

**MINUTES
HARRISON COUNTY DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
February 16, 2023**

A regularly called meeting of the Board of Commissioners was held on Tuesday, February 16, 2023, at 1:00 pm at the Harrison County Development Commission, Gulfport, Mississippi.

The Commissioners present were: Billy Thornton, Frankie Castiglia, Jimmy Levens, Mike Leonard, Brian Gollott, Windy Swetman, Mark Schloegel, and James Moody.

Commissioners Absent: Rip Daniels, Ollie Bailey Jr., John Carter, and Warren Conway,

The staff members present were: Executive Director Bill Lavers, Marcia Crawford, Brandi Hough, Pamela Washington, and Michelle McGraw as recording secretary.

Consultant's present: Legal Counsel Jim Simpson.

The media was notified of this meeting via the <http://mscoast.org> website.

I. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE – OPEN MEETING & CALL TO ORDER

After the invocation and Pledge of Allegiance, President Billy Thornton opened the meeting at 1:00 pm, called to order at this time, and acknowledged the public notice.

President Billy Thornton gave a safety briefing and initiated an action plan if severe weather occurred during the meeting.

II. AGENDA ADJUSTMENTS

Request to add an executive session to discuss potential litigation involving rail service.
Request to discuss the SMCPC grant check.

Commissioner Jimmy Levens motioned to approve, and Commissioner James Moody seconded it. There was no discussion, all in favor of Aye, and the motion carried.

III. INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

IV. MEETING MINUTES

Commissioner Jimmy Levens motioned to approve January 24, 2023, minutes for the regularly called meeting, and Commissioner Frankie Castiglia seconded it. There was no discussion, all in favor of Aye, and the motion carried.

Resolution for Alpha Eagle Technologies 1-year Option and Purchase Sale Agreement.

After discussion, President Billy Thornton tabled it.

Finance

Commissioner Jimmy Levens commented the balance sheet shows asset values have changed. Jim Simpson explained it was due to the new accounting procedures requiring booking leases as a liability. Commissioner Jimmy Levens pointed out expenses for the spoils area, the CD renewal with Hancock Whitney Bank, and the first check received from the railroad off the switch credit fees.

Commissioner Jimmy Levens motioned to approve exhibits C and D, and Commissioner Frankie Castiglia seconded it. No further discussion occurred, all Commissioners voted in favor, and the motion passed.

COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

A. Marketing & Industrial (Schloegel, Chairman)

Congratulations to Bill Lavers. He received the 2023 Top CEO Award from Mississippi Business Journal.

Bill Lavers coordinated the trip with SMPDD, the Port of Gulfport, and Gateway America that met with three embassies in Washington, DC, about more fruit and vegetable production coming into the port of Gulfport, MS. Commissioner Frankie Castiglia and Commissioner James Moody reported how well the trip to DC went. The importance of HCDC's involvement is to impact economic development. The trip resulted in making great connections and more opportunity to expand on the existing efforts.

Commissioner John Carter and Marcia Crawford are One Coast 2023 Community Leader nominees.

Commissioner James Moody is a nominee for One Coast 2023 Top 10 under 40.

The list of the county's major employers by Marcia Crawford was discussed.

B. Administrative, Engineering & Maintenance (Levens, Chairman)

Rebid the Advertisement for Bids BBID & LBIP Water Meter Replacement Project (Materials Only) Project 02.23-U. Bids will publicly be opened and recorded at 9:00 am CST, Monday, February 27, 2023, at HCDC.

VI. DIRECTORS REPORT

Bill Lavers gave an update on Buc-ee's and the possibility of opening six months sooner than planned.

Update on project Tarpon.

The SMCPC grant check discussion took place. More information will be requested from SMCPC before the grant check is issued.

Executive Session

Commissioner Mark Schloegel motioned to close the meeting to go into executive session for potential litigation regarding rail, and Commissioner James Moody seconded it. No further discussion occurred, all Commissioners voted in favor, and the motion passed.

Commissioner Mark Schloegel motioned to go into executive session, and Commissioner Brian Gollott seconded it. No further discussion occurred, all Commissioners voted in favor, and the motion passed.

President Billy Thornton recused himself. The executive session began at 2:09 pm and ended at 2:30 pm. There was no action taken.

VII. OLD & NEW BUSINESS

- BOS approved the amendment to extend the closing for Gulf Coast Farms.
- BOS approved the lease for Equipment Share.
- BOS approved the application for the Hazard Mitigation Program we submitted.
- BOS approved Summerfield’s Ad Valorem Tax Abatement Application.

VIII. LEGAL

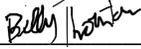
IX. ANNOUNCEMENTS/NOTICES

The Next Marketing & Engineering meeting is **on March 1, 2023, @ 8:30 am.**

The Next Board of Commission Meeting is **on March 21, 2023, @ 1:00 pm.**

X. ADJOURN

There was no further business to come before the Commission. Commissioner Jimmy Levens motioned to adjourn, and Commissioner James Moody seconded it. The meeting adjourned at 2:45 pm on February 16, 2023.

DocuSigned by:

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 Billy Thornton, President

DocuSigned by:

 508C20685B404E8
 Windy Sweetman III, Secretary