

MISSISSIPPI PORT AUTHORITY

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

REGULAR MEETING

July 23, 2026

Minutes of the Mississippi State Port Authority Board of Commissioners Meeting, Thursday, July 23, 2026, at 2510 14th Street, Suite 1450, Gulfport, Mississippi at which the following Commissioners and staff were present:

Commissioners: Mark Loughman, President
Robert J. Knesal, Vice-President
Kathryn Dennis Spear, Secretary
James Moody, Treasurer
Cowles Symmes, Commissioner

Staff: Jon Nass, CEO
Shawn Meyer, COO
Jennifer Smith, Chief of Staff/CAO
Kecia Laneaux, Executive Affairs Manager
Errol LaRue, Director of Public Affairs & Special Projects
Todd Harman, Director of Finance
Gary Pitcovich, Assistant Director of Operations
Brett Cobb, Port Engineer
Teresa Ehrlich, Project Manager
Cindy Ford, Contract/Administrative Assistant
KeCheira Shelby, Principal Accountant
Melissa Scallan, Director of Communications & Marketing

Ben Stone, Legal Counsel

Others: Jennifer Norwood, USM RFWCOE
Mike Letort, Warren Paving
Joey Beattie, SSH/Gallagher
Tishona Smith, Residence Inn
Nick Moody, MP Design
David Machado, MP Design
Murrell Hilton, Gulfport Pilots
Greg Schruff, SSA Marine

Commissioner Loughman noted the presence of a quorum and called the meeting to order at approximately 10:30 a.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Loughman.

The invocation was given by Ally Jones-Johnson, MSPA.

Commissioner Symmes moved to amend the agenda to include an item under New Business item 9E approval of the 2028 LBO Budget and 9F approval of the Amendment to Agreement Lease Agreement for Chiquita Fresh North America. Commissioner Moody seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

No public comments.

Commissioner Symmes moved to approve the Minutes from June 23, 2026, Board Meeting. Commissioner Knesal seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Commissioner Symmes moved to approve travel (July 13-15, 2026) – Smith to Washington, DC; (August 31-September 3) – LaRue to Houston, TX; (September 20-24) – Smith to Houston, TX; (June 23-26). Commissioner Moody seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Commissioner Moody left the meeting.

Commissioner Symmes moved to approve the disbursements for Arthur J. Gallagher (\$2,194,340.58); Wright National Flood Insurance (\$67,264.00) and Equitable Financial Life Insurance Co. (\$1,969.77). Commissioner Knesal seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Commissioner Moody returned to the meeting.

Commissioner Loughman left the meeting.

Commissioner Symmes moved to approve the disbursement for Mississippi Power Company (\$175,799.73). Commissioner Moody seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Commissioner Loughman returned to the meeting.

Commissioner Spear left the meeting.

Commissioner Moody moved to approve the disbursement for D.N.P., Inc. (\$278,619.47). Commissioner Symmes seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Commissioner Spear returned to the meeting.

Commissioner Symmes moved to approve the disbursements listed below except for Arthur J. Gallagher, Wright National Flood Insurance, and Equitable Financial Life Insurance Company, Mississippi Power Company and D.N.P, Inc. Commissioner Knesal seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

FINAL CHECKLIST FOR JULY 23, 2026

BILLS FOR THE MONTHS OF JUNE 2026 AND JULY 2026 APPROVED AND PAID

FROM THE GROSS REVENUE FUND OF THE MS STATE PORT AUTHORITY AT GULFPORT

CHECK NO.	VENDOR	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT
63071	AFLAC	Employee Deductions	154.44
63072	AFLAC	Employee Deductions	154.44
63073	AGJ Systems & Networks, Inc.	IT Services	6,302.73
63074	AICPA	CPA License Renewal - T.Harman	360.00
63075	All Safe Technologies, LLC	Fire Alarm Monitoring	615.30
63076	Amazon Capital Services, INC.	Office Supplies	1,184.17
63077	Sparklight	Internet - Cotton Compress	248.36
63078	Consolidated Electrical Distributors, Inc	Power Station on Piers & Breakers	847.20
63079	C Spire Wireless	Cell Phone Services	1,594.10
63080	C Spire Business Solutions	Office Phones/Internet	1,829.26
63081	Federal Express Corp.	Express Mail Services	8.49
63082	Fuelman	Fuel for MSPA Vehicles	734.12
63083	Arthur J. Gallagher	Insurance	2,194,340.58
63084	Great Southern Club	Business Dev. Meetings & Monthly Dues	188.00
63085	Harbor Square Parking Garage	Parking	4,688.10
63086	HRdirect	Office Supplies	105.88
63087	MS State Treasurer Fund 3360900000	Telephone	46.75
63088	MS-JS, Inc DBA Johnstone Supply of Gpt	Chiquita Server Room Mini Split/Surveillance AC	1,311.08
63089	Kiwanis International of Gulfport	Membership Dues	80.00
63090	Robert J. Knesal	Per Diem	40.00

