

Liquefied Petroleum Gas Commission (LPGC)  
Wednesday, March 20, 2024  
10:00 A.M.  
Department of Public Safety  
7919 Independence Blvd. – Conference room C Baton Rouge, LA 70806

**Members Present:**

Chairman Ira Cleveland  
Commissioner Dominique Monlezun  
Commissioner Todd Thompson  
LTC Joseph Hasselbeck

**Also present:**

Executive Director Don Robin  
Attorney Jason Hessick  
Attorney Julie Cena  
Various Industry representatives

Action Taken:

- I. Called to Order at 10:00 A.M.**
- II. Roll Call**
- III. Public Comments**
- IV. Approval of January 24, 2024 & February 21, 2024 minutes** – *On motion by Commissioner Monlezun, seconded by Commissioner Thompson, the minutes were approved. Motion carried.*
- V. New Business**
  - 1. LPGC reports**
    - a. Statistical report for February 2024
    - b. Detailed appropriation report recap for February 2024
    - c. Accounting total reports for February 2023 / February 2024
    - d. Fire and accidents reports for February 2024
    - e. Compliance audits for February 2024
  - 2. Possible citations for next meeting**
    - a. Regular citations – None
    - b. Insurance citations – None
    - c. Permit renewals – Possible 17; failure to pay permit renewal.
  - 3. Applications heard:**

**The following applicants applied for a Class 6X permits:**

- True Value Rental – 3437 Williams Blvd. Kenner, LA 70065
- Fisherman's Quick Stop – 45020 Hwy. 191 Many, LA 71449
- Big Buck's #1 – 1601 South Vienna Street Ruston, LA 71270
- Hunting Fishing One Stop – 17680 US 190 East Port Barre, LA 70455

- **Floyd's Morley Marina LLC – 7673 Choctaw Rd. Brusly, LA 70719**
  - **Xpress Mart – 3126 Mills St. Carencro, LA 70520**
  - **Rubios Wag A Bag LLC – 3961 Hwy. 112 Forest Hill, LA 71430**
  - **Raceway #902 – 2800 Hwy. 14 New Iberia, LA 70560**
  - **RV Masters – 1041 E. Airline Hwy. LaPlace, LA 70068**
  - **A2 Quick Stop LLC – 1813 Hwy. 171 Montgomery, AL 71454**
  - **Big Buck's #2 – 2893 Hwy. 33 Ruston, LA 71270**
  - **Ardoin's Grocery & Market – 321 St. John St. Washington, LA 70589**
  - **Rice City Chevron – 530 N. Eastern Ave. Crowley, LA 70526**
  - **Tiger Discount – 13654 Airline Hwy. Gonzales, LA 70737**
  - **Evans Corner Store #5 – 3531 Ryan St. Ste. A Lake Charles, LA 70605**
  - **Village Station Scott – 6337 Cameron St. Scott, LA 70583**
- On motion by Commissioner Thompson seconded by Commissioner Monlezun, the permits were granted. All agreed.**

#### **4. Violations**

- Sissy's U-Pak-It, 1630 East Madison ATTN: Sissy Brantley, Bastrop, LA 71220  
Docket#2024001 - Mark Clampit and Inspector Blazier approached the Commission
1. Did allow (Zachary Lane Welch) to fill a D.O.T. container without a card of competency: thus violating R.S. 40:1846 – LAC: IX.123 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, as amended.
  2. Did allow (Zachary Lane Welch) to fill an out of date D.O.T. cylinder: Thus violating NFPA 58 (2017) (5.2) (5.2.2.3).
  3. Did allow (Zachary Lane Welch) to fill the container without the proper use of a scale: Thus violating LAC: 55 IX (181) (E) (2). **Found guilty and assessed a penalty of \$250.00.** *On motion by Commissioner Thompson by seconded by LTC Hasselbeck, the penalty was granted. Motion carried..*

#### **5. Market Development business**

- a. Chase bank reconciliation as of March 8, 2024: **\$486,459.98 – no encumbrances.**

