

MISSISSIPPI PORT AUTHORITY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING

November 20, 2025

Minutes of the Mississippi State Port Authority Board of Commissioners Meeting,
Thursday, November 20, 2025, at 2510 14th Street, Suite 1450, Gulfport, Mississippi at
which the following Commissioners and staff were present:

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

Staff: Jon Nass, CEO
Shawn Meyer, COO
Jennifer Smith, Chief of Staff (via telephone)
Kecia Laneaux, Executive Affairs Manager
James Buras, Port Engineer
Errol LaRue, Counsel
Todd Harman, Director of Finance
Matt Gabbett, Director of Operations
Gary Pitcovich, Assistant Director of Operations
Teresa Ehrlich, Project Manager
Cindy Ford, Contract/Administrative Assistant
Melissa Scallan, Director of Communications & Marketing
Ally Jones-Johnson, Port Affairs Coordinator
Kristen Bellati, Marketing & Public Relations Specialist
Samantha Gundlach, Communication & Marketing Assoc.

Ben Stone, Legal Counsel

Others: Philip Carter, MDA (via telephone)
Tishona Smith, Residence Inn Gulfport
Robert Wren, Pilot
Matthew Hilton, Pilots
David Machado, MP Design
Murrell Hilton, Pilots

Commissioner Symmes noted the presence of a quorum and called the meeting to order at approximately 9:00 a.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Symmes.

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

BJ Sellers with Gulf Pride Paving welcomed the opportunity to continue a relationship with MSPA.

Commissioner Moody moved to approve the Minutes from November 7, 2025, Board Meeting. Commissioner Spear seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Commissioner Moody left the meeting.

Commissioner Knesal moved to approve the disbursements for Arthur J. Gallagher (\$30,790.00). Commissioner Spear seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Commissioner Moody returned to the meeting.

Commissioner Loughman left the meeting.

Commissioner Spear moved to approve the disbursement for Mississippi Power Company (\$11,280.34). Commissioner Moody seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Commissioner Loughman returned to the meeting.

Commissioner Knesal moved to approve the disbursements listed below except for Arthur J. Gallagher and Mississippi Power Company. Commissioner Moody seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

FINAL CHECKLIST FOR NOVEMBER 19, 2025				
BILLS FOR THE MONTHS OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER 2025 APPROVED AND PAID				
FROM THE GROSS REVENUE FUND OF THE MS STATE PORT AUTHORITY AT GULFPORT				
CHK #	DATE	VENDOR	AMOUNT	
62620	11/19/2025	A-1 Elevator Service, LLC	\$	2,832.00
62621	11/19/2025	Kentwood Springs		587.03
62622	11/19/2025	AGJ Systems & Networks, Inc.		4,938.50
62623	11/19/2025	AirGas Gulf States		755.31
62624	11/19/2025	All Safe Technologies, LLC		638.74
62625	11/19/2025	FedEx Freight East		8.95
62626	11/19/2025	Sparklight		268.26
62627	11/19/2025	Sparklight		196.36
62628	11/19/2025	City of Gulfport		44,877.46
62629	11/19/2025	C Spire Business Solutions		3,597.94
62630	11/19/2025	Dept. of Finance & Admin.		5,357.00
62631	11/19/2025	DNA Underground, LLC		1,480.00
62632	11/19/2025	Express Services, Inc.		159.38
62633	11/19/2025	Federal Express Corp.		21.11
62634	11/19/2025	Fuelman		1,659.85
62635	11/19/2025	Arthur J. Gallagher		30,790.00
62636	11/19/2025	Great Southern Club		214.76
62637	11/19/2025	Gulf Coast Business Council		750.00
62638	11/19/2025	Whitney Bank Trust & Asset Management		25,155.13
62639	11/19/2025	Alexandrea Cherelle Jones-Johnson		30.00
62640	11/19/2025	KLDiscovery Ontrack, LLC		2,954.00
62641	11/19/2025	Robert J. Knesal		200.00
62642	11/19/2025	Mark P. Loughman		2,792.55
62643	11/19/2025	Maritime Defense Strategy, LLC		3,650.00
62644	11/19/2025	Mark Dunning Industries, Inc.		1,960.00
62645	11/19/2025	MS Gulf Coast Chamber of Comm.		500.00
62646	11/19/2025	MS Gulf Coast Chamber of Comm.		395.00
62647	11/19/2025	MS Gulf Coast Chamber of Comm.		700.00
62648	11/19/2025	MS Power Company		11,280.34
62649	11/19/2025	Pass Road Mini Storage, LLC		577.00
62650	11/19/2025	Peopletrail, LLC		97.50
62651	11/19/2025	Portable Services, Inc		1,410.00
62652	11/19/2025	Quadient Leasing USA Inc		195.57
62653	11/19/2025	Quadient Finance USA, Inc.		1,000.00
62654	11/19/2025	Redd Pest Solutions		193.50