63091	Mark P. Loughman	Per Diem	80.00
63092	Lowe's Home Center, Inc.	Maintenance Supplies	316.42
63093	McClatchy Company, LLC	Legal Ads - Bids & Employment	62.02
63094	Meltwater News US Inc.	Media & Marketing Ananlytic Software	4,000.00
63095	James Moody	Per Diem	40.00
63096	MS Power Company	Electricity	175,799.73
63097	United Rentals (North America), Inc.	Equipment Rental	3,279.92
63098	Pass Road Mini Storage, LLC	Storage Unit Rent	392.00
63099	Primo Brands	Water	1,037.41
63100	Puckett Machinery Company	Man Lift Repair	22,681.59
63101	Redd Pest Solutions	Pest Control Services	147.00
63102	RJ Young Company, Inc.	Printer Maintenance	650.00
63103	Rotary Club of Gulfport	Membership Dues	591.00
63104	Stericycle, Inc.	Document Shredding	204.01
63105	Southern Printing & Silkscreen	Uniform	389.80
63106	Southern Admin. and Benefits	Monthly Service Fee	208.00
63107	Cowles Edgar Symmes	Per Diem	40.00
63108	System Scale Corporation	Scale Repair	3,835.68
63109	Upchurch Services, LLC	Organic Room Chiller Repair	4,657.50
63110	Waterways Council, Inc.	Membership Dues	5,000.00
63111	Wright National Flood Ins.	Insurance	67,264.00
63112	HUGE Business & Investment Council, Inc.	Membership Dues	15,000.00
63114	Equitable Financial Life Insurance Co.	Employee Deductions	1,969.77
63115	Whitney Bank Divisional Property	Suite 1450 Lease	29,348.92
63116	Arthur J. Gallagher	Insurance	311,577.07
			2,863,404.84
TRANSFERS			
ACH	A-1 Battery Distributor, Inc.	Maintenance Supplies	88.45
ACH	A-1 Elevator Service, LLC	Elevator Maintenance	2,973.00
ACH	Adobe, Inc.	Software Licenses	5,589.48
ACH	Aesir Services, Inc.	Environmental Online Consultants	500.00
ACH	AirGas Gulf States	Acetylene, Oxygen and Argon Cylinders	618.18
ACH	Alexandrea Cherelle Jones-Johnson	Reimbursement - SHRM Conference	81.58
ACH	American Assoc. of Port Auth.	US Ports Membership Dues	15,805.00
ACH	Andrew Haines	Business Development & Consulting Services	23,917.00
ACH	Angela Shortt	Reimbursement - TWIC Card	116.00
ACH	Breakbulk US OPCO Inc	Conference Booth	7,120.00
ACH	Conway Data, Inc.	Advertisement	10,400.00
ACH	Covenant Government Affairs, LLC	Professional Consulting Services	10,000.00
ACH	EcoWaste Solutions	Dumpster	1,334.29
ACH	Jerry's Lawn Mower Sales	Equipment Parts	416.84
ACH	Kathryn Dennis Spear	Per Diem	40.00
ACH	KLDDiscovery Ontrack, LLC	Professional Services	1,477.00
ACH	MS Gulf Coast Chamber of Comm.	Legislative Lunch	750.00
ACH	MS Gulf Coast Chamber of Comm.	Membership Dues	100.00
ACH	NEXTAFF	Temp Employee - Receptionist	720.00
ACH	Peopletail, LLC	New Employee Background Check	162.38
ACH	Portable Services, Inc	Portable Restroom Services	765.00
ACH	Rotolo Consultants, Inc. dba RCI	Landscaping Services	13,729.78
ACH	Seal Electrical, Inc.	Test Cables on PM1 & PM2	1,518.88
ACH	SoftResources LLC	ERP Consulting Services	2,812.50
ACH	South Mississippi Business Machines	Copier Lease & Maintenance	1,256.52
ACH	Swetman Security Services, Inc.	Security Services	113,591.24
ACH	Timeless Designs of Lucedale LLC	Interior Plant Maintenance	279.69
ACH	Tyler Technologies, Inc.	ERP Setup	942.50
ACH	U.S. Bank	Travel	736.43
ACH	U.S. Bank	Subscriptions, Office Supplies, Meeting Supplies	2,501.51
ACH	Zoro Tools, Inc.	Maintenance Supplies	8,144.31
ACH	Portable Services, Inc	Portable Restroom Services	110.00
ACH	Tyler Technologies, Inc.	ERP Setup	1,956.05
			3,093,958.45

Commissioner Moody moved to approve the Port User Licenses, pending receipt of all fees and insurance documents. Commissioner Spear seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

The following items were approved:

RENEWAL LICENSES:

Vendor:	Airgas USA, LLC Coast Coca Cola Bottling Co. Vacuum Service Group, LLC Wilhelmsen Port Services
Steamship Agent:	Mid-Gulf Shipping Wilhelmsen Port Services
Stevedore:	Agunsa Terminals and Services, LLC

Commissioner Knesal moved to approve the following progress payments: Balch & Bingham (\$8,850.00); HDR Engineering (\$56,161.00) and MP Design Group (\$358,094.30). Commissioner Moody seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

OLD BUSINESS

Commissioner Spear left the meeting.

