

PROCEEDINGS OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE GREATER NEW ORLEANS EXPRESSWAY COMMISSION, WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2016, 10:00 A.M., VOA BUILDING, 3939 NORTH CAUSEWAY BLVD, SUITE 400, METAIRIE, LA 70002

PRESENT: Anthony V. Ligi, Jr., Chairman; Shelby P. LaSalle, Jr., Vice Chairman; Stephen G. Romig, Secretary

ABSENT: Joseph A. Jaeger Jr., Treasurer

OTHERS: Carlton Dufrechou; Chief Nick Congemi; Melissa M. Phillpott; Stacie Heffker; Robert Graham; Red Thompson; Craig Watson, Blue Williams; Cary Bourgeois and Phil Meyers, GEC, Inc.; Rene Chopin, Burk Kleinpeter; Bill Murhammer; Kathy Gambino; Tommy Lofton; Seth Paridon; Hugh Martin; John Basilica and James Gregg, HNTB; AECOM

The Chairman called the meeting to order.

On the motion by Mr. Romig, seconded by Mr. LaSalle, the minutes of the regular meeting held on August 10, 2016 were accepted as written. Mr. Ligi, Mr. LaSalle, and Mr. Romig voted in favor of the motion.

Mr. Ligi thanked Mr. LaSalle for chairing the last Commission meeting. He stated he did not plan on missing that particular meeting but due to a medical emergency he was unable to attend. Mr. Ligi said he watched the video afterward and it was handled very well. Mr. Ligi also stated he hoped the letter he sent expressed his support of the safety enhancements and the means to finance.

Mr. Ligi addressed the audience to see if anyone had any comments or questions for the Commission. There were no comments or questions.

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Mr. Dufrechou stated that everyone was delighted to have Mr. Ligi back.

On the Drawbridge operations, Mr. Dufrechou reported there were 8 vessel openings, 4 test openings and 0 incidents.

Mr. Dufrechou reported that Police and MAP responded to 128 breakdowns on the Causeway Bridge and 26 breakdowns on the Huey P. Long Bridge for a total of 154. He reported 9 accidents on the Causeway Bridge. Mr. Dufrechou stated 7 occurred Northbound and 2 Southbound. He reported 1 was due to a break down rear end. Mr. Dufrechou also stated 12 accidents occurred on the Huey P. Long Bridge. He reported 7 East and 5 West. Mr. Dufrechou reported 1 was due to a break down rear end on the Huey P. Long Bridge. He stated the Causeway Bridge was closed from 1:08 pm to 2:05 pm on August 16th due to severe weather.

Mr. Dufrechou showed two pictures of Chief Congemi and other Causeway officers who were surprised on August 4th with flowers from a commuter. Chief Congemi stated a young lady named Kaylee and her father showed up with flowers for the Causeway Officers. Chief Congemi said the father was asked by the young girl to help her bring flowers because she wanted to do something nice for the Causeway Police. Chief Congemi stated they were very moved by the gesture and he said you could tell it was straight from the heart.

Mr. Dufrechou showed video and three pictures of the overboard incident that occurred on Monday, August 8, 2016 at 8:15 am. He reminded the audience this was a two vehicle crash involving Joey LeBlanc. Mr. Dufrechou introduced Mr.

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Tommy Lofton and Mr. Seth Paridon, who witnessed the incident first hand. Mr. Dufrechou explained they threw a rappelling rope overboard and helped get Cpl. Melton out of Lake Pontchartrain and onto the roadway. Mr. Dufrechou commended Mr. Lofton and Mr. Paridon for their quick thinking. He explained that both gentlemen currently work at the WWII Museum. Mr. Ligi presented them with a flag that flew over the Causeway Bridge. He thanked the pair and stated they are owed gratitude for their actions. Mr. Ligi stated that many times people are reluctant to get involved and he thanked them on behalf of the GNOEC. Mr. Paridon stated this was the scariest thing he has ever gone through. Mr. Lofton reported if they had to they would do it again without any hesitation. He explained they were a couple of cars behind Mr. LeBlanc and saw him go over. He explained that he hopes no one has to face this again and anything that is needed to make this improvement is well worth it. Mr. Lofton stated he would be happy to pay extra tolls to prevent these incidents in the future. Mr. Paridon agreed and said a dollar is miniscule if it saves a life. He stated it was a miracle Mr. LeBlanc made it out of his vehicle. He also stated Cpl. Melton was incredible. Mr. Dufrechou thanked Mr. Lofton and Mr. Paridon for coming out and sharing their experience. Mr. Ligi asked Chief Congemi if a citation was issued. Chief stated citations were issued for failure to maintain proper control and for a revoked license. Chief Congemi then clarified it was the driver that remained on the bridge that was issued citations. He stated that many times in incidents such as that the drivers are not licensed to drive. Mr. Ligi stated the reason he asked is because there is a lot of talk of people being

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penalized for other people's negligence, assuming the negligent is the person who goes over the side of the bridge. He stated the rails are indiscriminant with respect to who is at fault and who's not. Mr. Ligi stated that in incidents like this they are going over the side regardless of whether they were negligent or not. Mr. Ligi thanked Mr. Lofton and Mr. Paridon again for coming to speak.

