

MISSISSIPPI PORT AUTHORITY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SPECIAL MEETING

July 18, 2019

Minutes of the Mississippi State Port Authority Board of Commissioners Meeting, Thursday, July 18th, 2019 at 2510 14th Street, Suite 1450, Gulfport, Mississippi at which the following Commissioners and staff were present:

Commissioners: John Rester, President
 Jack Norris, Vice-President
 E.J. Roberts, Secretary
 Robert J. Knesal, Treasurer (via telephone)
 James C. Simpson, Jr., Commissioner

Staff: Jonathan Daniels, Executive Director/CEO
 Kim Purchner, Executive Asst./HRO
 John Webb, Director of Engineering
 DeeDee Wood, CFO
 Nick Foto, Corporate Administrator

 David Duhe, Legal Counsel (via telephone)

Commissioner Rester noted the presence of a quorum and called the meeting to order at approximately 4:00 p.m.

There were no public comments.

Commissioner Simpson recused himself from the discussion and action regarding the next agenda item (Resolution No. 19-02) and left the room.

Commissioner Roberts moved to approve Resolution No. 19-02 (attached) regarding the Mississippi Aquarium. Commissioner Knesal seconded and a roll call vote was taken:

Commissioner Roberts:	Affirmative
Commissioner Knesal:	Affirmative
Commissioner Norris:	Affirmative
Commissioner Rester:	Affirmative

The motion was unanimously approved.

Commissioner Simpson re-entered the room.

Commissioner Roberts moved to enter Executive Session to discuss real estate matters (YILPORT). Commissioner Simpson seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Commissioner Knesal exited the meeting via telephone.

(THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS ENTERED INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT APPROXIMATELY 4:20 P.M.)


Commissioner Norris moved to come out of executive session and return to open meeting. Commissioner Roberts seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Commissioner Rester stated that no action was taken in Executive Session.


Commissioner Roberts moved to adjourn.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 4:45 p.m.

Approved and Attested



John Rester
President



E.J. Roberts
Secretary

RESOLUTION NO. 19-02

After proper notice, a quorum of the Board of Commissioners (“Board”) of the Mississippi State Port Authority at Gulfport (“MSPA”) took up for consideration the matter of its continued support of and one-time, lump sum monetary contribution to the Mississippi Aquarium Project being constructed in Gulfport, Mississippi (the “Aquarium”). Commissioner Roberts moved for the adoption of the following resolution:

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF THE MSPA EXPRESSING ITS CONTINUED SUPPORT OF THE MISSISSIPPI AQUARIUM PROJECT AND TO MAKE A ONE-TIME, LUMP SUM MONETARY CONTRIBUTION IN THE AMOUNT OF ONE MILLION DOLLARS (\$1,000,000.00) IN CONSIDERATION OF THE AGREEMENT OF THE AQUARIUM TO PROMOTE, ADVANCE AND DEVELOP THE STRATEGIC SYNERGIES OF THE STATE PORT AND MISSISSIPPI AQUARIUM PROJECT.

WHEREAS, Section 59-5-37(1) of the Mississippi Code authorizes, among other things, the MSPA to make all contracts and purchases incidental to or necessary for the advancement, promotion and development of the State Port;

WHEREAS, the Mississippi Aquarium is being built on the Mississippi coastline in Gulfport, Mississippi near the State Port and, once completed, the Aquarium will be a premier attraction delivering an awe-inspiring entertainment and educational experience of the Mississippi Gulf Coast’s saltwater and freshwater habitats and promote conservation, research and protection of the waters of the Mississippi Gulf Coast;

WHEREAS, the Aquarium will engage, empower and instill communities and students along the Mississippi Gulf Coast and beyond about the importance of the marine environment and build partnerships with a variety of state and local governments, including the MSPA, institutions of higher learning and other businesses to achieve its educational, research and conservation awareness goals;

WHEREAS, these research and conservation objectives provide a unique opportunity to create synergies between the Aquarium and the MSPA’s strategic objective of diversifying the blue economy and promoting marine research in the field of oceanographic studies by leveraging the knowledge and expertise of the Aquarium with the resources and state-of-the-art maritime technologies of the Marine Research Center at the State Port, such as its underwater, unmanned drones, surveying tools and the Point Sur—the 135-ft research vessel docked at the Port together with other forthcoming maritime technological advancements and improvements as a result of the recently awarded \$2,000,000 RESTORE Act Grant Funds;

WHEREAS, in addition to the educational and research goals identified above, the Aquarium is expected to be an economic driver to the continued growth and success of the Mississippi Gulf Coast, the State of Mississippi as well as the State Port;

WHEREAS, from an economic standpoint, it is estimated that the Aquarium will: (i) attract approximately 500,000 annual visitors; (ii) provide an overall economic impact of

approximately \$338 million to the State of Mississippi; (iii) provide approximately \$41.8 million in additional annual tax revenues (\$2.8 at the local level and \$12.3 at the state level); (iv) create more than 100 full- & part-time Aquarium jobs; and (v) create approximately 900 additional jobs supporting tourism and economic development throughout the State of Mississippi;

WHEREAS, increased tourism as a result of the Aquarium is expected to create a higher demand for nearby hotel and resort accommodations at the Island View Hotel and Casino (the "Island View"), which will generate additional revenue for the MSPA under its existing lease with the Island View as well as expanded opportunities on the State Port;

WHEREAS, the economic development and growth to the State of Mississippi coupled with the job creation and increase in tourism attributable to the Aquarium provide a unique opportunity that the MSPA can leverage to advance, promote and develop the State Port;

WHEREAS, a one-time, lump sum monetary contribution to the Mississippi Aquarium in the amount of One Million and No/100 Dollars (\$1,000,000.00) will help to ensure that the Aquarium realizes its stated objectives while simultaneously promoting the State Port and its contributions to the blue economy by displaying and illustrating the State Port's use of the ocean's resources for economic growth, improving livelihoods and creating jobs while simultaneously promoting the State Port's commitment to research and conservation of the Mississippi Gulf Coast's saltwater and freshwater habitats and beyond;

WHEREAS, the MSPA recognizes that economic advancement at the State Port and in the region is predicated on a market that provides the opportunity for economic growth, tourism, unique educational and research opportunities as well as a platform for healthy job creation; and

WHEREAS, the Board of the MSPA hereby finds that it is in the best interest of the State Port to align itself with the economic, educational and research goals of the Mississippi Aquarium Project and that by doing so it will advance, promote and develop the business and strategic objectives of the State Port.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE MISSISSIPPI STATE PORT AUTHORITY AT GULFPORT, AS FOLLOWS:

The Board of the MSPA does hereby memorialize its support for the Mississippi Aquarium by authorizing the MSPA to make a one-time, lump sum monetary contribution to the Aquarium in the amount of One Million and No/100 Dollars (\$1,000,000.00) which will evidence the MSPA's long-term commitment to the Aquarium and the acceptance thereof by the Aquarium represents its commitment to the MSPA for the advancement, promotion and development of leveraging the business, research and strategic synergies of the State Port and the Mississippi Aquarium.

Commissioner Knesal seconded the motion to adopt the foregoing Resolution, and the vote thereupon was as follows:

Voted:

Commissioner Knesal

Aye

Commissioner Simpson

Recused

Commissioner Rester

Aye


Commissioner Norris

Aye

Commissioner Roberts

Aye

The motion having received the foregoing vote of the Board of Commissioners, the President declared the motion carried and the Resolution adopted, on this the 18th day of July, 2019.



John Rester, PRESIDENT

