

MISSISSIPPI PORT AUTHORITY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

REGULAR MEETING

November 21, 2024

Minutes of the Mississippi State Port Authority Board of Commissioners Meeting,
Thursday, November 21, 2024, at 2510 14th Street, Suite 1450, Gulfport, Mississippi at
which the following Commissioners and staff were present:

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

Staff: Jon Nass, CEO
Shawn Meyer, COO
Kecia Laneaux, Executive Affairs Coordinator
Errol LaRue, Counsel
James Buras, Port Engineer
Teresa Ehrlich, Project Manager
Hannah Milliet, Public Relations & Marketing Specialist
Matt Gabbett, Director of Operations
Gary Pitcovich, Assistant Director of Operations
John D'Antico, General Counsel
Michelle Freeman, Accounting Specialist
Katie Gill, Entry Level Accountant
Lisa Mussa, Accounting Specialist
Cindy Ford, Contract/Administrative Assistant

Bryant Pettis, Legal Counsel

Others: Nicholas Moody, MP Design Group
Murrell Hilton, MS Pilots of Gulfport
Josh Sheffield, Captain
Matthew Hilton, MS Pilots of Gulfport
David Machado, MP Design Group
True Pasley, Positive Energy

Commissioner Rester 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 Rester.

The invocation was given by Michelle Freeman, MSPA.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

There were no public comments.

Commissioner Symmes moved to approve the Minutes from the October 24, 2024, Board Meeting. Commissioner Spears seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Commissioner Symmes moved to approve the disbursements listed below. Commissioner Loughman seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

DISBURSEMENTS THROUGH NOVEMBER 6, 2024
 BILLS FOR THE MONTHS OF OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER 2024 APPROVED AND PAID
 FROM THE GROSS REVENUE FUND OF THE MS STATE PORT AUTHORITY AT GULFPORT

CHK #	VENDOR	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT
61424	AGJ Systems & Networks, Inc.	Run Cable for New Office and Computer Maintenance	5,366.00
61425	AirGas Gulf States	Oxygen Cylinder	134.48
61426	Amazon Capital Services, INC.	Golf Cart Parts, Office Supplies and Tripod	1,585.50
61427	Sparklight	Internet Services	93.18
61428	CenterPoint Energy	Natural Gas Services	41.94
61429	City of Gulfport	Water	7,193.28
61430	Sun Coast Business Supply	Office Supplies	217.48
61431	Consolidated Electrical Distributors, Inc.	Drivers for Parking Lot Lights and Light Bulbs	1,896.40
61432	Hannah Milliet	Travel Expenses	227.80
61433	C Spire Wireless	Cell Phone Services	1,164.85
61434	Deluxe Cleaners, Inc.	Clean Tablecloths	130.00
61435	East Beach Specialties, Inc.	Promotional Supplies	229.00
61436	Federal Express Corp.	Express Mail Services	52.40
61437	Fuelman	Fuel for MSPA Vehicles	250.69
61438	Grainger, Inc.	Life Jackets	788.28
61439	Gulf Coast Business Council	Sponsorship	750.00
61440	Hostpapa, Inc.	Website Hosting	97.16
61441	Journal Communications, Inc.	Advertising	9,230.00
61442	KLDiscovery Ontrack, LLC	Professional Services	1,477.00
61443	Errol LaRue	Travel Expenses	16.00
61444	Lowe's Home Center, Inc.	Dishwasher, Painting Supplies, Truck Parts and Tools	568.89
61445	Maritime Defense Strategy, LLC	Consulting Services	3,650.00
61446	McClatchy Company, LLC	Advertising	2,200.00
61447	MS DHS - State Disbursement Unit	Employee Deductions	263.56
61448	MS Gulf Coast Chamber of Comm.	Registration Fee	40.00
61449	MS Pub. Employees Credit Union	Employee Deductions	375.00
61450	Jon T. Nass	Travel Expenses	2,004.35
61451	Pass Road Mini Storage, LLC	Storage Unit Rent	185.00
61452	Peopletrail, LLC	Employee Testing	224.31
61453	RJ Young Company, Inc.	Printer Maintenance	600.00
61454	Rotary Club of Gulfport	Membership Dues	252.00
61455	Rotolo Consultants, Inc. dba RCI	Landscape Services	8,030.51
61456	Siemens Industry, Inc.	Repair Fire Alarm at Dole Administration Building	987.00
61457	Sorg Printing, LLC	Business Cards	150.00
61458	Southern Admin. and Benefits	Monthly Service Fee	208.00
61459	SSA Gulf Inc.	Office Trailer Rent for Cotton Compress	900.00
61460	Christopher Michael Stafford	Professional Video Services	600.00
61461	Swetman Security Services, Inc.	Security Guard Services	32,855.50
61462	Timeless Designs of Lucedale LLC	Interior Plant Maintenance	279.69
61463	TX Child Support SDU	Employee Deductions	219.23
61464	Union Auto Parts	Maintenance Supplies	722.90
61465	Upchurch Services, LLC	HVAC/R Maintenance and Repair Services	23,230.54
61466	Vacuum Truck Sales & Service, LLC	Parts for Street Sweeper	1,015.84
61467	Zoro Tools, Inc.	Employee Uniforms, Janitorial and Safety Supplies	553.65