Commissioner Symmes moved to approve the reconciliatory Change Order No. 2 final payment, retainment payment, and issuance of the Notice of Completion to D.N.P., Inc. for contract 24-EN-06 East Pier Deep Water Wharf for USM/NOAA. Commissioner Knesal seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Commissioner Spear returned to the meeting.

Commissioner Symmes moved to approve Modification No. 1 to Work Order No. 4 with HDR Engineering, Inc. under Contract No. 24-EN-04 for close out and deobligation. Commissioner Moody seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Commissioner Symmes moved to approve modifications under Contract No. 23-EN-01 for closeout and deobligation with MP Design Group. Modification No. 4 to Work Order No. 1 to close the work order and deobligate funds in the amount of (\$20,192.78). This Work Order provided for the general on-call or as needed engineering services; Modification No. 1 to Work Order No. 4 for the East Pier Deep Water Wharf for USM/NOAA and deobligation of the remaining work order funds in the amount of (\$3,876.09); Modification No. 1 to Work Order No. 10 to close the work order and deobligate funds in the amount of (\$3,943.99). This Work Order provided for the hydrographic survey of docks; Modification No. 1 to Work Order No. 15 to close the work order and deobligate funds in the amount of (\$48,287.70). This Work Order provided for the services for modification of USACE East Pier Expansion permit for wharf construction; Modification No. 3 to Work Order No. 16 to close the work order and deobligate funds in the amount of (\$235,552.90). This Work Order provided for engineering design and construction documents for the East Pier Expansion. Commissioner Spear⁸⁵⁷ seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Symmes moved to approve the Professional Services Agreement with MP Design Group for on-call consulting and engineering services for a term of three years with two options of one (1) year renewal with a five year maximum. Commissioner Moody seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Commissioner Symmes moved to approve Work Order No. 1 with MP Design Group under Contract No. 27-EN-01 in an amount not to exceed \$100,000.00 for professional

engineering services on an as-needed or on-call basis. Commissioner Knesal seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Commissioner Symmes moved to approve Work Order No. 2 to Contract 27-EN-01 for professional engineering services related to supporting grant applications and grant administration in FY2027, not to exceed \$50,000.00. Commissioner Moody seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Commissioner Symmes moved to approve Work Order No. 3 with MP Design Group under Contract No. 27-EN-01 for engineering services in an amount not to exceed \$165,480.00. Commissioner Knesal seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Commissioner Symmes moved to approve fiscal year 2028 LBO Budget for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2028. Commissioner Moody seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Commissioner Moody moved to approve an amendment to lease agreement with Chiquita Fresh North America LLC for a term of ten (10) years with a new end date of August 15, 2036. Commissioner Symmes seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

ENGINEERING UPDATE:

Shawn Meyer reported on current engineering projects.

OPERATIONS REPORT:

Shawn Meyer reported on the maritime activity for June 2026:

Vessels	18		Vehicles	14,000
Tugs	5		Railcars	646
Tonnage (YTD)	2,142.000		Barges	26
Tonnage	236,118		TEU (monthly)	17,832
TEU's (short tons)	181,106		Cruise line	

Year-to-date tonnage decreased by 4 percent, and monthly tonnage increased by 31%. The large increase was due to a bulk vessel. Fiscal year-to-date TEU's declined by 3 percent, and monthly TEU's increased by 18 percent. This increase reflects two extra container vessels over last year.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS:

Brett Cobb, MSPA Port Engineer, was introduced to the Board. Brett is a United States Marine and former employee of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Executive Director Nass recognized the completion of the USM/NOAA pier project.

Executive Director Nass reported on the recent visit to Washington, D.C., regarding the Deepening and Widening Project. The next step in authorization of the project through the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA). Both the House and Senate Environments Committees have authorized the project, resulting in its inclusion in both the House and Senate versions of the legislation. This represents a positive step toward final project approval.

The annual American Association of Port Authorities (AAPA) Conference will be held in New Orleans, Louisiana, from September 28-30, 2026.

GENERAL COUNSEL'S COMMENTS:

Ben Stone congratulated Executive Director Nass and Port staff on their work and continued efforts on the Deeping and Widening Project.

MDA'S COMMENTS:

No comments.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS:

Commissioner Knesal welcomed Brett Cobb.

Commissioner Moody moved to close the meeting to discuss the need for an Executive Session.

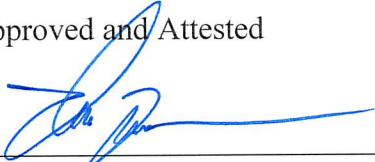
Commissioner Knesal moved to enter Executive Session to discuss legal, real estate and personnel matter and potential business location. Commissioner Symmes seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

(THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS ENTERED INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT APPROXIMATELY 11:07 A.M.)

Commissioner Symmes moved to adjourn. Commissioner Moody seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 12:01 p.m.

Approved and Attested



Mark Loughman
President



Kathryn Dennis Spear
Secretary