

**AVOUELLES PARISH PORT COMMISSION
170 HONEYBEE LANE
P. O. BOX 126
SIMMESPORT, LOUISIANA 71369
MONTHLY MEETING@ 5:30
SEPTEMBER 19, 2022**

I. REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

- 1. CALL TO ORDER**
- 2. PLEDGE**
- 3. PRAYER**
- 4. ROLL CALL – DIRECTOR SAMUEL DUCOTE**
- 5. PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING AGENDA ITEMS**
- 6. TREASURER’S REPORT**
- 7. ADOPT MINUTES – ADOPT THE JUNE & JULY 2022 MINUTES AS WELL AS THE JUNE 2022 BUDGET MINUTES.**
- 8. DELEGATES – 5 MINUTE RULE**
- 9. CHAIRMAN’S REPORT – BARRY LAICHE**
 - A. DISCUSSION, POSSIBLE FUTURE MEETING CONCERNING JEFF COURTNEY AND CANADAVILLE GROUP**
- 10. VICE CHAIRMAN’S REPORT – SCOTT WILLIAMS**
 - STATUS OF HELENA TANK PROJECT**
- 11. DIRECTOR’S REPORT – SAMUEL DUCOTE**
 - A. WILL BAILEY WILL BE PRESENT TO PRESENT FRAMEWORK OF PORT WEBSITE.**
- 12. CONSIDERATION OF ANY OTHER MATTERS**
 - A. CANADAVILLE MOU**
 - B. CONSIDERATION TO REVOKE CLEANUP DEPOSIT MONEY ON LOTS THAT ARE NOT CLEANED UP SATISFACTORY BY THE LAST DAY OF JULY 2022.**
 - C. FURTHER DISCUSS PROPOSED STORAGE “STEEL” BUILDING**
 - D. DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION OF HIRING AN ADVERTISING FIRM TO SOLICIT BUSINESS INTEREST TO PORT.**

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

Regular Meeting

September 19, 2022

I. CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman, Barry Laiche called to order the regular meeting of the Avoyelles Parish Port Commission 5:30 p.m. on September 19, 2022, at Port Commission Headquarters 170 Honeybee Lane, Simmesport, Louisiana, 71369.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

By Commissioner Andre Webb

III. PRAYER:

By Chairman Scott Williams

IV. ROLL CALL:

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

Chairman Barry Laiche

Commissioner Scott Williams

Commissioner Andre Webb

Stacy Auzenne (Port Counsel)

Will Bailey (Lafayette Websites)

V. PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING AGENDA ITEMS:

There were no members of the public present to comment.

VI. TREASURER'S REPORT:

Treasurer's report was passed as there is no longer a treasurer at this time.

VII. ADOPTION OF MINUTES:

Commissioner Williams motioned to approve and adopt the minutes for the June special budget meeting, June regular meeting and the July regular meeting. Commissioner Webb seconded the motion. The motion to approve and adopt the minutes passed unanimously. There was not an August regular meeting due to lack of quorum.

VIII. DELEGATES FIVE MINUTE RULE:

There were no members of the public present.

IX. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

Chairman Laiche recapped the Port commissioners prior and ongoing meetings with the Canadaville Group and the Chairman is of the opinion that the Port Commission would benefit best if the Port Commission maintained the role of a lessor and should not enter a profit-sharing deal with any entity that is open ended. The costs to investigate any business dealings should be clear and a security payment should be received by prospective tenants as a good faith gesture to help defray those costs. Chairman Laiche also issued his concerns of the Canadaville Group's wishes to use eminent domain laws to acquire land for potential future deals. Commissioner Williams and Commissioner Webb shared their thoughts which echoed that of Chairman Laiche.

X. VICE-CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

Commissioner Williams updated the Port Commission on the status of the Helena tank project. Chairman Laiche, Commissioner Williams and Director Ducote will be attending a meeting on Wednesday, September 21, 2022, with the Red River Waterway Commission to request funding for the \$850,000.00 balance to complete the project. The State of Louisiana has given priority two funding in the amount of \$150,000.00. Chairman Laiche penned a written request to the Red River Waterway Commission to formally fund the balance of \$850,000.00.

