

WEST ST. MARY PARISH PORT, HARBOR AND TERMINAL DISTRICT
MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 7, 2022
6:00 P.M.

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Greg Paul, President of the Port Commission. Mr. Paul led in the Pledge of Allegiance. Mr. Peters gave the Invocation. A roll call resulted in the following:

Present:

Absent:

Greg Paul
Murphy Pontiff
Wilson Terry
Sam Jones
Joseph Phillips
Joel Authement
Willie Peters
Donna Lanceslin

Joseph Tabb

Also present at the meeting were Ms. Marguerite Robinson of Teche Talk, Mr. Reid Miller of Miller Engineers, Mr. Eric Duplantis, Port Attorney, Mr. David Allain, Executive Director and Ms. Rebecca Pellerin, Office Manager of the Port Commission.

A motion was made by Mr. Terry to dispense with the reading of the May 10, 2022 meeting minutes and to accept them as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Jones. Mr. Paul asked if there was any opposition – there was none and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Paul asked if there was any public comment – there was none.

Mr. Allain reported that he and Mr. Duplantis have finalized the lease with Marine Turbine Technologies. A motion was made by Mr. Terry to authorize Mr. Lennel G. Paul or Mr. David Allain to execute and sign a resolution for a lease with Marine Turbine Technologies. The motion was seconded by Mr. Phillips. Mr. Paul asked if there was any opposition – there was none. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Allain reported that he and Mr. Miller met with representatives of Sugar Growers and Refiners, Inc. and that everything is in order and that both parties are ready to move forward. There were a few typographical errors to be corrected in the lease.

Mr. Paul requested that the Board of Commissioners expand the agenda regarding Sugar Growers and Refiners, Inc. lease. Mr. Paul asked if there was any public comment – there was none. A motion was made by Mr. Peters to expand the agenda. The motion was seconded by Mr. Authement. Mr. Paul asked if there was any opposition – there was none. The motion carried unanimously. A motion was made by Mr. Authement to execute and sign a resolution to enter into a lease with Sugar Growers and Refiners, Inc. The motion was seconded by Ms. Lanceslin. Mr. Jones asked how long the negotiations for the lease have been on-going and Mr. Allain responded that it has been approximately one year. Discussion followed. Mr. Paul asked if there was any opposition – there was none. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Jones made a motion to expand the agenda. The motion was seconded by Mr. Terry. Mr. Paul asked if there was any public comment. There was none. Mr. Paul asked if there was any opposition – there was none. The motion carried unanimously. Mr. Jones made a motion to authorize the signing of a contract with Miller Engineers for the construction of the Sugar Warehouses and also to authorize the demolition of the existing warehouses. The motion was seconded by Mr. Terry. Mr. Paul asked if there was any opposition – there was none. The motion carried unanimously. Mr. Phillips asked about the equipment inside of the existing warehouses and Mr. Allain answered there have been inquiries regarding the electrical equipment in the building and some of the equipment has been taken down and is now on the ground. Mr. Allain and Mr. Duplantis have been discussing various methods of offering the equipment for sale. Mr. Duplantis reported that Louisiana state law requires that the property must be declared surplus and that value must be received for the property. Mr. Allain said that he had someone examine the various items and has prepared an inventory with values, descriptions and serial numbers. Discussion followed.

Mr. Allain reported that a dry bulk fleeting company is interested in options to fleet 40-50 barges. Mr. Allain offered the Industrial Park as a possible site for their operations. He recommended digging in an area of the park that is a low area with some areas under water and to mine the dirt and bring it to the front 50 acres. Mr. Allain recommended that the Port Commission authorize Miller Engineers to provide evaluations/study of constructing a barge slip to be located at the Industrial Park. A motion was made by Mr. Terry to authorize Miller Engineers to provide evaluations/study for a barge slip. The motion was seconded by Mr. Jones. Mr. Paul asked if there was any opposition – there was none. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Mr. Peters to approve the cost of \$2,500 to have an appraisal of the Diversified Environmental site located across the waterway from the Port's Baldwin facility. The motion was seconded by Mr. Jones. Mr. Paul asked if there was any opposition – there was none. The motion carried unanimously.

Regarding the Charenton Drainage and Navigation Canal, Mr. Allain reported that he visited the area approximately two weeks ago during the day and at night and determined that of the seventeen barges that are there, about twelve barges were lit. He was able to obtain serial and identification numbers from the barges and those numbers have been forwarded to the United States Coast Guard to gather additional information on the barges' owners. He has not heard back from the Coast Guard. He will continue to monitor the situation.

A motion was made by Mr. Jones to increase the water plant operator's compensation by \$250 per month and to continue his employment contract. The motion was seconded by Mr. Terry. Mr. Paul asked if there was any opposition – there was none. The motion carried unanimously. Mr. Allain commended Mr. Vosburgh for a job well done.

For his contact list report, Mr. Allain reported earlier on the dry bulk operations and a battery manufacturing company. Mr. Jones asked Mr. Allain if he had spoken with Roger Bodine of Morgan City and he responded that he would contact him. Mr. Paul requested that the Commissioners contact Mr. Allain with any viable prospects. Mr. Jones reported that he is currently working on a \$50 - \$100 million project on the coast and that he would give more information in the coming months.

Mr. Miller reported on the Training Facility – the contractor has been working on punch list items. He further reported that four specialty doors are scheduled to be out for delivery next week and will be installed when received. Discussion followed.

Mr. Jones reported that a group of volunteers in the Morgan City area was organized to assist in the location of industry to the area and recommended that the Port may want to consider doing the same.

There being no further business to be discussed, Mr. Jones made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Ms. Lanceslin. Mr. Paul asked if there was any opposition – there was none. The motion carried unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 6:38 p.m.

Signed  _____
Murphy Pontiff, Secretary