Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Lake Charles Harbor and Terminal District held at 5:00 P.M., Monday, May 20, 2024 in the Boardroom of the Port of Lake Charles located at 1611 West Sallier St., Lake Charles, Louisiana.

In attendance and constituting a quorum, were:

Thomas L. Lorenzi, President

Kevin D. Guidry, Secretary/Treasurer

Mary Jo Bayles, Assistant Secretary/Treasurer

John M. Cradure, Commissioner (arrived at 5:08 p.m.)

Jonathan L. Johnson, Commissioner

Absent:

M. Keith Prudhomme, Vice President

Carl J. Krielow, Commissioner

 Also Present:

 Richert Self, Executive Director

Jon Ringo, Executive Counsel

 Cameron Landry, Director of Administration and Finance

 Channing Hayden, Director of Navigation

 Todd Henderson, Director of Operations

 Therrance Chretien, Director of Cargo and Trade Development

 Nick Pestello, Director of Engineering and Maintenance

 Michelle Bolen, Executive Administrative Assistant

Mr. Lorenzi called the meeting to order at 5:00 P.M.

Mr. Guidry gave the invocation and led the Board and audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Lorenzi made a statement reminding the public of the Port’s procedure for the public to address an agenda item to the Board.

- - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - -

1. Approval of the April 22, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes.

 - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - -

Mr. Johnson offered a motion to approve the April 22, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes. Mr. Guidry seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

- - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - -

2. Submission 2024 – 021 authorizing the Executive Director to prepare and submit an application to the Louisiana Port Construction and Development Priority Program for the implementation of a port improvement project; providing for the necessary documentation of the need for the port improvement; and providing for all other matters in connection therewith.

 - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - -

Mr. Self stated staff requests the Board of Commissioners to authorize the Executive Director to submit an application for the industrial Canal Redevelopment project to the Louisiana Port Construction and Development Priority Program. This is essentially an application for Port Priority funding, which is a merit-based system through the state of Louisiana. The project involves installing a bulkhead and dredging at the Industrial Canal. Recent cost estimates have really been high, so in all likelihood they are going to do this project in phases. However, they would like to go ahead and apply for funding through the Ports Priority Program.

Mr. Johnson offered a motion to adopt Resolution 2024 – 021 to authorize the Executive Director to prepare and submit an application to the Louisiana Port Construction and Development Priority Program for the implementation of a port improvement project; providing for the necessary documentation of the need for the port improvement; and providing for all other matters in connection therewith. Ms. Bayles seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

- - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - -

3. Submission 2024 – 022 approving a stevedore license for CGS Industrial Group, LLC.

 - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - -

Mr. Self said CGS industrial Group LLC has submitted permit procedures and an application for a five-year stevedore permit staff. The Executive Counsel has reviewed all the documentation that the stevedore submitted. The authority to award stevedore permits is the Board's purview. Staff cannot do that. Currently at the Port, there are five stevedores. His opinion is that the cargo does not necessarily dictate that they get an additional stevedore. His recommendation is to table it until such time that the cargo dictates that there is a need for another stevedore to handle that. The other issue is also they have space limitations to accommodate another stevedore, but it is certainly within the Board’s purview. Mr. Johnson said that sometimes with these stevedore groups, they are bringing additional cargo and this is some sort of niche type of stevedore company. Is that the case here or is this someone competing for the business that the Port already has here? Mr. Self replied that the stevedore will be competing for the business the Port already has. The Port is not in any type of shortage of stevedoring.

Mr. Johnson offered a motion to table Submission 2024 - 022 until such time as Port staff identifies the need for additional stevedoring. Ms. Bayles seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

 - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - -

 4. April 2024 Financials Briefing Note.

 - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - -

The April 2024 Financials Briefing Note was rendered to the Board and is on file in the Executive Offices.

- - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - -

 5. FEMA/GOHSEP Briefing Note.

 - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - -

Mr. Landry said they have received quite a bit so far this year. Over the past month, staff actually received a payment of roughly $7.7 million. Funds are coming in and they are working through all those.

The FEMA/GOHSEP Briefing Note was rendered to the Board and is on file in the Executive Offices.

- - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - -

 6. Monthly Staff report from Director of Administration and Finance.

 - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - -

Mr. Landry stated review or approved the Port Priority Program redevelopment for the Industrial Canal. The head of HPD has been working with the directors and the Coast Guard to finalize the FSP, the Facility Security Plan, for the Industrial Canal in anticipation of accommodating multiple new customers and commodities. That should be completed by the end of this week. Staff and he are finalizing information for the audit, which will be presented to the Board at the next board meeting.

The Director of Administration and Finance Monthly Staff Report was rendered to the Board and is on file in the Executive Offices.

- - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - -

 7. Monthly Staff report from Director of Navigation.

 - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - -

Mr. Hayden stated that Congress was late approving the budget this year and part of the budget that Congress passed was some discretionary funds given to the CORPS of Engineers for them to decide how they want to spend it. They have 60 days to make that decision and report back to Congress. The CORPS did their allocation and made it public last week. The Calcasieu Ship Channel got an additional $16.5 million over and above the amount that was given in the President's budget, which was $36.8 million. Basically, the Port has $54.1 million to spend. That is important for the CORPS to expand and is important because all staff asked for was $49 million. The Port has received an additional $5 million over and above what was asked for in FY 24. Staff has been in contact with the CORPS of Engineers and the question right now is how does that additional funding impact staff’s current ask for FY 25 and FY 26. He does not have an answer on that yet. They should find out about that fairly soon. In addition, the CORPS all allocates money to the donor and energy ports in the United States based on a convoluted formula in the federal budget. The short story is the Lake Charles Harbor and Terminal District is going to get an extra $775,000 in harbor maintenance trust funds under that program. Staff made an ask for it. They have not responded to the Port’s ask, but he expects that that will be given to staff before the end of the fiscal year.

The Director of Navigation’s Monthly Staff Report was rendered to the Board and is on file in the Executive Offices.

- - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - -

 8. Monthly Staff report from Director of Operations.

 - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - -- - - - - - -

Mr. Henderson said recently at City Docks, they have discharged an aluminum hydrate barge. There has been a cargo transfer of about 3,300 tons, a small Lumber shipment and the grain terminal loaded one bulk of rough rice shipment. Five barges were loaded at the industrial Canal for about 8,000 tons.

Coming up at City Docks, they have another hydrate ship. It is about 15,000 tons and another project cargo of about 9,000 tons. They are currently loading a bagged rice shipment of 13,000 tons and loaded out five barges with the bag cement. They have two more cargo transfers coming up.

At BT-1, staff loaded a Pet Coke shipped of about 56,000 tons, a calcine barge and two rutile ships of 24,000 tons. On the schedule right now, they have three raw coke ships totaling about 114,000 tons and two barite ships, which is going to about 92,000 tons

The Director of Operations’ Monthly Staff Report was rendered to the Board and is on file in the Executive Offices.

- - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - -

 9. Monthly Staff report from Director of Cargo and Trade Development.

 - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - -- - - - - - -

Mr. Chretien stated he has been working with a group called Mgroup Partners they are licensed broker for USDA cargo. The Port received some rice on the last contract and so now they want to work with the Port to see if staff can bring in more mixed cargos like cornmill and so forth.

They have two groups coming in this week to visit and he has been working with the O’Carroll Group getting ready for the business after hours that the Port is hosting in a few weeks.

The Director of Cargo and Trade Development’s Monthly Staff Report was rendered to the Board and is on file in the Executive Offices.

 - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - -

10. Monthly Staff report from Director of Engineering, Maintenance, and Development.

 - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - -

Mr. Pestello said they have been busy working on all the construction projects that are going at City Docks. Berths 4, 5 and 6 are moving along slowly, but demo is complete and their land base piles are being installed now. Sallier Street is finally passed the utility conflict and they are back to rail and pavement works. That is exciting to get those two connections made and wrap up that project.

The new warehouse at City Docks is progressing nicely. Almost all the structural steel is vertical, so that project is really moving along. At BT-1, the new ship loader is going through its commissioning and punch list phase now. The new storage pad that is under construction is really starting to see significant progress with concrete being poured and the wind fence poles going vertical.

He has also been busy working on numerous grants. The Port Priority Grant that the Board approved today, staff is getting ready to submit that for June 1st. He is also working with other Louisiana ports on an EPA Clean Ports Grant application to hopefully get some funding for some green initiative projects such as electric forklifts and shore power.

They just had their kickoff meeting for our PIDP Grant that we received for $3 million for more paving here at City Docks for a new laydown yard.

The Director of Engineering, Maintenance, and Development’s Monthly Staff Report was rendered to the Board and is on file in the Executive Offices.

 - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - -

11. Monthly Staff report from the State Port Lobbyist.

 - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - -

The State Port Lobbyist’s Monthly Staff Report was rendered to the Board and is on file in the Executive Offices.

- - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - -

 12. Monthly Staff report from the Federal Port Lobbyist.

 - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - -

The Federal Lobbyist’s Monthly Staff Report was rendered to the Board and is on file in the Executive Offices.

- - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - -

13. Other Matters which may properly come before the Board.

- - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - -

There were no other matters to be discussed.

- - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - -

 14. Executive Session and appropriate action in any of the following matters:

 - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - -

Mr. Johnson offered a motion to enter into Executive Session. Mr. Guidry seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. The Board entered into Executive Session at 5:15 p.m.

* + IFG Port Holding, LLC vs LCHTD – Case: 2:16-cv-00146 U S District Court, Western District of Louisiana, Lake Charles Division.
	+ Turning Basin Site Remediation – Dynamic Industries, Inc.
	+ Damage to Berth 15 – Southern Ionics.

The Board returned from Executive Session at 5:34 p.m.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Mr. Lorenzi asked for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Cradure offered a motion to adjourn. Mr. Guidry seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

All discussions held on the above items were recorded using the FTR Gold recording program.

Please note that when the votes are shown as unanimous, it is the policy of the Board that the President does not vote except in the event of a tie vote by the rest of the Board and/or unless otherwise indicated.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 THOMAS L. LORENZI, President

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

KEVIN D. GUIDRY, Secretary/ Treasurer