62655	11/19/2025	RJ Young Company, Inc.	650.00
62656	11/19/2025	Sage Software, Inc.	3,445.00
62657	11/19/2025	South Mississippi Business Machines	509.00
62658	11/19/2025	SoftResources LLC	20,424.15
62659	11/19/2025	SSA Gulf Inc.	1,800.00
62660	11/19/2025	Sun Herald	66.32
62661	11/19/2025	Swetman Security Services, Inc.	70,605.45
62662	11/19/2025	Upchurch Services, LLC	48,378.27
62663	11/19/2025	U.S. Bank	2,093.45
ACH	11/21/2025	Todd Harman	114.46
ACH	11/21/2025	Kathryn Dennis Spear	40.00
ACH	11/21/2025	Jon T. Nass	2,895.05
ACH	11/21/2025	Rotolo Consultants, Inc.	6,157.60
ACH	11/21/2025	SBL Strategies, LLC	10,000.00
ACH	11/21/2025	Norma Jean Ladner Soroe	778.96
ACH	11/21/2025	Stafford Studios, LLC	1,046.20
ACH	11/21/2025	Timeless Designs of Lucedale, LLC	279.69
ACH	11/22/2025	Samantha Gundlach	35.00
ACH	11/21/2025	Connected Oceans	23,416.66
Total			\$ 344,958.50

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

The following items were approved:

RENEWAL LICENSES:

Pilot: Murrell W. Hilton, III
Matthew Hilton

Steamship Agents: - ISS Marine Service
Maritime Endeavors Shipping

Commissioner Loughman moved to approve the following progress payments: Balch & Bingham (\$21,534.15) and MP Design Group (\$62,854.48). Commissioner Moody seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

OLD BUSINESS:

Commissioner Spear moved to approve Modification No. 1 to Work Order No. 11 under Contract 24-EN-03 with WSP, Inc. to close the work order and deobligate funds in the amount of (\$619.28) for the PIPD Grant Application and Modification No. 1 to Work Order No. 14 under Contract 24-EN-03 with WSP, Inc. to close the work order and deobligate funds in the amount of (\$316,325.13) for the East Pier Master Plan. Commissioner Moody seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Commissioner Loughman moved to approve Supplemental Agreement No. 1 to Strategic Multi-Modal Investment Fund Grant Agreement SMIFP-24(007) with the Mississippi Transportation Commission and agreement will extend the project deadline to December 31, 2027, and remove federal and other funding sources from the grant agreement. The project scope SMIF funds (\$2,616,179.00) and Local funds (\$2,255,880.60) will remain the same. Commissioner Knesal seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Commissioner Loughman moved to approve authorization to enter into second amendment to lease option agreement with Crown Castle Towers. Commissioner Moody seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Loughman moved to approve Work Order No. 19 with MP Design Group to provide engineering services for visual inspections of the Port’s infrastructure assets, as outlined in the proposal dated November 11, 2025, Task Order 19-Annual Visual Inspections. Work will be performed at the rates established in Amendment No. 1 to Contract 23-EN-01 for a not to exceed amount of \$71,465.00. Commissioner Knesal seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Commissioner Moody moved to approve Work Order No. 20 with MP Design Group under Contract 23-EN-01, which provides engineering services painting Crowley, Chiquita and Dole gates as outlined in MP Design Group’s proposal dated November 11, 2025. Work will be performed at the rates established in Amendment No. 1 to Contract 23-EN-01 for a not to exceed amount of \$52,295.00. Commissioner Knesal seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

ENGINEERING UPDATE:

James Buras reported on current engineering projects.

OPERATIONS REPORT:

Shawn Meyer reported on the maritime activity for October 2025:

Vessels	13		Vehicles	13,800
Tugs	4		Railcars	631
Tonnage (YTD)	852,964		Barges	25
Tonnage	168,829		TEU (monthly)	61,348
TEU’s (short tons)	14,160			

Monthly TEU’s decreased by 12% compared to the previous fiscal year. Year-to-date tonnage increased by 13%.

There was a slight decrease in imports/exports.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S COMMENTS:

The proposed schedule for 2026 MSPA Board of Commissioner meetings was distributed to all board members.

January 7, 2026, the Gulf Coast Legislative Reception will be held in Jackson and MSPA will be hosting a reception for the event.

The ERP selection progress is progressing, with reference interviews currently underway. A recommendation is expected to be presented at the December board meeting for approval, with an anticipated implementation timeline of approximately 6-12 months.

The Colonel for the Army Corps of Engineers is scheduled to visit the Port during the first week of December.

Director Nass provided a year-end progress update for Business Development and outlined the initiatives for the upcoming year. The first major event of the new year will be the Poultry Show in Atlanta, Georgia.

GENERAL COUNSEL’S COMMENTS:

Ben Stone had no comments.

MDA'S COMMENTS:

No comments.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS:

Commissioner Symmes expressed appreciation to the team for the efforts related to the new crane project. The Commissioners wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Commissioner Moody moved to close the meeting to discuss the need for an Executive Session. Commissioner Loughman seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Commissioner Knesal moved to enter Executive Session to discuss legal, real estate and personnel matters. Commissioner Spear seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

(THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS ENTERED INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT APPROXIMATELY 9:29 A.M.)

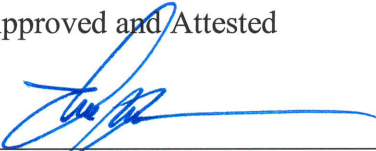
Commissioner Loughman moved to come out of Executive Session. Commissioner Moody seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Commissioner Symmes stated that no action took place during the Executive Session.


Commissioner Symmes moved to adjourn.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 10:49 a.m.

Approved and Attested



Mark Loughman
President



Kathryn Dennis Spear
Secretary