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CADDO-BOSSIER PARISHES PORT COMMISSION
Regular Board Meeting
Regional Commerce Center, 3rd Floor Board Room
6000 Doug Attaway Blvd., Shreveport, LA 71115
October 16, 2023 at 4:30 p.m.

- 1. CALL TO ORDER / OPENING REMARKS:** Commission President Walter O. Bigby, Jr. called the meeting to order at approximately 4:30 p.m. in the 3rd Floor Board Room of the Regional Commerce Center, 6000 Doug Attaway Blvd., Shreveport, Louisiana and welcomed everyone.
- 2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Commission Vice President Bill Altimus led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- 3. ROLL CALL:** The roll was called by Executive Port Director, Eric England. Commissioners in attendance included: Walter O. Bigby, Jr., William "Bill" R. Altimus, Joshua K. Williams, Roy Griggs, Sam N. Gregorio, James D. Hall, and Rick C. Prescott. Absent: Erica R. Bryant and Judge Stephen V. Callaway (Ret.). A quorum was present.
- 4. PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS:** Commissioner Bigby asked for any public comments on agenda items. Hearing no public comments, Commissioner Bigby moved on to the next agenda item.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- 5. REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 11, 2023:** Commissioner Williams presented the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of September 11, 2023. Motion by Commissioner Williams, seconded by Commissioner Hall, to approve the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of September 11, 2023. Hearing no questions or comments, the motion was approved by the following votes: AYES: Commissioners: Walter O. Bigby, Jr., William "Bill" R. Altimus, Joshua K. Williams, Roy Griggs, Sam N. Gregorio, James D. Hall, and Rick C. Prescott. NAYS: 0. ABSENT: Erica R. Bryant and Judge Stephen V. Callaway (Ret.). ABSTENTIONS: 0. (Published in its entirety in *The Times* on October 19, 2023.)
- 6. AUGUST 2023 FINANCIALS:** Commissioner Williams presented the financial report for August 2023. Motion by Commissioner Williams, seconded by Commissioner Hall to approve the August 2023 Financial Report as submitted. Hearing no questions, the motion was approved by the following votes: AYES: Commissioners: Walter O. Bigby, Jr., William "Bill" R. Altimus, Joshua K. Williams, Roy Griggs, Sam N. Gregorio, James D. Hall, and Rick C. Prescott. NAYS: 0. ABSENT: Erica R. Bryant and Judge Stephen V. Callaway (Ret.). ABSTENTIONS: 0.

NEW BUSINESS:

- 7. RESOLUTION NO. 18 OF 2023:** A RESOLUTION IN APPRECIATION OF CAPTAIN THOMAS F. MURPHY (RET.).

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MEMBERS: *Walter O. Bigby Jr., President; Bill Altimus, Vice President; Joshua K. Williams, Secretary Treasurer; Erica R. Bryant; Judge Stephen V. Callaway (Ret.); Sam N. Gregorio; Roy Griggs; James D. Hall; Rick C. Prescott*

RESOLUTION NO. 18 OF 2023

In The Name and By Authorization of the

CADDO-BOSSIER PARISHES PORT COMMISSION

Presents this Resolution in Recognition and Honor of

CAPTAIN THOMAS F. MURPHY

WHEREAS, Captain Thomas F. Murphy (“Captain Murphy”) graduated from the United States Merchant Marine Academy at Kings Point, New York in 1957; and

WHEREAS, during his tenure as a United States Merchant Marine, Captain Murphy commanded Twenty-Three (23) ships engaged in commerce and the transportation of domestic and international cargo in and out of the navigable waters of the United States; and

WHEREAS, Captain Murphy was appointed to the Port Commission by the Parish of Caddo in 2007, serving as President in 2014 through 2015 and committed untold hours to Port Commission meetings, work sessions and events; and

WHEREAS, Captain Murphy’s leadership, dedication, and extensive maritime expertise has significantly contributed to the strategic transportation goals and economic development initiatives of the Caddo-Bossier Parishes Port Commission (the “Port Commission”); and

WHEREAS, his devotion to the Port Commission’s mission of job creation and economic development endeavors has led to the employment of over 1,800 area citizens and investments in excess of One Billion (\$1,000,000,000) Dollars at the Port Commission’s Industrial Complex; and

