



PUBLIC MEETING: Port Commission Meeting

DATE: Tuesday **December 5, 2023, 6 PM**

LOCATION: Cascade Locks City Hall 140 Wa Na Pa St, Cascade Locks, OR 97014

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85806615790>

MINUTES

- 1) Commission meeting called to order 6:00 PM
 - a. Pledge of Allegiance
 - b. Roll Call
 - i. President Lorang
 - ii. Vice-President Klute (via Zoom)
 - iii. Commissioner Nance (excused)
 - iv. Commissioner Peterson
 - v. Commissioner Thweatt
 - vi. Members of the Staff and Other Support – ED Jeremiah Blue; Sec. Keriane Stocker; Operations Manager (“OM”) Parker Nelson; Acc’t Specialist Melissa Warren; David McCurry, Senior Program Director Transportation Parsons
 - vii. Members of the Public – Denise Emmerling-Baker; Chris Matlock; Philip W (Pioneer News); Shania Weldon; and the following incomplete names: Na, iPhone
 - c. Modifications, Additions and Changes to the Agenda
- 2) Public Comment (Speakers may be limited to three (3) minutes)
- 3) Special Presentation and Reports by outside resources, staff, and Government Officials
 - a. Bridge of the God Update – David McCurry
 - i. ED Blue introduced McCurry for a brief presentation regarding the bridge. McCurry was open to answering questions from the Commission. Commissioner questions revolved around the inspection of the bridge and regulations, as well as about furthering the process of a pedestrian walkway. McCurry stated that the Oregon Department of Transportation (“ODOT”) inspects the Bridge of the Gods every two (2) years and although the inspection is still in draft form, there were no surprise findings any points of issues were those they have already been aware of. He also confirmed that the weight limit is 40 tons (80,000 pounds) and noted that a load-rating had previously never been done before but was done 6-7 years ago due to the Intergovernmental Agreement (“IGA”) with ODOT and a weight analysis does not need to be redone unless there is a change on the bridge. C Thweatt inquired about how maintenance for the bridge if funded. ED Blue informed her that there are a number of different funding sources. The Port usually looked for legislative options but has also funded a number of projects themselves or has received help from the State. P Lorang added that in 2013, the Port had to lower the weight limit which affected freight between Oregon and Washington. As a result, regional legislators joined together to help get funding for the Port to raise the load-rating back up.
- 4) Consent Agenda (***) Consent Agenda may be approved in its entirety in a single motion. Items are considered routine. Any Commissioner may take a motion to remove any items from the Consent Agenda for individual discussion)

- a. Approval of minutes from Commission Meeting on November 7, 2023, and City Port Joint Work Session on November 15, 2023
- b. Approve Resolution N^o 2023-6

C PETERSON MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE MINUTES FROM COMMISSION MEETING ON NOVEMBER 7, 2023 AND CITY PORT JOINT WORK SESSION ON NOVEMBER 15, 2023 AND APPROVE RESOLUTION N^o 2023-6; VP KLUTE SECONDED; Passed Unanimously

5) Executive Director Report

- a. ED Blue reported that there is a Skamania Regional Transportation meeting on Zoom, tomorrow, December 6th, 2023. He announced that Moss Adams will be actively scheduling interviews so asked the Commission to anticipate their email. He also informed that he has an available ticket for a commissioner to attend the Skamania County Chamber of Commerce Government Affairs Luncheon on December 13th and that on December 15th there is a listening session for Business Oregon's Strategic Business Plan. He reported that a new toll collector has been hired at the bridge. Her name is Zara Parker. He also announced that Parker Nelson has become the Port's Operations Manager. ED Blue also took the time to acknowledge all the hard work and dedication of Special Project Coordinator Brittany Berge, who has now taken a position with the United States Army Corps of Engineers ("USACE") after nine (9) years with the Port. Lastly, ED Blue notified the Commission that he aims to create a Finance Commission Subcommittee and is currently working on the charge for it. The subcommittee will provide oversight and will receive counseling from Merina+Co.

6) Commissioner Comments

- a. VP Klute asked if there was an update on Flex 6. ED Blue replied that there is not, however he will get an update on the agenda for the next meeting.
- b. C Peterson commented that he attended the Christmas bash on the Sternwheeler. He felt there was a good turnout. He also mentioned that the city Christmas even will be organized by the City instead of the Port. Community Members Martha Lamont and Samantha King Verschuren will be coordinating it at Gorges Beer Co. P Lorang added that the Gorge Canoe Club is having a Thunder Island Brewing. He added that Thunder Island Brewing will have a nonprofit benefit night every Wednesday.
- c. C Thweatt commented that she attended the PTO Christmas Bazaar on Saturday and was extremely pleased with her poinsettia. She highlighted a few upcoming events: Thunder Island Brewing will also have a Christmas bazaar on the 20th, Cascade Locks Ale House will also have one on the same day and the Fire Department will have their annual Christmas Light Fire Truck Parade on the 14th.
- d. P Lorang also stated that he went to the PTO Christmas Bazaar. He also noted that the Sternwheeler has become a popular hangout. He went to the University of Oregon vs University of Washington game aboard the boat. He praised JettyLight for being creative with their events. P Lorang asked if there was an update on Ixtapa. ED Blue replied that he is meeting with Juan (Barajas) within the next day. The floor of the Visitor Center has been torn up to do repairs and they expect it to be complete in 4-5 days. P Lorang also inquired about heating for the building. ED Blue answered that they are considering installing a mini-split system and looking to use the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 ("ARPA") funds. They will also be using ARPA funds on new mufflers when the boat goes into drydocking as the current ones exceed pressure rating and on electrical updates.
- e. Before closing, the date for a Commission Work Session for the SBP with Moss Adams was decided on. The Port Commission and relevant staff will meet for seven (7) hours on Saturday, January 27th and 4-6 hours on Sunday, January 28th.

7) Adjournment 6:52 pm

C THWEATT MADE A MOTION TO ADJOURN; C PETERSON SECONDED; Passed Unanimously

Port of Cascade Locks

Port Commission President
Brad Lorang

Port Commission Secretary
Albert Nance

Date Signed

Date Signed