TRANSFERS

10/24/24	Public Employment Retirement	Retirement Match and Withheld	64,035.38
11/01/24	Deferred Compensation	Employee Deductions	1,975.00
11/01/24	Federal Tax Deposit	Payroll Tax Deposit	29,173.91
11/05/24	State School Insurance Fund	11/2024 Employee Health & Life Insurance	12,891.00
11/06/24	Regus	Rent for Public Affairs Office in Jackson MS	627.60
Total			<u>\$219,760.30</u>

FINAL CHECKLIST FOR NOVEMBER 21, 2024

BILLS FOR THE MONTHS OF OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER 2024 APPROVED AND PAID
FROM THE GROSS REVENUE FUND OF THE MS STATE PORT AUTHORITY AT GULFPORT

CHK #	VENDOR	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT
61468	Kentwood Springs	Drinking Water	422.21
61469	AFLAC	Employee Deductions	1,011.49
61470	AirGas Gulf States	Acetylene, Oxygen and Argon Cylinders	246.15
61471	All Safe Technologies, LLC	Fire Alarm Monitoring	239.70
61472	Amazon Capital Services, INC.	Gas Detector & Office Supplies	745.92
61473	Apex Environmental Consultants, Inc.	Environmental Online Services	500.00
61474	Boot Outlet, LLC	Safety Boots	1,994.45
61475	Sparklight	Cable Services	248.90
61476	City of Gulfport	Water	2,660.32
61477	Sun Coast Business Supply	Office Supplies	488.74
61478	Core Logistical Solutions, LLC	Install Overhead Door-Gym 34th Ave.Prop.	21,805.40
61480	C Spire Wireless	Cell Phone Services	1,122.07
61481	C Spire Business Solutions	Telephone/Internet Services	1,780.47
61483	Docuphase, LLC	Annual Maintenance Renewal	11,410.33
61484	DSD Associates, Inc.	Software Support	100.00
61485	Federal Express Corp.	Express Mail Services	34.54
61486	Fuelman	Fuel for MSPA Vehicles	472.60
61487	Guardian	Employee Deductions	1,476.31
61488	Whitney Bank Divisional Property	December Lease for Suite 1450	27,664.17
61489	Hornedo Strategies LLC	Consulting Services	10,000.00
61490	Imperial Bag & Paper Co., LLC	Janitorial Supplies	575.30
61491	MS State Treasurer Fund 3360900000	Telephone/Internet Services	83.71
61493	MS-JS, Inc DBA Johnstone Supply Gpt	Parts for the HVAC Chiller	15,366.90
61494	Robert J. Knesal	Per Diem	40.00
61495	Mark P. Loughman	Per Diem	40.00
61496	Lowe's Home Center, Inc.	Building Supplies	185.68
61498	Mark Dunning Industries, Inc.	Waste Removal Services	2,365.00
61499	Mayer Electric Supply Co., Inc.	Cable Splicing Materials	12,339.70
61500	MS DHS - State Disbursement Unit	Employee Deductions	263.56
61501	MS Power Company	Electricity	156,344.69
61502	MS Power Company	Electricity	12,607.21
61503	MS Pub. Employees Credit Union	Employee Deductions	325.00
61504	Jon T. Nass	Travel Expenses	3,278.82
61505	Pass Road Mini Storage, LLC	Storage Unit Rent	175.00
61506	Portable Services, Inc	Portable Restroom Services	535.00
61507	Quadient Leasing USA Inc	Postage	195.57
61508	Redd Pest Solutions	Pest Control Services	163.50
61509	RJ Young Company, Inc.	Copier Maintenance	600.00
61510	SBL Strategies, LLC	Professional Consulting Services	10,000.00
61511	Sorg Printing, LLC	Business Cards	38.00
61512	South Mississippi Business Machines	Copier Maintenance	509.00
61513	Jennifer Smith	Travel Expenses	1,109.89
61514	Norma Jean Soroe	Transcription Services	419.48
61515	Southern Fire Sprinkler, Inc.	Annual Fire Extinguisher Inspection	975.00
61516	Kathryn Dennis Spear	Per Diem	40.00
61517	Swetman Security Services, Inc.	Security Guard Services	64,842.50
61518	Cowles Edgar Symmes	Per Diem	40.00

