane
P.O. Box 126
Simmesport, Louisiana 71369***

Regular Meeting

May 20, 2024

I. CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Barry Laiche called to order the regular meeting of the Avoyelles Parish Port Commission 5:30 p.m. on May 20, 2024, at Port Commission Headquarters 170 Honeybee Lane, Simmesport, Louisiana, 71369.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

By Commissioner Williams

III. PRAYER:

By Stacy Auzenne

IV. ROLL CALL:

Port Director Samuel Ducote conducted the roll call. The following individuals were present giving the meeting a quorum of three commissioners present:

Chairman Barry Laiche

Commissioner Scott Williams

Commissioner Patrick Deshotels

Commissioner Appointee Jason Bordelon

Commissioner Appointee Gerald Ducote

Kacey Meche (Ducote & Company)

Stacy Auzenne (Port Counsel)

V. PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING AGENDA ITEMS:

Members of the public did not have any comments.

VI. TREASURER'S REPORT:

Commissioner Webb was not present to deliver the report.

VII. ADOPTION OF MINUTES:

Minutes for the February 20, 2024, meeting was reviewed by all present commissioners. Commissioner Williams motioned to approve and adopt the minutes as presented. Commissioner Deshotels seconded the motion. The motion to accept the minutes for the February 20, 2024, meeting passed unanimously.

VIII. DELEGATES FIVE MINUTE RULE:

No delegates were present.

IX. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

Chairman Laiche formally announced his resignation from the Port Commission effective at the end of this meeting. He advised the appointees to always be mindful that they are serving the interest of the public and to always be good stewards of the Port of Avoyelles. Chairman Laiche expressed his gratitude to everyone that he has worked with during his tenure as commissioner and chairman of the Avoyelles Parish Port Commission.

X. VICE CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

Commissioner Williams formally announced his resignation from the Port Commission effective at the end of this meeting. Mr. Williams also updated the new commissioners on the history of his tenure, both good and bad.

XI. DIRECTORS REPORT:

Director Ducote reported that the bids are underway for the construction of the shed.

XII. CONSIDERATION OF ANY OTHER MATTERS:

A) RIC BUSINESS PRESENTATION.

Representatives of RIC were unable to attend this meeting but would like an opportunity to reschedule in the future.

B) HELENA OFFICIALS TO DISCUSS TANK PROJECT.

Representatives of Helena were unable to attend the meeting.

C) EXECUTIVE SESSION – SECOND REQUEST TO PORT FOR LEGAL FEES.

Commissioner Deshotels made a motion to move into executive session. Commissioner Williams seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. At this time, the meeting moved into executive session. Motion to terminate executive session was made by Commissioner Deshotels. Commissioner Williams seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. The motion passed unanimously. For the record, the Port Commission has been in executive session and specifically the discussion was regarding the second request that was made directly to Chairman Laiche by letter from Mr. Riddle for the Port's legal bills for years 2021, 2022 and 2023. Following executive session, the Chair entertained a motion to follow the advice of Port legal counsel, Mr. Stacy Auzenne to do an estimate of the redaction of confidential and protected information costs, the copy costs and send that to Mr. Charles Riddle as the requesting person of the public. And then secondarily upon payment of the estimate Mr. Auzenne will protect any confidential or otherwise statutorily protected information and then produce the legal bills as requested. Commissioner Williams made the above referenced motion. Commissioner Deshotels seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Williams made the motion to swear in and induct the commissioner appointees. Commissioner Deshotels seconded the motion. The motion to swear in and induct the commissioner appointees passed unanimously.

D) SWEARING AND INDUCTION OF COMMISSIONER APPOINTEES.

Jason Bordelon introduced himself as a resident of Moreauville. He is currently employed by Sunshine in Bunkie. He is excited to have the opportunity to give back to the citizens of Avoyelles Parish.

Gerald Ducote introduced himself as former x-ray department manager for twenty-two years and is also looking forward to serving the citizens of Avoyelles Parish.

Jason Bordelon and Gerald Ducote took the oath of office of the Avoyelles Parish Port Commission and were officially sworn in and inducted as official port commissioners for the Port of Avoyelles. Commissioner Deshotel who is the presiding secretary is now the chairman pro tempore for the remainder of the meeting. Chairman pro tempore Deshotel's made the resolution to remove Barry Ray Laiche authorized to be removed from signing any and all checks, bank drafts or any other documents on behalf of the Avoyelles Parish Port Commission at the Simmesport State Bank, Cottonport Bank, any and all other financial institutions related to loans, lines of credit, bank accounts, CDs, or any other financial instruments necessary to achieve goals and continue the mission of the Avoyelles Port Commission's regular course of business with such financial institutions. Commissioner Ducote seconded the resolution. There was no further discussion. The resolution passed unanimously.

XIII. ADJOURN MEETING:

Chairman pro tempore Deshotel's made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Bordelon seconded the motion. The next regular meeting of the Avoyelles Parish Port Commission will take place on June 18, 2024, beginning at 5:30 p.m. at the Port Headquarters. The meeting adjourned.