

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

Regular Meeting

August 21, 2023

I. CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Barry Laiche called to order the regular meeting of the Avoyelles Parish Port Commission 5:34 p.m. on August 21, 2023, at Port Commission Headquarters 170 Honeybee Lane, Simmesport, Louisiana, 71369.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

By Commissioner Deshotels

III. PRAYER:

By Port Director Samuel Ducote

IV. ROLL CALL:

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

Chairman Barry Laiche

Commissioner Scott Williams

Commissioner Parick Deshotels

Commissioner Andre Webb

Stacy Auzenne (Port Counsel)

Mr. Jerry Klier (GEC)

V. PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING AGENDA ITEMS:

There were no comments from the public.

VI. TREASURER'S REPORT:

Commissioner Webb had nothing new to report at the time.

VII. ADOPTION OF MINUTES:

Minutes for the June 20, 2023, annual budget meeting was reviewed by all present commissioners. Commissioner Webb motioned to approve and adopt the minutes. Commissioner Williams seconded the motion. The motion to accept the minutes for the June 2023 annual budget meeting passed unanimously. Minutes for the June 20, 2023, regular meeting was reviewed by all present commissioners. Commissioner Williams motioned to accept the minutes for the June 20, 2023, regular meeting. Commissioner Deshotels seconded the motion. The motion to accept the June 20, 2023, regular meeting passed unanimously.

VIII. DELEGATES FIVE MINUTE RULE:

There were no comments by the public.

IX. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

Chairman Laiche yielded to Mr. Jerry Klier who appeared to discuss the quote for the new liquid tank project. Chairman Laiche did remark about the estimate cost of the project being nearly 1.7 million dollars. The Port Commission currently only has a one-million-dollar budget for the project and does not anticipate any more than two hundred thousand dollars from the State of Louisiana. Mr. Klier explained to the commissioners why the quote is substantially more than anticipated. Mr. Klier described this time as being in the "Covid Era" and costs have increased due to increase in construction, increase in demand for raw goods and the costs for those goods in the construction process. This is a realistic price as we sit based upon the current steel costs, rebar costs and cost of transportation, remarked Mr. Klier. The estimate was described as a ballpark estimate based upon not really pertaining to plans. He needs the design with all the bells and whistles. He believes that GFC should design the project, and this will lead to a "good estimate". According to Mr. Klier this is a rough estimate to meet State of Louisiana guidelines. He also reminded the commissioners that the Port could re-apply with the State for more funding in the future. The commissioners discussed other alternatives including a public/private partnership to try to have the project completed. Mr. Auzenne will research the legal basis to attempt some sort of public/private partnership. Mr. Klier informed the commissioners that the State will not entertain funding anymore money until the plans have been completed

and urged the commissioners to move forward with development of the plans for the liquid tank project. The commissioners believe that if they were to move forward with the quotes as it is now that they are not acting as good stewards of the public's money by moving forward with a quote that is seventy percent over the amount of the available funds. After further discussion the commissioners decided to move forward and allow GEC to develop the plans in hopes of future funding from the State of Louisiana.

X. VICE CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

Commissioner Williams did not have anything new to discuss.

XI. DIRECTORS REPORT:

Director Ducote discussed the possible interest in the building of an oil refinery. Chairman Laiche directed Director Ducote to inform this group that the Commission is very interested in all proposals and like public/private partnerships with long-term leases with a lot of private dollars funding them.

CONSIDERATION OF ANY OTHER MATTERS:

A) DISCUSS THE ISSUE OF CONTRACT REVIEW FROM STATE PLANNING AND CONTROL:

This discussion took place in the Chairman's Report. Mr. Klier also outlined the future steps going forward regarding the liquid tank project.

B) INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS FOR WATER STORAGE:

Per Mr. Auzenne researched and determined that the tank has a twenty-year useful life and suggested that it be insured for a twenty-year useful life. He was unable to find any documentation determining that it was the responsibility of the Commission exclusively to pay for insurance and to maintain the water tank. Since the insurance has been paid Chairman Laiche informed Mr. Auzenne that we have ten months to finally determine whether the Commission has to or don't before the issue comes up again.

C) POSSIBLE NEW INTEREST IN OIL REFINERY INQUIRY:

This item was addressed in the Directors Report.

D) UP TO DATE DISCUSSION OF FURTHER CLEANUP OF OLD RESIDENTIAL INFRASTRUCTURE ON PORT LANDS:

Director Ducote informed that there was nothing new to report on the status. Chairman Laiche believes that the Port Commission is at a point where this needs to be placed out for bid and that a bid proposal needs to be created, approved, and published to move forward. Mr. Klier will develop a plan for the bid to expedite the bid process for Mr. Auzenne.

XII. ADJOURN MEETING:

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