

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

Regular Meeting

August 19, 2024

I. CALL TO ORDER:

Commissioner Scott Williams called to order the regular meeting of the Avoyelles Parish Port Commission 5:35 p.m. on August 19, 2024, at Port Commission Headquarters 170 Honeybee Lane, Simmesport, Louisiana, 71369.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

By Chairman Jason Bordelon

III. PRAYER:

By Commissioner Andre Webb

IV. ROLL CALL:

Obie Ryland conducted the roll call. The following individuals were present giving the meeting a quorum of four commissioners present:

Commissioner Jason Bordelon

Commissioner Chris Lacour

Commissioner Andre Webb

Commissioner Scott Williams

Charles Riddle (Port Counsel)

Stacy Auzenne

V. PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING AGENDA ITEMS:

There were no comments regarding agenda items.

VI. DELEGATES – FIVE MINUTE RULE:

There were no comments.

VII. ADOPT AUGUST REGULAR PORT MEETING MINUTES:

After reviewing the July 15, 2024, regular meeting minutes, Commissioner Lacour made the motion to accept the minutes as they were presented. Commissioner Webb seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

VIII. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – JASON BORDELON:

a) Enclosing Carport:

Chairman Bordelon discussed the idea to close in the carport and use the enclosure to be tractor/storage shed in lieu of building a new tractor shed. Commissioner Lacour made the motion to request proposals to enclose the carport in lieu of building a tractor shed. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Webb. The motion passed unanimously.

b) AD for cleanup bid:

This agenda item was tabled for a later meeting.

c) Louis Dreyfus interest -

Representatives of Louis Dreyfuss met with the Commission to discuss their interest in doing business with the Port of Avoyelles.

d) Update on Tank Project –

Chairman Bordelon spoke with Mr. Cox numerous times about beginning work on the tank project. Work is expected to begin shortly.

e) Revision to Port's policies and procedure on sexual harassment –

A special section was separately labeled in the policies and procedures manual regarding sexual harassment. Commissioner Lacour made the motion to accept the document. Commissioner Webb seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

f) **Hiring Port Director –**

Commissioner Lacour made the motion that Obie Ryland will begin doing administrative and interim port director duties. These duties are to include creation of meeting agendas, minutes, answering all emails and disperse emails, checking mail, dispersing bills to the bookkeeper for payment, supervision of cleanup of Port property, inspection of property and all other tasks generally associated with the port director title. Remuneration for this increase in job duties will be five hundred dollars per month. Commissioner

IX. VICE CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – SCOTT WILLIAMS:

a) **Helena Tank Project –**

Commissioner Williams spoke with Mr. Cox of Cox Tank Construction regarding the tank project. Commissioner Williams and Chairman Bordelon will meet with the Red River Waterway for additional funds. Chairman Bordelon made the motion to accept the bid offered and grant the bid by Cox Tank Construction in the amount of \$1,040,900.00 to build liquid fertilizer tank. Commissioner Lacour seconded the motion. The motion to approve the bid and grant the bid to Cox Tank Construction passed unanimously. Counsel Auzenne will notify Mr. Cox that his bid has been accepted and shortly there will be a contract with Mr. Cox to construct the tank. Also, Counsel Auzenne will pick back up with the DOTD on funding the \$150,000.00 in capital outlay funds approved by the State of Louisiana.

b) **Tractor Shed, Ben Spinner –**

Due to inconsistencies with the bid advertisement and specifications the tractor shed construction will have to be rebid with new specifications.

c) **Port Cleanup –**

i. Kevin Bordelon, Police Jury -

Commissioner Williams spoke with Kevin Bordelon with the Avoyelles Parish Police Jury about looking at work to be done at the port that falls under the Police Jury's purview.

ii. RRAB -

The Commissioner discussed having the levees mowed by RRAB.

iii. Brad Augustine, Brudd Construction –

Chairman Bordelon made a motion to enter into an agreement with Brudd Construction for the removal, cleaning, and dressing of fifty-one trailer sites on the Port of Avoyelles property amount of \$14,300.00.

Commissioner Deshotels seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. Commissioner Williams made a motion to accept bids on cleanup of Port property per the bid advertisement. Commissioner Deshotels seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

d) **Obie Ryland, more duties –**

Commissioner Williams requested Mr. Ryland to include upon Director Ducote's retirement extra duties other than creating meeting minutes. These duties are as follows: Initiate with each commissioner what items they wish to discuss at each meeting. Create the agenda for each subsequent meeting. Confirm with each commissioner by no later than the day before the who will be attending.

X. CHRIS LACOUR:

a) **Cottonport Bank Checking Account –**

Commissioner Lacour discussed with Cottonport Bank about moving money to an interest-bearing checking account. Cottonport Bank declared that it would offer an interest rate of 1.5% for up to \$250,000.00 and 2.5% for monies deposited above \$250,000.00. Commissioner Lacour made a motion to accept the offer to place over \$250,000.00 into the interest-bearing account at 2.5%. Commissioner Williams seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

XI. ADJOURN MEETING:

Chairman Bordelon made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Lacour seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The next regular meeting of the Avoyelles Parish Port Commission will take place on September 16, 2024, beginning at 5:30 p.m. at the Port Headquarters. The meeting was adjourned.