

**PORT OF VANCOUVER USA
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
Tuesday, October 8, 2024**

CALL TO ORDER

Commission President LaBrant called a regular meeting of the Port of Vancouver Board of Commissioners to order and open to the public at 9:30 a.m., Tuesday, October 8, 2024, at the Port of Vancouver USA Administrative Office, 3103 NW Lower River Road, Vancouver, Washington 98660.

OPENING REMARKS

Commissioner LaBrant welcomed everyone to the commission meeting. He announced no executive session was held and that the meeting is being recorded. He stated this meeting is a hybrid meeting so that along with everyone present in the meeting, anyone who wants to make virtual oral comment can use Zoom. He then invited guests to participate in the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regular Meeting of September 10, 2024

On motion by Commissioner Orange, seconded by Commissioner Burkman and carried unanimously, the Board of Commissioners approve the minutes of the September 10, 2024, regular meeting.

Community Fund Update – Partners in Careers

CEO Julianna Marler welcomed Julie Rawls, the port's Community Relations Manager to the podium to introduce one of this year's port Community Fund Program recipients prior to their presentations.

Community Relations Manager Julie Rawls reminded the Board that part of the port's Community Fund Program is to invite the recipients to come and share with the Board the partnerships they have with the port and how their project supports the port's mission of creating economic benefit for the community and beyond. Julie gave a brief overview of Partners in Careers, a nonprofit organization that works to create self-sufficiency through specialized job training and employment services and introduced Josh Jones.

Josh Jones, Program Director at Partners and Careers, spoke about the nonprofit's work in workforce development, specifically their Emerging Entrepreneur Academy. This initiative, funded by the Community Fund grant, focuses on experiential learning for students interested in entrepreneurship. Although they faced challenges in student

participation, they worked with various nonprofits to recruit youth. The program partnered with local experts to teach students about business planning, finances, marketing, and other skills. A Shark Tank-style pitch event was held, where students presented business ideas, and several received seed funding to pursue their ventures. Josh emphasized how students benefit from project-based learning, gaining lifelong skills, and also thanked the Port for its support in making the program possible.

OPEN FORUM

Commissioner LaBrant asked if anyone had signed up to speak during open forum. CEO Marler stated no one signed up in advance to provide virtual oral comments, however there were several people who signed up for public comment.

Alona Steinke

Alona Steinke spoke on behalf of Don Steinke and herself regarding Initiative 2117. They requested the port consider passing a resolution in opposition of Initiative 2117.

Heidi Cody

Heidi Cody, spoke on behalf of the Alliance for Community Engagement. She indicated the Alliance for Community Engagement requests the port endorse a no vote on initiatives I-2066, I-2109, I-2117, and I-2124 on the November ballot.

Cathryn Chudy

Cathryn Chudy urged the commissioners to take a position opposing not just Initiative 2117 but also Initiative 2066.

ACTION ITEMS

E-1 Approve Public Works Contract for Bid 24-45: 2024 Berth Repairs

Monty Edberg, Director of Engineering & Project Delivery presented the action item and discussed it with the Commission. He answered questions from the Board.

On motion by Commissioner Orange, seconded by Commissioner Burkman and carried unanimously, the Board of Commissioners authorize the CEO to execute a public works contract with Advanced American Construction, the lowest responsive and responsible bidder, for Bid 24-45: 2024 Berth Repairs for the base bid and additive alternate in the amount of \$1,539,633 plus applicable sales tax.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Port Contracts Logs

The commissioners reviewed the port contracts logs. CEO Marler reminded everyone that the contracts logs are provided to the Commission on a monthly basis and are available on the port's website. No questions were asked by the Board.

No additional unfinished business was considered.

NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Orange initiated the discussion to address recent initiatives and their potential impacts on taxpayers, vulnerable populations, and the port. He highlighted the need for collaboration among stakeholders to ensure effective investments in community health outcomes.

Commissioner Burkman discussed the distinctions between the legislative and initiative processes, noting the potential concerns around using public resources for electoral matters, as it may conflict with constitutional guidelines on political spending. He advocated for an educational approach to inform the public without promoting specific political positions.

Commissioner LaBrant highlighted past conservation decisions that have enhanced the area's beauty and emphasized the importance of ongoing clean energy efforts for long-term benefits. He expressed concerns that upcoming initiatives might impact the port's economic development and budget, noting the complexity of educating and messaging within the current tight election timeline.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

Scott Goodrich, Chief Financial Officer presented the action item as contained in the Commission's packet and discussed the recommendation with the Commission.

On motion by Commissioner Burkman, seconded by Commissioner Orange and carried unanimously that the Port of Vancouver USA Board of Commissioners, by motion, ratifies and approves the payment of September 2024 Vouchers 120645-121039 in the amount of \$5,677,228.96 including Electronic Payments generated between 09/01/2024 – 09/30/2024 in the amount of \$785,307.16 and September 2024 Payroll Check 52078377 and Payroll Direct Deposits 360001-360137 and 390001-390133 in the amount of \$750,583.25.

CEO REPORT

Project Updates

Matt Harding, Environmental Project Manager provided an environmental program update on several port projects focusing on Terminal 1 including:

- Terminal 1 Dock Replacement
- Terminal 1 Environmental Practices and Features
- ZoomInfo Building Environmental Features

He answered questions from the Board.

CEO Report

Julianna Marler, CEO stated she attended the following events and provided a brief summary:

- Pacific Northwest Waterways Association – Annual Convention
- Marketing Trips
- Interstate Bridge Replacement Program Meetings

COMMISSIONERS REPORTS

Commissioner Orange stated he attended the following events and provided a brief summary:

- Greater Portland Inc
- Labor Round Table
- Pacific Northwest Waterways Association – Annual Convention

Commissioner Burkman stated he attended the following events and provided a brief summary:

- Interstate Bridge Replacement Program Meetings
- Hispanic Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce Heritage Gala
- Columbia Springs Hooked on Nature
- Clark County Historical Museum's Hard to Believe 60th Birthday Celebration
- Regional Transportation Council Meeting
- City of Vancouver Retirement Celebration for Eric Holmes, City Manager
- ZoomInfo Building Ribbon Cutting
- Port Tour
- Pacific Northwest Waterways Association – Annual Convention

Commissioner LaBrant stated he attended the following events and provided a brief summary:

- Met with CEO Marler
- Port of Orange Texas

UPCOMING EVENTS

A list of upcoming events was displayed on the screen for viewers to see staff activities and community meetings. CEO Marler stated the next commission meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 22, 2024, at 9:30 a.m. She also highlighted several other upcoming community events.

In addition, she reminded everyone of the ways they can communicate with the Commission. She stated there is a great deal of information available on the port's website and encouraged everyone to check it out.

SIGN DOCUMENTS

The Board signed documents at 10:52 a.m.

ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATE / WORK SESSION

No administrative work session was held during this meeting.


ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Port of Vancouver USA Board of Commissioners, the Tuesday, October 8, 2024, regular meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m. by Commissioner LaBrant.

Betsy Rogers, Executive Assistant,
October 8, 2024, Regular Port of
Vancouver USA Board of
Commission Meeting

PORT OF VANCOUVER USA
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS


Eric LaBrant, President


Jack Burkman, Vice President


Don Orange, Secretary