#### **6. Office of Legal Affairs representative – no comments-**

#### **7. Open discussion by Chairman and/or Interim Executive Director – no additional comments**

#### **8. Tentative meeting date – April 17, 2024 – Baton Rouge, LA**

#### **9. LPGC Advisory Board – President Artie Cole approached the Commission. Chairman Cleveland informed Cole that a request was made to the Office of Procurement to provide clarification and guidance on contracts. Conversation continued as Commissioner Thompson suggested speaking with someone from Management & Finance. LTC Hasselbeck reiterated that guidance comes from the Division of Administration (DOA). Cole stated that he was able to obtain requirements for contracts from the Office of Procurement's website. The discussion continued on the process for submitting contracts and the responsible party for the contracts. Chairman Cleveland stated that information and guidance comes from the attorney. He also reminded Cole that an invoice is not a contract and in the past, proposals had been submitted. According to Attorney Hessick, a standardized contract can be found on the Office of Procurement's website. The Market Development Advisory Board makes recommendations to the Commission, proposals are submitted, and office staff enters the contracts into Procurement. The Board only provides guidance. Chairman Cleveland asked Hessick if the Commission is responsible for obtaining contracts. Hessick suggested working with the Board to provide proposals and contracts. Commissioner Monlezun asked if there was a timeline for a contract once submitted. There is not exact timeline. Hessick stated that a contract for professional services with a lump sum (along with what the contract will fulfill) could be submitted. If a professional services contract with a lump**

sum is submitted, the Office of Management and Finance can then make payments. In order to address each contract, Hessick suggested reviewing each proposal individually under Market Development business. The LPGC can request proposals/contracts. Proposals/contracts are submitted to LPGC. Any contracts provided by vendors has to matched requirements by D.O.A. LTC Hasselbeck would like additional information on each proposal submitted to LPGC. On behalf of the Louisiana Propane Gas Association (LPGA), Randy Hayden approached the Commission. Hayden stated that a summary was submitted to LPGC in hopes of getting an approved budget. In addition, he said, once the advisory board makes a recommendation, the vendors provide a contract. LTC Hasselbeck stated that a list of recommendations had been submitted. Hayden said he presented contracts to Attorney Holland. Thompson said not everything that was submitted was a contract. Hessick will check with Holland on the contracts she was given. The discussion about contracts continued. Hayden reminded the LPGC that Miss Louisiana has been a statewide sponsorship for the last 12 years. LTC Hasselbeck suggested that a brief summary for each proposal be submitted with justification for each recommendation. Cole reminded the LPGC that approximately \$400K had been submitted in proposals. The Zurich Classic is going to be funded by the Propane Educational and Research Council (PERC). After reviewing the Miss Louisiana contract, Hessick stated that the contract would not meet the qualifications by DOA. Hayden addressed his concerns with the changes. Hayden was reminded that it is a long process but the sooner the process starts, the faster the money can be provided. According to Hayden, a storage unit (for equipment and training materials) was paid and he inquired on how/why that payment was made. Kimberly Wilson stated that the storage unit was less than \$5,000 and was paid by Lacarte. In order to avoid the storage unit from being auctioned (due to a lack of payment), the payment was made. Hayden informed the LPGC about an Attorney General's opinion that stated the LPGC could not modify any recommendations. Hessick will look for that opinion. Hayden reiterated that once the advisory board makes a recommendation, LPGC could not vote up or down.

Hayden informed the LPGC that the LPGA had a meeting. Because of that meeting, a piece of legislation was submitted to allow another state agency to takeover market development business. Hayden said the Commissioner of Agriculture and Lt. Governor's Office. Hayden said someone publicly said they do not know anything about advertising. Commissioner Thompson said no elected official collects money to give to another elected official. Thompson expressed his concerns and frustrations because the legislation did not come before LPGC. Hayden said the intent of the Bill was to remove the fees from a board that only wanted to focus on safety and training since so much time was being focused on market development. He stated the encouragement to move the funds came from comments made by someone (no one in particular was specified) on LPGC. The discussion about moving the funds to another agency continued as concerns and opinions were addressed. Because of that discussion, the funds will remain with this agency.

Hessick reminded the LPGC to get items on the agenda for the next meeting. Chairman Cleveland would like to have proposals. Cole asked that someone check with the previous attorney for the contracts that had been submitted. According to Hessick, the office needs to work with the advisory board to get the contracts before LPGC. There was a brief discussion on the attendance of the advisory board members.

**10. Adjournment** – *On motion by Commissioner Thompson, seconded by LTC Hasselbeck, the meeting was adjourned. Motion carried.*