WHEREAS, the Port Commission recognizes the numerous and substantial career contributions and accomplishments of Captain Murphy and wishes him all the best in his future endeavors; and

WHEREAS, Captain Murphy’s legacy will continue for many future years.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Caddo-Bossier Parishes Port Commission, assembled in regular session this 16th day of October 2023, in Shreveport, Caddo Parish, Louisiana, that all members of the Port Commission hereby express their sincere and heartfelt appreciation to Captain Thomas F. Murphy as a valued and highly respected Commission Member, Captain, and citizen.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution, unanimously adopted at a regular meeting this 16th day of October 2023, be placed in the permanent records of this Port Commission and that copies thereof be transmitted to Captain Thomas F. Murphy.

THUS DONE AND SIGNED at Shreveport, Louisiana on this 16th day of October, 2023.

/s/ Joshua K. Williams
JOSHUA K. WILLIAMS
Secretary-Treasurer

/s/ Walter O. Bigby, Jr.
WALTER O. BIGBY, JR.
President

[SEAL]

STATE OF LOUISIANA
PARISH OF CADDO

I hereby certify that the above and foregoing is a true and correct copy of a Resolution, unanimously adopted by the members of the Caddo-Bossier Parishes Port Commission, at a meeting duly and legally called, convened, and held in Shreveport, Louisiana on the 16th day of October, 2023 and that the same has not been revoked or rescinded.

[SEAL]

/s/ Joshua K. Williams
JOSHUA K. WILLIAMS
Secretary – Treasurer

Mr. England stated this resolution is in appreciation of Capt. Murphy and his years of service to the Port Commission. Upon its adoption, the resolution will be framed and presented to him at a future meeting. It is recommended for adoption at this time. Motion by Commissioner Hall, seconded by Commissioner Williams to approve Resolution No. 18 of 2023 as submitted. Hearing no further questions, the motion was approved by the following votes: AYES: Commissioners: Walter O. Bigby, Jr., William “Bill” R. Altimus, Joshua K. Williams, Roy Griggs, Sam N. Gregorio, James D. Hall, and Rick C. Prescott. NAYS: 0. ABSENT: Erica R. Bryant and Judge Stephen V. Callaway (Ret.). ABSTENTIONS: 0.

8. RED RIVER EXPRESSWAY UPDATE: Mr. England noted the team behind the toll bridge, also known as the Red River Expressway, is here to give an update on the project. Robert Vinet with KSA Engineers gave a brief presentation with maps to show the possible routes the Expressway may follow and how the team is working to minimize the environmental impact. William C. Bradford, Jr. with Blanchard Walker, noted the importance of the Expressway and the possible connectivity to I-49 and the future I-69 highways. An avenue of funding through the USDA’s Community Facilities Direct Loan Program has been identified. This funding must be applied for by a governmental entity and must have a public purpose. Mr. Bradford would like to work with Port staff on a proposal that includes a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with the Port in order to apply for the USDA funding for the Expressway project. Mr. Bradford will present this proposal to the Board at the November regular meeting. Tim James of Tim James, Inc. introduced himself and briefly explained how the funds collected from major toll roads in the country are allocated once collected and how it applies to the Expressway.

9. J. BENNETT JOHNSTON / RED RIVER WATERWAY UPDATE: Mr. England stated the Red River has five locks, with each having doors on the upper end and the lower end of the lock. The doors are connected to the structure with arms which open and close the lock doors. Recently one of the arms broke away from one of the doors of a lock, which caused a significant amount of damage. Originally this meant a possible river shut down for 6-8 weeks to make the necessary repairs. Since repairs have begun, it has been determined the permanent repair will not be as time-consuming as originally estimated. The original shut down time estimate would have significantly affected our budget for incoming revenue, as barges could not come up the river. The current information is the damage is significant but permanent repairs are now estimated to take a couple of weeks. The Executive Director of the Red River Valley Association, Emily Mott, has been very helpful in conveying information to and from the Corp of Engineers on these emergency repairs. Mr. England commended Ms. Mott on her excellent job.

10. PORT DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Mr. England provided an update on various activities and projects.

11. ADJOURN: Hearing no other comments or questions to come from the Board, Commissioner Bigby entertained a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Altimus made the motion to adjourn, and Commissioner Williams seconded. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 4:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Joshua K. Williams

Joshua K. Williams
Secretary-Treasurer