

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

**Regular Meeting**

June 18, 2024

**I. CALL TO ORDER:**

Jason Bordelon called to order the regular meeting of the Avoyelles Parish Port Commission 5:32 p.m. on June 18, 2024, at Port Commission Headquarters 170 Honeybee Lane, Simmesport, Louisiana, 71369.

**II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

By Scott Williams

**III. PRAYER:**

By Commissioner Webb

**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:

Commissioner Jason Bordelon

Appointee Scott Williams

Commissioner Patrick Deshotels (by telephone)

Commissioner Jason Bordelon

Appointee Chris Lacour

Stacy Auzenne (Port Counsel)

## **V. PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING AGENDA ITEMS:**

There were no members of the public present.

## **VI. SWEARING IN OF NEW COMMISSIONERS:**

Scott Williams and Chris Lacour were sworn in as port commissioners. Jason Bordelon was selected to be chairman of the Avoyelles Parish Port Commission. Scott Williams was selected to be the vice president of the Avoyelles Parish Port Commission. Andre Webb remained treasurer and Patrick Deshotels remained secretary.

New term lengths for commissioners are as follows: Jason Bordelon, June 2024 - June 2028; Patrick Deshotels, June 2024 - June 2027, Chris Lacour, June 2024 - June 2027; Scott Williams, June 2024 - June 2026, Andre Webb, June 2024 - June 2026.

Let it be placed in the record that the following commissioners were appointed by: Andre Webb was appointed by the Town of Simmesport; Patrick Deshotels was appointed by Representative Daryl Deshotel; Jason Bordelon was appointed by Senator Heather Cloud; Scott Williams and Chris Lacour were appointed by the Avoyelles Parish Police Jury.

Commissioner Williams made a motion to make Jason Bordelon a signatory on the Port bank accounts. Chris Lacour seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Bordelon entertained a motion to move \$750,000.00 to \$900,000.00 into a CD at Simmesport State Bank at a rate of 5.15%. Commissioner Williams asked the motion to be tabled until after the opening of the public bids on tractor shed and tank project.

Chairman Bordelon entertained a motion to use the Avoyelles Parish District Attorneys Office as Avoyelles Parish Port Commission legal counsel. Commissioner Williams commented that Ms. Roy, who will be the DA's designatory for counsel will not be available until August and with the current business ongoing that Mr. Auzenne should continue to be counsel until all open business is closed. All port commissioners agreed.

## **VII. TREASURER'S REPORT:**

Counsel Auzenne read a resolution appointing Scott Williams as the official Reconciler. Commissioner Scott Williams will be appointed as the Reconciler of all bank accounts, investment accounts, checking/savings accounts, any other financial accounts of the Avoyelles Parish Port Commission. Commissioner Webb made the motion for the above resolution. Commissioner Lacour seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Williams read aloud the current checks to be signed and paid. Chairman Bordelon voiced his desire that there be a monthly report of what expenses are and what they are for. Commissioner Williams instructed Port Director Ducote to prepare a monthly report of income and expenses to be included in the commissioners' packet, which will be read aloud.

## **VIII. ADOPT MINUTES:**

Commissioner Williams made the motion to adopt the May budget meeting and May regular meeting and ask that the April minutes be tabled until the next meeting. Commissioner Webb seconded the motion. The motion to adopt the May budget meeting and regular monthly meeting minutes passed unanimously.

## **IX. FIVE MINUTES DELEGATES RULE:**

There were no members of the public present.

## **X. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:**

Chairman Bordelon passed since he was newly elected chairman this meeting.

## **XI. VICE CHAIRMANS REPORT:**

Commissioner Williams did not have anything new to report.

## **XII. DIRECTORS REPORTER:**

Director Ducote did not have anything new to report.

**XIII. CONSIDERATION OF ANY OTHER MATTERS:**

**A) RIC BUSINESS NEXT STEP.**

Counsel Auzenne brought the new commissioners up to speed on RIC group and doing business in terms of building a fertilizer, ammonia, or hydrogen plant on port property, approximately fifty acres.

**B) MOVE FROM HUGES NET TO STARLINK.**

After a discussion, Commissioner Williams made the motion to change internet providers from Hughes.net to Starlink. Commissioner Webb seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously. The commission will continue to use Hughes.net until Starlink is activated and installed.

**C) HELENA OFFICIALS TO SPEAK.**

Helena officials were unable to attend the meeting.

**D) OPEN RECEIVED BIDS ON TRACTOR SHED AND TANK PROJECTS.**

**a. TRACTOR SHED BIDS**

Spinner Metal Works, LLC,           \$57,850.00

Simpson Metal Building, LLC.       \$68,900.00

**a. LIQUID FERTILIZER TANK**

Cox Tanks                               \$1,040,900.00

**E) RECOGNIZE COMMISSIONER GERALD DUCOTE'S RESIGNATION.**

Commissioner Gerald Ducote resigned his position as a commissioner for the Port of Avoyelles.

**F) DISCUSSION OF MOVING PORT MONEY INTO CDs.**

The commissioners discussed moving varying amounts of money from non-interest-bearing checking accounts into interest bearing certificates of deposit. After a lengthy discussion Commissioner Williams made a motion to place \$375,000.00 in a six-month CD at 5.25% at Simmesport Bank and \$375,000.00 in a twelve-month CD at 5.15% at Simmesport Bank. Chris Lacour seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Commissioner Williams requested that Chairman Bordelon inquire on an interest-bearing savings account with Cottonport Bank and inform the board at the next regularly scheduled meeting.

**G) COST OF LIVING RAISES FOR EMPLOYEES.**

Discussion as to employee duties was had at this meeting. Many ideas on restructuring duties were brought up to make the Port operate more efficiently and grounds be kept in better shape. Commissioner Webb asked Commissioner Williams since he is the longest tenured commissioner his thoughts on the condition of Port grounds and operations. Commissioner Williams pointed out that there are things that could and need to be done better. Director Ducote was instructed that as Port Director, it is his responsibility to oversee and direct all employees as to daily tasks that need to be performed and to develop such tasks.

**XIV. ADJOURN MEETING:**

Commissioner Williams made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Webb seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The next regular meeting of the Avoyelles Parish Port Commission will take place on July 15, 2024, beginning at 5:30 p.m. at the Port Headquarters. The meeting adjourned.