61519	TGG Management Company, Inc.	Professional Services	7,325.00
61520	TX Child Support SDU	Employee Deductions	219.23
61521	U.S. Bank National Association	J. D'Antico Travel Expenses	836.96
61522	U.S. Bank	Registration Fee, Uniforms, Membership Dues, Promotional Items, Repair Parts	6,000.25
61524	Zoro Tools, Inc.	Welding & Maintenance Supplies, Lockers	1,345.75
TRANSFERS			
11/13/24	MS Department of Revenue	Employee Deductions	7,698.00
11/14/24	MS Department of Revenue	Sales Tax Payment	11,422.41
11/15/24	Federal Tax Deposit	Payroll Tax Deposit	33,285.51
11/15/24	Deferred Compensation	Employee Deductions	1,975.00
11/21/24	Connected Oceans	Business Development/Consulting Services	23,711.66
Total			<u>\$461,702.05</u>

Commissioner Loughman 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:

NEW LICENSES:

Vendor: Positive Energy K&R LLC

RENEWAL LICENSES:

Pilots: 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 (\$8,741.37); Covington Civil & Environmental (\$6,645.25); J.E. Borries, Inc. (\$69,600.00); MP Design Group (\$1,155.40); MP Design Group (\$58,589.21); Warren Paving (\$135,779.64); and WSP, Inc. (\$701.43). Commissioner Symmes seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Commissioner Spear left the meeting.

Commissioner Symmes moved to approve the following progress payments: DNP, Inc. (\$184,347.50) and DNP, Inc. (\$551,324.67). Commissioner Knesal seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Commissioner Spear returned to the meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

Commissioner Loughman moved to approve a pilot rate increase of 2.9%, effective January 1, 2025. Commissioner Symmes 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 2024:

Vessels	14		Vehicles	13,000
Tugs	16		Railcars	655
Tonnage (YTD)	755,404		Barges	29
Tonnage	173,943		TEU (monthly)	16,163
TEU's (short tons)	61,223			

Tonnage (YTD) increased 32% which includes an increase in fruit, bulk cargo and inbound/outbound cargo. There was a 14% increase in monthly tonnage from last year. Monthly TEU increased by 10%.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS:

Director Nass discussed the lumber ship that was previously docked for unloading. A video was produced around the lumber ship and was viewed during the meeting.

A change in the date for the December 2024 Board meeting was discussed due to the City of Gulfport Mayor's address taking place on the morning of the next scheduled board meeting date. It was agreed that the meeting would be moved to 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, December 18, 2024.

An EPA Planning Grant was awarded to MSPA. This grant will help fund the community outreach efforts that are currently underway.

The Elected Officials event was moved to December 10, 2024, due to a scheduling conflict. This event will coincide with the legislative breakfast. The emphasis will be on the Port tenants and what they provide to the local economy.

The Business Development plan will be presented at the next board meeting. This is a five-year plan and will be presented by Andrew Haines.

GENERAL COUNSEL'S COMMENTS:

Brant Pettis had no comments.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS:

No commissioner comments.

MDA'S COMMENTS:

Philip Carter had no comments.

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

Commissioner Symmes moved to enter Executive Session to discuss a legal matter. Commissioner Loughman seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

(THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS ENTERED INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT APPROXIMATELY 9:26 A.M.)

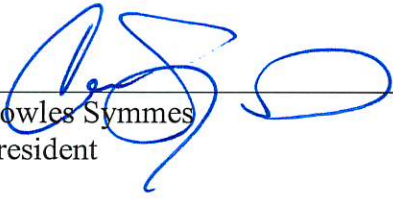
Commissioner Symmes moved to come out of Executive Session. Commissioner Loughman seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

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

Commissioner Rester moved to adjourn.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 10:41 a.m.

Approved and Attested



Cowles Symmes
President



Robert Knesal
Secretary