XI. PORT DIRECTORS REPORT:

Mr. Will Bailey unveiled the Avoyelles Port Commission's new website. He requested more information and permission to go live with the website. The commissioners were pleased with the progress and suggested different links and material to add to the website in the future.

XII. CONSIDERATION OF OTHER MATTERS:

A) Canadaville MOU.

There were no members of the Canadaville Group present to speak on their behalf.

B) Consideration to revoke cleanup deposit money on lots that are not cleaned up satisfactorily by the last day of July 2022.

Chairman Laiche explained that when bids were put out by the Port they required per unit and per lot a \$2,000.00 deposit to be put up at the time of the bid in case any successful bidder would not clean up the lot after the housing units were removed. Expectations for cleanup was mainly loose items left in the lot, debris, trash, things that could be cleaned up. The deposit had nothing to do with removal of power outlets or plumbing pipes or any other items of that nature. Henderson Auction without the approval or knowledge by the Avoyelles Parish Port Commission accepted a bid from a person/entity that did not include the full amount of the \$2,000.00 per unit, per lot totaling \$8,000.00. Commissioner Williams suggested that the Port Commission invoice Henderson Auction for the \$8,000.00. Chairman Laiche instructed Director Ducote to invoice Henderson Auction and put a response deadline of two weeks out and if at that point the Port does not hear from Henderson to pay the \$8,000.00 then the Port Commission will turn the matter over to Mr. Auzenne for collection process.

C) Further discussion on proposed storage “steel” building.

Chairman Laiche asked if Commissioner Williams was comfortable with sixty feet by sixty feet metal building to store equipment and Commissioner Williams suggested that would be ample room. The commissioners reviewed and discussed the building proposal adjusting the proposal like adding a bathroom, possibility of spray foam insulation, gravel, and a fuel tank for the next review.

D) Discussion and consideration of hiring an advertising firm to solicit business interest to Port.

Chairman Laiche brought up for discussion the consideration of hiring an advertising firm to solicit business interest in the port. Discussion was had about partnering with the Port of Alexandria regarding business development.

E) Consider declaring all recreational equipment and facilities surplus and be put up for bid.

Chairman Laiche brought forward for discussion the possibility of declaring the baseball and basketball field and court light poles, fencing, lights, bleachers, and other structures laying on the ground should be declared surplus and then be placed in the auction system. Much the same as getting out of the residential business

(trailer homes that were being rented), the commissioners discussed removal of the above items and reclaim the land for the Port's intended industrial economic development.

F) Consider the possibility of turning over the public boat launch to the Red River Waterway Commission for upkeep and maintenance.

Preliminary discussion took place considering the possibility of turning this over to the Red River Waterway Commission.

G) Consider the Director's time increase as duties have increased, as well as increased travel.

Chairman Laiche discussed that when the Director's position was created by the Port Commission that the director would be paid twenty to twenty-five hours per week. Now, Director Ducote is above twenty-five hours per week due to extra duties that he performs. After Director Ducote explained that his duties have increased due to the evolution of the Port Commission over time, Commissioner made a motion to increase Director Ducote's time approval to be between thirty and thirty-five hours on a weekly basis. Commissioner Webb seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

H) Discussion and action to authorize planning and cost estimates of multi-use dock for future Port operations and expansion.

Chairman Laiche opened discussion on this project due to the possibility of future federal funding made available. The Commissioners discussed the need to have a plan ready to take advantage of this possibility and begin planning on a base level to begin this project if the federal government funding becomes available.

XIV ADJOURN MEETING:

Commissioner Williams made motion to adjourn meeting. Commissioner Webb seconded the motion. The next regular meeting of the Avoyelles Parish Port Commission will take place on October 17, 2022, beginning at 5:30 p.m. at the Port Headquarters. The meeting adjourned.