

**THE NEW ORLEANS PUBLIC BELT RAILROAD COMMISSION  
FOR THE PORT OF NEW ORLEANS  
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING  
THURSDAY, APRIL 27, 2023**

---

**A REGULAR MEETING OF THE NEW ORLEANS PUBLIC BELT RAILROAD COMMISSION FOR THE PORT OF NEW ORLEANS, HELD IN THE FIRST FLOOR AUDITORIUM OF THE PORT OF NEW ORLEANS' OFFICES, LOCATED AT 1350 PORT OF NEW ORLEANS PLACE, NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA, WAS CALLED TO ORDER BY CHAIRMAN CHARLES H. PONSTEIN AT 2:21 P.M.**

---

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Charles H. Ponstein, Chairman  
Walter J. Leger, Jr., Secretary-Treasurer  
William H. Langenstein, III, Member  
Sharonda R. Williams, Member  
James J. Carter, Jr., Member

**MEMBER ABSENT:** Joseph F. Toomy, Vice-Chairman

**STAFF:** B. Christian, Chief Executive Officer  
T. Bryant, General Manager  
C. Kocur, Vice-President, Engineering  
A. Ferrand-Rodgers, Director, Organizational Development  
I. McPherson, Director Operation Planning  
G. Harris, Manager Operations Support  
L. Hensley, Superintendent, Transportation

**GUESTS:** R. Wendel, Port of New Orleans  
J. Escudier, Port of New Orleans  
L. Mellem, Port of New Orleans  
M. Stolzman, Port of New Orleans  
A. Evett, Port of New Orleans  
G. Brown, Port of New Orleans  
C. Gilmore, Port of New Orleans  
R. Aragon Dolese, Port of New Orleans  
M. Scelson, Port of New Orleans  
T. Black, Port of New Orleans  
S. Gauthier, Port of New Orleans  
Chief M. Montroll, Harbor Police Department  
A. Lopez-Salazar, Port of New Orleans  
K. Mills, Port of New Orleans  
K. Curth, Port of New Orleans  
J. Ragusa-Nunes, Port of New Orleans  
A. Randolph, Port of New Orleans  
C. Gibson, Port of New Orleans

A. Taylor, Port of New Orleans  
K. Howells Port of New Orleans  
M. Singley, Port of New Orleans  
J. Fields, Port of New Orleans  
A. Johnson, Port of New Orleans  
B. Rousselle  
K. Alikhani, ECM Consultants, Inc.  
Judge E. Bopp  
S. Bopp  
L. Bopp  
J. Ferrer, Crescent River Port Pilots Association  
E. Acosta, St. Bernard Port, Harbor & Terminal District  
R. Gonzales, St. Bernard Port, Harbor & Terminal District  
T. Ajabitaner, Crescent River Port Pilots Association  
L. Copeland, Crescent River Port Pilots Association  
B. Roussel  
C. Ponstein

#### **I. Roll Call & Determination of Quorum**

Following a roll call, Chairman Ponstein confirmed a quorum and called the meeting to order at 2:21 p.m.

#### **II. Pledge of Allegiance**

Chairman Ponstein asked Commissioner Langenstein to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### **III. Report of the General Manager**

Ms. Bryant presented the General Manager's Report. She reported on March volumes and productivity statistics. She also recognized the Employee of the Quarter, Mr. Matthew Luwe, from the Bridge Department. Ms. Bryant concluded her report by answering questions on the status of the labor negotiations.

#### **IV. Public Comment**

Chairman Ponstein called for any agenda-related or general public comments, but there were none.

#### **V. Approval of Meeting Minutes for March 2023**

Chairman Ponstein called for a motion to approve the public meeting minutes for March 2023, as previously circulated.

Commissioner Leger moved to approve the minutes and Commissioner Langenstein seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

## **VI. Action Items:**

### **A. Acceptance of the Financial Statement for March 2023.**

Mr. Wendel presented the Commission's financial statement for the month of March, a copy of which is made a part of these minutes. Following a brief discussion, Commissioner Leger moved to accept the financial statement and Commissioner Langenstein seconded.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

### **B. Consider Approval of a Resolution Authorizing the Chief Executive Officer to Amend the Lease Agreement with GATX Rail Locomotive Group, L.L.C. to Lease up to Two Additional Locomotives and Increase the Not-To-Exceed Amount to \$2,536,750.**

Ms. Bryant presented and recommended approval of the resolution. Following a brief discussion, including questions from Commissioner Langenstein and Chairman Ponstein on the cost and performance of the new locomotives, Commissioner Langenstein moved to approve the resolution and Commissioner Leger seconded.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

## **VII. Chairman & Commissioners' Comments**

Chairman Ponstein opened the floor for Commissioners' comments. He expressed his gratitude for serving as NOPB's Chairman for an extended term.

## **VIII. Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the Commission, Chairman Ponstein called for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Leger moved and Commissioner Williams seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY** and Chairman Ponstein adjourned the meeting at 2:41 p.m.