Mr. Dufrechou showed a video of an incident that occurred on Friday, August 19, 2016 at 9:59 am. He stated the camera operators spotted a vehicle getting on the bridge traveling Northbound. Mr. Dufrechou reports the vehicle stops, turns around and travels South on the Northbound span. He said fortunately the Police responded immediately and the driver was issued a citation. Mr. Ligi asked if the driver was under the influence. Mr. Dufrechou responded that the driver was not under the influence.

On the Switchgear Replacement at Crossover #6, Mr. Dufrechou presented information to reject and re-advertise bids. **On motion by Mr. LaSalle, seconded by Mr. Romig, On August 24, 2016, the GNOEC received 4 bids for the Switchgear Replacement at Crossover No. 6, Project No. 205. Three bids were rejected due to the failure of the bidders to submit the documentation required by the bidding documents. The remaining bid was considerably over-budget and rejected for just cause. Therefore, in accordance with procedures outlined in Title 38 of Louisiana Revised Statues, the GNOEC authorizes the re-advertisement of Project No. 205. Mr. Ligi, Mr. LaSalle, and Mr. Romig voted in favor of the motion.**

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On the North Channel Bascule Mechanical Maintenance, Mr. Dufrechou presented a resolution to authorize the development of plans and specifications and advertisement of this project. He explained this is for the maintenance of mechanical equipment, including lockbars, skimming of bearing plates, adjustment of counterweight, installation of new traffic signal/signage, replacement of traffic gates, and related work. **On motion by Mr. Romig, seconded by Mr. LaSalle, based on the recommendation of the GNOEC staff, the General Manager is hereby authorized to execute the project memorandum for the project titled North Channel Bascule Mechanical Maintenance and the Consulting Engineers are authorized to begin development of plans and specifications and advertise the project. Mr. Ligi, Mr. LaSalle, and Mr. Romig voted in favor of the motion.**

On the North Toll Plaza Civil Site Work, Mr. Ligi authorized the development and advertisement of this project. Mr. Dufrechou explained this resolution is to restore parking spaces lost to new building, install paving and sidewalks, modify driveway for turnarounds, remove old generator/tank slab, and replace asphalt overlay of north parking area. **On motion by Mr. Ligi, seconded by Mr. Romig, based on the recommendation of the GNOEC staff, the General Manager is hereby authorized to execute the project memorandum for the project titled North Toll Plaza Civil Site Work and the Consulting Engineers are authorized to begin development of plans and specifications and advertise the project. Mr. Ligi, Mr. LaSalle, and Mr. Romig voted in favor of the motion.**

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On the sale of surplus property, Mr. Dufrechou presented a resolution for approval to advertise for this project. **On motion by Mr. LaSalle, seconded by Mr. Romig, on July 20, 2016, the GNOEC authorized the advertisement for bids for the sale of surplus immovable property consisting of a unimproved parcel of land measuring approximately 1.73 acres located on the west side of Antibes Street West and the east side of North Causeway Boulevard, Mandeville, St. Tammany Parish, Louisiana, 70448 (“the Property”). The Property was advertised in the GNOEC’s official journal on August 3rd, 10th, and 17th of 2016. The GNOEC received one bid for the purchase of the Property from C. Arlen Braud of Braud & Gallagher, LLC, in the amount of \$152,000; the fair market value of the Property. Pursuant to the requirements of La. R.S. 33:4712, the GNOEC proposes to sell the Property and authorizes the General Manager, Carlton Dufrechou, to advertise the proposed resolution for the sale of the Property to C. Arlen Braud of Braud & Gallagher, LLC, in the amount of \$152,000. The advertisement of the proposed resolution for the sale of the Property shall be run three times, one week apart in the GNOEC’s official journal. Absent objection, the resolution for the sale of the Property will be introduced at the next regularly scheduled Commission meeting. Mr. Ligi, Mr. LaSalle, and Mr. Romig voted in favor of the motion.**

The Commission tasked GNOEC staff and its legal counsel to prepare recommendations on commencing with the previously adopted toll increases and safety improvements. Discussions and subsequent recommendations will

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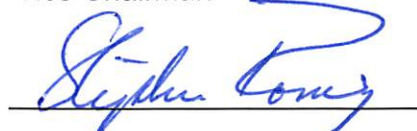
address timing, procedures, and implementation of the toll increases and pre-construction activities in preparation of proceeding with the financing and construction of the approved safety bays and railings. GNOEC staff shall work with legal counsel, bond counsel, financial consultants, and engineers and are directed to have a proposed course of action for consideration by the Commission by the next Commission meeting tentatively scheduled for October 5, 2016.

Mr. Ligi reminded everyone the next meeting is tentatively scheduled October 5, 2016 at 10:00 a.m. at the VOA building on the South Shore.

There being no further business, the meeting was be adjourned.


Shelby P. LaSalle Jr.

Vice Chairman


Stephen G. Romig

Secretary