

Port of Columbia
Special Workshop Minutes
September 3, 2025

Chair Bryan opened the meeting at 5:00pm.

Present: Commissioners Bryan, Watts and Spring, Port Attorney Kim Boggs, Port Staff Jennie Dickinson, Shane Laib, Tracy Clark. 12 members of the public along with 18 members of the public attending via Zoom. **Absent:** None.

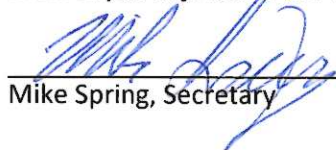
Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Opening Statement: Commissioner Bryan stated the purpose of the special workshop was to have an open discussion between the commissioners regarding the possible sale of the rail line. Public comment will not be taken at this meeting.

Summary of Discussion Between Commissioners: The commissioners thanked Dickinson and Boggs for their work on compiling the rail report. All three commissioners agreed that they want to keep the rail line operational and to do what is in the best interest of the community and stakeholders. The commissioners would like to see what can be done to increase traffic on the rail line by adding more shippers, getting product to the end terminals and the possibility of passenger service. One concern is that the financial offer made by Didelius is not close enough to the value of the rail corridor and associated legal concerns. Bryan asked Boggs what the legality would be if they accepted an offer far less than appraised value. Boggs did not feel comfortable offering legal advice in an open meeting. Bryan felt the appraisal was overestimated. Watts said that figure is recorded on paper and that good money was paid for that appraisal. They would like to work towards getting a bigger vision on the operation of this short line with the current operator. Spring would like us to issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) for an operator, which could still end up being CWW if they respond to the RFP. Watts and Bryan don't want to consider leasing to anyone but CWW and would like to give them a good deal to continue operating, with break even for the Port as the financial goal. Dickinson reminded them that two other parties have expressed interest in purchase and/or operations.

Commissioner Watts and Spring expressed a desire to table the sale at this time. Commissioner Bryan was not in favor of tabling it but said since that was the majority opinion, the sale should be on hold for now. Dickinson asked the commission to think about their vision and goals for the rail line. Those ideas will be shared at the next meeting. There is still the choice to open it up for RFPs, if that is what is decided. Dickinson will talk with Didelius once she has the commissioners' vision for operation of the line and how we can accomplish those goals.

Chair Bryan adjourned the meeting at 5:53 pm.



Mike Spring, Secretary