

**PORT COMMISSION MINUTES
DECEMBER 20, 2018**

**PORT COMMISSION AGENDA
December 20, 2018**

5:00 P.M.

- I. CALL TO ORDER
- II. ROLL CALL AND ESTABLISH QUORUM
- III. AMENDMENTS/COMMENTS
- IV. APPROVE MINUTES:
 - A. NOVEMBER 15, 2018; REGULAR
- V. BUSINESS:
 - 1. LONG BEACH TACKLE BOX; LESSEE JULIUS GRITZMAN
 - 2. HARBORMASTER'S REPORT

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Be it remembered that a regular meeting of the Port Commission of the City of Long Beach, Mississippi, was begun and held at the City Hall Meeting Room, 201 Jeff Davis Avenue, in said City, on Thursday, December 20, 2018, at 5:00 o'clock p.m., it being the time, date, and place fixed for holding said meeting.

There were present and in attendance on said Commission and at the meeting the following named persons: President Phil Kies, Vice President Brandon Boggess, Secretary Don Deschenes, Commissioners Russell Jones, Brian Currie, Junior Husband, Harbormaster Bill Angley, City Attorney James C. Simpson, Jr. and City Clerk Stacey Dahl.

Absent the meeting were Commissioners Kevin Hicks and Barney Hill.

There being a quorum present and sufficient to transact the business of this meeting, the following proceedings were had and done.

Commissioner Kies called the meeting to order; whereupon there were no amendments or comments to the agenda.

Commissioner Deschenes made motion seconded by Commissioner Jones and unanimously carried to approve minutes of the Port Commission, as follows:

- Regular Minutes of November 15, 2018, as submitted.

The commission recognized Mr. Julius Gritzman, lessee of the Long Beach Tackle Box, and his letter ordered spread upon the minutes of this meeting in words and figures as follows:

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November 28th, 2018

To the Port Commission of Long Beach, MS

From Jewels Gritzman

Subject: Meeting of Dec. 20th, 2018

Possible Closing of THE TACKLE BOX

Here is the information I want to convey to your Commission for the possible closing of THE TACKLE BOX bait shop.

First, I was ordered by the City of Long Beach to breakdown and evacuate the live bait room, part of my business, due to the impending storm on Sept. 3rd 2018. The total cost of the breakdown and evacuation was at least \$9,500.00. I personally had to pay that out of my own pocket! This was an unfair financial burden upon me, especially, with no help from the City.

The particulars are as follows:

\$5,500.00 for the pumps, chillers, and coolers

\$1,000.00 for live bait

And finally, at least \$3,000.00 in loss of business.

What makes this very frustrating is that the impending (Act of God) in the form of a potential storm, never occurred. The unnecessary breakdown and evacuation of the equipment hurt me severely both financially and time-wise as a businessman in partnership with the City of Long Beach. The tax-payers of Long Beach, LOCAL fishermen, families and tourists were also deprived of one of the most sought after activities along the Mississippi coast during this shutdown. That being fishing with live bait.

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Second, what has also affected my profit here at The Tackle Box was the Act of God, specifically the storm of October , 2017, because it knocked out the fuel pumps and the fuel tanks. Since that time to the present I have been losing money daily because I am not able to pump fuel anymore. The City of Long Beach is also losing revenue daily due to this situation. I can not keep taking my personal monies to cover this lost daily revenue and at the same time operate The Tackle Box properly.

These undue financial pressures beyond my control also makes it difficult to pay my electric bill, which is at least \$500.00 a month that the City does not help me with. I need you, the Port Commission, to advise the Long Beach City Council to decrease my monthly rental payment of \$725.00, which is the most expensive monthly rental for a bait and tackle operation on the Mississippi coast. Otherwise, I will temporarily close for the Season as I am allowed-via Title 22 Mississippi Department of Marine Resources from Dec. 2nd, 2018 thru and including May 30th, 2019.

Upon my return from temporary closure, if the fuel pump and fuel tank are not operating properly, my lease agreement will be VOIDED with the City. The lease agreement requires that I have to pump fuel for the public. Should this happen, regrettably, I would have to permanently close. At that point, I would not be able to operate at a 100% capacity due to an Act of God.

In the spirit of cooperation and teamwork, and due to the longevity of the main problem, over a year without a fuel pump, I thought it warranted me to notify the Mayor's office. I have also made plans to talk with the City Council.

In closing, I hope we can all work together to keep offering everyone that visits the City of Long Beach a live bait and tackle shop. This shop has built a solid reputation of fast, friendly and knowledgeable service. The local fishermen, families, tourists as well as boat Captains have come to count on this. These people are concerned about a possible closing. Ultimately, they will have no choice but to take their business somewhere else in the surrounding area. This would obviously result in lost revenue for the City of Long Beach.

Jewels Gritzman

THE TACKLE BOX

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After considerable discussion regarding fuel/fuel facilities at the harbor, condition of bait shop, past due rent, and hurricane evacuation, Commissioner Kies made motion seconded by Commissioner Currie and unanimously carried to reduce the lease payment by fifty per cent (50%) for six (6) months commencing on January 1, 2019. It was further ordered to waive default for nonpayment of past due when payment is made.

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The commission recognized Harbormaster Bill Angley for his report, as follows:

Harbor Master Report

December 20, 2018

- Engineer: Overstreet Engineering- Working on designs and permits for FEMA projects. Setting a meeting with Costelli for inspections and Recommendation for the Bait shop Retainer
- Working on pier decking, several finger piers are going to need rebuilt in the very near future due to rot and bad hardware
- Fuel Tank Update
- Ramp and stairs to be built for bait shop contractor to start after Christmas
- Bait shop inspection noted 2 interior doors, drain for bait tanks, broken boards on tank enclosure, and general cleaning
- Speed bumps at both sides of yacht club drive and 2 south of the launch will be ordered after new year
- Washer fixed
- Water damage fixed
- Continued to replace board on piers.
- Gate design complete and will be reviewed for RFQ
- Resolution for law is being drafted with Myself, Jim and Steve working together
- MERRY CHRISTMAS and Happy New Year
- 143 of 218

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There was no action required or taken regarding the aforesaid report.

There being no further business to come before the Port Commission at this time, Commissioner Deschenes made motion seconded by Commissioner

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Jones and unanimously carried to adjourn until the next regular meeting in due course.

APPROVED:

PHIL KIES, PRESIDENT

ATTEST:

STACEY DAHL, CITY CLERK