



## Board of Commissioners Special Meeting Minutes

Wednesday 6 August 2025

9:00 am

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Via Teleconference:

<https://meetings.ringcentral.com/j/2047589217>

Meeting ID: 204 758 9217

Video:

<https://meetings.ringcentral.com/personallink.html>

Audio: +1 (469) 445 0100

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**Commissioners Present:** Jane Cooper, Joey DiFatta, Glade Bilby, Frank Zumbo, Steve Caputo, Heidi Raines, Christian Pendleton, Mamie Gasperecz, Sue Klein, Alex Fein

**Commissioners Absent:** Christine Bondio, David Bilbe

**Executive Director:** Michelle Courseault (recused)

**Coordinator:** Shelby Ursu

**Guests:** Sharonda Williams (FQMD Legal Counsel)

- I. CALL TO ORDER: ROLL CALL: INTRODUCTION OF ATTENDEES – Chair Ms. Cooper called the French Quarter Management District (FQMD) August 6<sup>th</sup>, 2025 special meeting to order at 9:01 a.m. Ms. Ursu read the agenda as noticed and Ms. Klein called the roll.
- II. PUBLIC COMMENT: The Public Comment Policy can be found at <https://www.fqmd.org/publiccomment-policy>. Written public comment may be submitted electronically via email to [publiccomments@fqmd.org](mailto:publiccomments@fqmd.org).  
*No written public comment was received at the conclusion of the reading of the agenda.*
- III. BOARD CHAIR COMMENTS: Ms. Cooper  
Ms. Cooper welcomed the Commissioners and guests. She noted that Ms. Klein has done research and discovered that the FQMD is able to hold virtual meetings should situations like today arise where a quorum is necessary. She thanked Ms. Klein for her research and for her hard work during Ms. Ursu's absence.
- IV. JULY 28<sup>TH</sup>, 2025 SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES: Mr. DiFatta motioned (**M1**) to "approve the July 28<sup>th</sup>, 2025 special Board meeting minutes...", Mr. G. Bilby seconded the motion, and it was approved. Mr. Fein and Mr. Pendleton abstained due to their absence.
- V. EXECUTIVE SESSION – *Per Revised Statute 42:17(A) for the purpose of discussing:*
  - a. PENDING LITIGATION
    - i. Mayor LaToya Cantrell vs. French Quarter Management District
  - b. EMERGENCY SANITATION CONTRACT (House Bill Number 192 / Act 252 By Representative Knox) & its' relation to Public Safety

Mr. Pendleton motioned **(M2)** to “adjourn to Executive Session at 9:05 a.m. pursuant to R.S. 42:17 A. (3) to discuss the development of the course of action regarding security matters of the FQMD...”, seconded by Mr. G. Bilby, and unanimously approved.

Mr. Pendleton motioned **(M3)** to “reconvene the August 6<sup>th</sup>, 2025 FQMD special Board Meeting at 9:21 a.m....”, seconded by Mr. Caputo, and unanimously approved. It was noted that no action was taken in the FQMD Executive Session.

- VI. MOTION: CONSIDER A MOTION TO SUSPEND THE RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS SET FORTH IN THE FRENCH QUARTER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT – IV WASTE CONTRACT, WHICH WAS EFFECTIVE AUGUST 1<sup>ST</sup>, 2025, AND APPROVED JULY 28<sup>TH</sup>, 2025. THIS SUSPENSION IS UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

Ms. Raines motioned **(M4)** to “suspend the rights and obligations set forth in the French Quarter Management District – IV Waste contract, which was effective August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025, and approved July 28<sup>th</sup>, 2025. This suspension is until further notice...”, seconded by Ms. Gasperecz, and unanimously approved.

Ms. Williams will prepare a letter for IV Waste.

- VII. NEW BUSINESS: To consider and take action upon any other matters that may properly come before the French Quarter Management District Board of Commissioners.

Mr. Pendleton stated that the Security & Enforcement Committee is planning to invite the top two sheriff candidates to an upcoming meeting. He asked Ms. Williams if there were any problems with inviting these individuals to come speak to the group. Ms. Williams replied no, as long as it is stated that there is no element of endorsement.

Ms. Cooper reported that the NOPD has submitted an informal proposal regarding drones for the French Quarter. She added that this proposal would be a \$700,000 commitment, paid over the course of three years, and will need to be carefully reviewed and discussed by the Committee and Board once a formal proposal is submitted. She stated that Security & Enforcement Committee Vice-Chair Ms. Dietz attended yesterday's Finance & Development Committee meeting and asked the Committee on behalf of the NOPD that Ms. Courseault be allowed to attend a drone conference from September 15<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> with Cpt. Palumbo and an 8<sup>th</sup> District Lieutenant, with the FQMD providing funding for the group's travel expenses. Ms. Dietz stated that this would be a \$6,000 commitment, but noted that Cops 8 is able to pay for the officers if the FQMD decides to only fund Ms. Courseault's travel. Mr. Fein added that Ms. Dietz mentioned that this would be a great opportunity for Ms. Courseault and Cpt. Palumbo to have more one-on-one time together and to learn more about the pros and cons of drones. The Commissioners discussed the request and were in agreement that the conference may not be the best use of funds or of Ms. Courseault's time.

Mr. Pendleton motioned **(M5)** to “decline the request to support the travel of French Quarter Management District staff to the drone conference, and to decline supplemental payment for travel for NOPD reimbursement...”, seconded by Mr. Zumbo, and unanimously approved.

- VIII. NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING DATE: 15 September 2025 at the Historic New Orleans Collection

- IX. ADJOURNMENT: Mr. Pendleton motioned **(M6)** to “adjourn the August 6<sup>th</sup>, 2025 special Board of Commissioners meeting...”, Ms. Raines seconded the motion to unanimous approval, and the meeting was adjourned at 9:36 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
(Signed original available)  
Susan Klein, Secretary