

**THE NEW ORLEANS PUBLIC BELT RAILROAD COMMISSION
FOR THE PORT OF NEW ORLEANS
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING
MONDAY, JUNE 20, 2022**

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 1:32 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Charles H. Ponstein, Chairman
Joseph F. Toomy, Secretary-Treasurer
James J. Carter, Jr., Member
Sharonda R. Williams, Member

MEMBERS ABSENT: William H. Langenstein, III, Vice-Chairman
Walter J. Leger, Jr., Member

STAFF: T. Bryant, General Manager
C. Kocur, Vice-President, Engineering
A. Ferrand-Rodgers, Director, Organization Development
S. Guernsey, Manager, Mechanical

GUESTS: M. Ganon, Port of New Orleans
R. Wendel, Port of New Orleans
A. Evett, Port of New Orleans
J. Escudier, Port of New Orleans
J. Mansour, Port of New Orleans
C. Coats, Port of New Orleans
G. Brown, Port of New Orleans
R. Aragon Dolese, Port of New Orleans
M. Scelson, Port of New Orleans
G. Palermo, Port of New Orleans
B. McManus, Port of New Orleans
S. Gauthier, Port of New Orleans
C. Gilmore, Port of New Orleans
C. Labat, Port of New Orleans
Chief M. Montroll, Harbor Police Department
M. Sulser, Port of New Orleans
A. Taylor, Port of New Orleans
K. Howells, Port of New Orleans
A. Madere, Port of New Orleans
M. Singley, Port of New Orleans
P. Jackson, Port of New Orleans
J. Fields, Port of New Orleans

I. Roll Call & Determination of Quorum

Following a roll call, Chairman Ponstein confirmed a quorum and called the meeting to order at 1:32 p.m.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Ponstein led the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. Approval of Meeting Minutes for May 2022

Chairman Ponstein called for a motion to approve the public meeting minutes for May 2022, as previously circulated.

Commissioner Toomy moved to approve the minutes and Commissioner Carter seconded.
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

IV. Public Comment

Chairman Ponstein asked Ms. Singley to provide an overview of the Commission's process for submitting public comment. Chairman Ponstein called for any agenda-related or general public comments, but there were none.

V. Actions Items:

A. Acceptance of the Financial Statement for May 2022

Mr. Wendel presented the Commission's May financial statement, a copy of which is made a part of these minutes. Commissioner Toomy moved to accept the financial statement and Commissioner Williams seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

B. Consider Approval of a Resolution Adopting the New Orleans Public Belt Railroad Commission for the Port of New Orleans' Financial and Operating Plan for Fiscal Year 2023.

Mr. Wendel presented and recommended approval of a resolution adopting the *Financial and Operating Plan for Fiscal Year 2023* ("FY 2023 Budget"). The Commission's FY 2023 Budget is presented on a consolidated basis with the fiscal year budget for the Board of Commissioners of the Port of New Orleans, and a copy is made a part of these minutes. Following a brief discussion, including questions from Secretary-Treasurer Toomy about the timing of an increase in switching rates and from Chairman Ponstein about the duration of a contract for the painting of the Huey P. Long Bridge, Commissioner Carter moved to approve the resolution and Commissioner Toomy seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

C. Consider Approval of a Resolution Awarding a Contract to Griffin Consolidated Services, LLC d/b/a Griffin Railcar Services, LLC for the As-Needed Purchase and Delivery of New and Reconditioned Air Brake Valves for a Period of One Year with

Two One-Year Renewal Options, at a Cost Not to Exceed \$150,000 for the Full Contract Term.

Mr. Guernsey presented and recommended approval of the resolution. Following a brief discussion, including a question from Chairman Ponstein about the characteristics of the brake valves, Commissioner Williams moved to approve the resolution and Commissioner Carter seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

D. Consider Approval of a Resolution Authorizing the Chief Executive Officer to Enter into a Contract with Eustis Engineering L.L.C., to Provide As-Needed Geotechnical Engineering Services for a Period of One Year with Two One-Year Renewal Options, at Cost Not to Exceed \$150,000 for the Full Contract Term.

Mr. Kocur presented and recommended approval of the resolution. Following a brief discussion, including a question from Chairman Ponstein about the current service provider and from Secretary-Treasurer Toomy about whether such services would be limited to the Commission, Commissioner Toomy moved to approve the resolution and Commissioner Carter seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

E. Consider Approval of a Resolution Authorizing the Chief Executive Officer to Enter into a Contract with Lindfield, Hunter & Junius, Inc., to Provide As-Needed Engineering Services for a Period of One Year with Two One-Year Renewal Options, at Cost Not to Exceed \$1,500,000 for the Full Contract Term.

Mr. Kocur presented and recommended approval of the resolution. Following a brief discussion, including a question from Secretary-Treasurer Toomy about the type of services to be provided, Commissioner Toomy moved to approve the resolution and Commissioner Carter seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

F. Consider Approval of a Resolution Authorizing the Chief Executive Officer to Renew the Rental Agreement with Danella Rental Systems, Inc., for the 2013 Volvo VHD64 Grapple Truck, until the End of Next Fiscal Year.

Mr. Kocur presented and recommended approval of the resolution. Following a brief discussion, including questions from Chairman Ponstein and Commissioner Carter about the number and characteristics of the trucks, Commissioner Toomy moved to approve the resolution and Commissioner Carter seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

G. Consider Approval of a Resolution Authorizing the Chief Executive Officer to Enter into a Contract with Progressive Rail Leasing Corporation to Rent Five Ballast Railcars for an Initial Period of Five Years, at Cost Not to Exceed \$165,000 for the Full Contract Term.

Mr. Kocur presented and recommended approval of the resolution. Following a brief discussion, including a question from Chairman Ponstein asking if similar cars are currently in use, Commissioner Toomy moved to approve the resolution and Commissioner Carter seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

H. Consider Approval of a Resolution Declaring *The New Orleans Advocate* as the Official Journal of the New Orleans Public Belt Railroad Commission for the Port of New Orleans for Fiscal Year 2023.

Ms. Scelson presented and recommended approval of the resolution. Commissioner Carter moved to approve the resolution and Commissioner Williams seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

I. Consider Approval of a Resolution Declaring Approximately Five Acres of Vacant Property Located on River Road in Bridge City to be Surplus Property and Authorizing the Chief Executive Officer to Enter into an Agreement with Jefferson Parish for the Purchase of the Property in the Amount of \$74,050.

Ms. Coats presented and recommended approval of the resolution. Following a brief discussion, including a comment from Secretary-Treasurer Toomy noting that, because of the transaction, Jefferson Parish Fire Department will be able to provide industrial and commercial training, Commissioner Toomy moved to approve the resolution and Commissioner Williams seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

J. Briefing on the Proposed Amendments to the Commission's Bylaws.

Mr. Escudier briefed the Commissioners, in advance of the July 2022 public meeting, on the intent to amend the Commission's bylaws to authorize the Chairman to appoint a temporary Secretary from the Commissioners in attendance at any public meeting of the Commission in the event that the Secretary-Treasurer is absent.

VI. Report of the General Manager

Ms. Bryant presented the General Manager's Report, highlighting May volumes and productivity statistics, as well as the restoration of the Commission's "12-Man People Mover."

VII. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Commission, Chairman Ponstein called for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Carter moved and Commissioner Toomy seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY** and Chairman Ponstein adjourned the meeting at 2:01 p.m.