

October 28, 2025
6:00 P.M.
Newport, OR

PORT OF NEWPORT COMMISSION MINUTES

This is not an exact transcript. The video of the session is available on the Port's website.

The Port of Newport Commission met on the above date and time at the Administration Building, 600 SE Bay Blvd., and virtually via Microsoft Teams. In attendance were Commissioners Sylvia, Retherford, Lackey, Dziak, and Ruddiman. Also in attendance were Executive Director Paula Miranda, Deputy Executive Director Aaron Bretz, Finance Director Mark Brown, and Administrative Assistant Gloria Tucker. Members of the audience included Laura Wilkeson, Doug Cooper, Walter Chuck, Elite Dynamics Representatives Alistair Alexander and Charlotte Murgatroyd, and Summit PR Representative Angela Nebel.

CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

The Commission agreed to remove Oath of Office from the agenda.

CONSENT CALENDAR

MOTION was made by Lackey, seconded by Retherford, to approve the consent calendar as presented. Sylvia, Retherford, Lackey, Dziak, and Ruddiman voted in favor.

PRESENTATIONS

Elite Dynamics. Sylvia introduced the agenda item. Brown introduced the Elite Dynamics representatives. Alexander presented the reservation and services system provided by Elite Dynamics.

OLD BUSINESS

Approval of Community Ice License Extension. Sylvia introduced the agenda item. Miranda presented the report included in the packet. Dziak clarified with staff on the administrative fee. Miranda added this license goes for five years.

MOTION was made by Retherford, seconded by Dziak, to authorize the Executive Director to execute the Port of Newport license renewal as presented. Sylvia, Retherford, Lackey, Dziak, and Ruddiman voted in favor.

NEW BUSINESS

Public Hearing on Ordinance 2025-01 Regarding Changes to the Port Facilities Code. Sylvia introduced the agenda item. Bretz presented the report included in the packet. Dziak clarified with staff insurance requirements. Sylvia stated for most customers this is not an issue or problem, and the vast majority of people are in compliance. Bretz replied the most common scenarios are someone is short on cash and insurance is one of the first bills they stop paying, or

the vessels are very old and are uninsurable, or people don't want to invest in their vessel to pass a survey. Sylvia asked what portion of clients would have a problem. Bretz replied less than 1 percent. Retherford asked what is the penalty for non-compliance, Bretz replied it is a Class B penalty.

STAFF REPORTS

Executive Director Report. Sylvia introduced the agenda item. Miranda presented the report included in the packet. Lackey and Sylvia noted they looked up historic copper prices. Lackey asked where the price increase is coming from. Miranda replied vendors can raise prices based on market insecurity. Bretz replied originally the Port used a different set of budget numbers and the price is related to the type of cable. He stated staff will have those budget numbers squared away for next season, and he doesn't think this is something that will spiral out of control. Sylvia noted his research showed it was primarily a supply constraint.

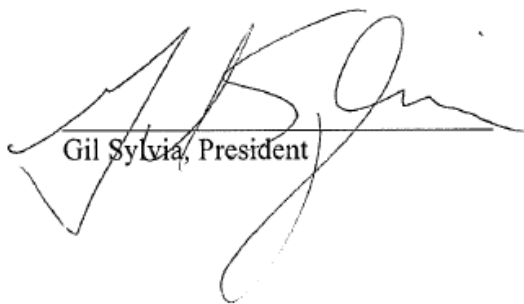
Sylvia clarified with staff why ODOT classifies piers as bridges. He asked if they didn't do the inspection, if the Port would be required to do it. Bretz replied there may not be a requirement, but there is no charge. Sylvia asked if reduction in stays at the RV Park is due to fees or some other trend. Brown replied he doesn't know the answer. Miranda replied her guess is the plan that reduced long-term stays. She added if that trend continues then staff will look into it, and, at this point, she is not worried. Retherford noted when she went camping in the summer, usually, the campground is packed, and it was low in occupancy. She noted it seems there is more to it than just pricing.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS


Sylvia reported he attended PNWA conference. He stated he walked away with all the ports suffer from the same general problems, even though the ports are all different. He noted the true cost index for ports is higher than what you find online, closer to 10 percent than 3 percent each year. He indicated regulatory issues are huge for all ports, ESA in particular. He added each state port association reported that all states are running a deficit.

ADJOURNMENT

Having no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:36 p.m.


Gil Sylvia, President

ATTESTED:


Jeff Lackey (Nov 21, 2025 10:37:57 PST)
Jeff Lackey, Secretary/Treasurer