

**THE NEW ORLEANS PUBLIC BELT RAILROAD COMMISSION  
FOR THE PORT OF NEW ORLEANS  
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING  
THURSDAY, MAY 18, 2023**

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**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 3:50 P.M.**

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**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Joseph F. Toomy, Vice-Chairman  
Walter J. Leger, Jr., Secretary-Treasurer  
Sharonda R. Williams, Member  
James J. Carter, Jr., Member  
Jeanne E. Ferrer, Member  
Darryl D. Berger, Member

**STAFF:** B. Christian, Chief Executive Officer  
T. Bryant, General Manager  
C. Kocur, Vice-President, Engineering  
I. McPherson, Director Operation Planning  
L. Hensley, Superintendent, Transportation

**GUESTS:** R. Wendel, Port of New Orleans  
J. Escudier, Port of New Orleans  
L. Mellem, Port of New Orleans  
A. Evett, Port of New Orleans  
G. Brown, Port of New Orleans  
C. Coats, Port of New Orleans  
C. Gilmore, Port of New Orleans  
R. Aragon Dolese, Port of New Orleans  
A. Dawson, Port of New Orleans  
T. Black, Port of New Orleans  
A. Coates, Port of New Orleans  
Chief M. Montroll, Harbor Police Department  
Captain C. Turner, 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  
M. Naquin, Port of New Orleans  
J. Moran, Port of New Orleans  
M. Singley, Port of New Orleans  
J. Fields, Port of New Orleans

A. Johnson, Port of New Orleans  
C. Ponstein, former Board Commissioner  
R. Guidry, PEEC  
B. Rousselle, PEEC  
T. Wells, Waldemar Nelson Cp.  
B. Moldaner, T.Baker Smith  
C. Hall, Stantec  
S. Girau, Girau and Associates  
G. Carroll, Management Engineering  
J. Martin, Design Engineering, Inc.  
S. Waguespack, Gubernatorial Candidate

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

Following a roll call, Vice-Chairman Toomy confirmed a quorum and called the meeting to order at 3:50 p.m.

### **II. Election to Fill Commission Officer Vacancies**

Vice-Chairman Toomy stated that, as per Article VII(i) of the Bylaws, the Commission must elect a member to fill the vacancy for the position of Chairman. This role shall be effective immediately and shall serve solely for the New Orleans Public Belt Railroad Commission until the rotation of officers, scheduled at the end of the June Board meetings.

Vice-Chairman Toomy opened the floor for nominations to serve as the Commission's Chairman and Secretary-Treasurer Leger moved to nominate Vice-Chairman Toomy to fill the vacancy. Commission Carter seconded and the **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

Chairman Toomy accepted the nomination and stated that the Commission shall now elect a member to fill the vacant position of Vice-Chairman. He opened the floor for nominations and Commissioner Carter made a motion to nominate Secretary-Treasurer Leger to fill the vacancy. Commissioner Williams seconded and the **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

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

Ms. Bryant reported on the April volumes and productivity statistics. She concluded her report by providing an update on the repainting of the Huey P. Long Bridge project

### **IV. Public Comment**

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

**V. Approval of Meeting Minutes for April 2023**

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

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

**VI. Action Items:**

**A. Acceptance of the Financial Statement for April 2023.**

Mr. Wendel presented the Commission's financial statement for the month of April, 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 Williams seconded.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**VII. Chairman & Commissioners' Comments**

Chairman Toomy opened the floor for Commissioners' comments. Commissioner Leger commended the presence of former Commissioner Ponstein in the audience.

**VIII. Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the Commission, Chairman Toomy called for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Leger moved and Commissioner Carter seconded.  
**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY** and Chairman Toomy adjourned the meeting at 4 p.m.