

Minutes of Pilot Commission
Port Freeport
May 28, 2020
Via Video/Teleconference

Notice is hereby given that in accordance with the order the Office of the Governor issued March 16, 2020, and due to imminent threat to public health and safety and urgent public necessity the Port Freeport Pilot Commission will conduct a Special Meeting on Thursday, May 28, 2020 at 11:30 a.m. in the Administration Building, 1100 Cherry Street, Freeport, Texas in part by video/teleconference in order to advance the public health goal of limiting face-to-face meetings (also called "social distancing") to slow the spread of the Coronavirus (COVID-19).

Please join the meeting from a computer, tablet or smartphone.

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/716592509>

You can also dial in using your phone.

United States (Toll Free): [1 877 309 2073](tel:18773092073)

Access Code: 716-592-509

All participants will be muted until the meeting begins.

New to GoToMeeting? Get the app now and be ready when your first meeting starts:

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/install/716592509>

A link for GoToMeeting Instructions is available at <http://www.portfreeport.com/meeting-agenda>

Commissioners present:

Mr. Shane Pirtle, Chairman
Mr. John Hoss, Secretary/Treasurer
Mr. Rudy Santos, Commissioner
Mr. Ravi Singhania, Commissioner
Mr. Dan Croft, Commissioner

Staff Members present:

Mr. Jason Cordoba, Legal Counsel
Ms. Phyllis Saathoff, Executive Director/CEO
Mr. Al Durel, Director of Operations
Ms. Missy Bevers, Executive Assistant
Mr. Brandon Robertson, Network Systems Manager

Absent:

Mr. Paul Kresta, Vice Chairman

Also, Present:

Captain Daniel Blanton, Brazos Pilots Association
Captain Billy Burns, Brazos Pilots Association
Captain Matthew Krohn, Brazos Pilots Association
Captain Noah Niday, Brazos Pilots Association

Captain Ross Coviello, Brazos Pilots Association
Captain Sean Kelly, Brazos Pilots Association
Ms. Tammy Moss, Brazos Pilots Association
Captain James Teeter
Ms. Toni Teeter
Ms. Lauren Kelly
Ms. Alex Coviello
Mr. Joe Coviello
Ms. Diane Coviello
Ms. Lindsey Maxwell
Ms. Evelyn Rivera

1. CONVENE OPEN SESSION in accordance with Texas Government Code Section 551.001, et. seq., to review and consider the following:
2. Roll Call.
3. Approval of minutes from the Special Meetings held March 12, 2020.

A motion was made by Commissioner Croft to approve the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hoss with all Commissioners present voting in favor of the motion.

4. Approval of appointment of Captain Sean Kelly as Branch Pilot for the Ports of Brazoria County.

Mr. Durel stated that staff received the application of appointment for Captain Kelly and found all documentation to be in order. Mr. Durel added that any time the operations department needs to communicate directly with the Pilots, Captain Kelly is always available, professional, courteous and willing to work as a team player. Staff recommends approval of this appointment.

A motion was made by Commissioner Singhania to approve the appointment of Captain Sean Kelly Branch Pilot. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Croft with all Commissioners present voting in favor of the motion.

5. Approval of appointment of Captain Ross Coviello as Branch Pilot for the Ports of Brazoria County.

Mr. Durel stated that staff received the application of appointment for Captain Coviello and found all documentation to be in order. Mr. Durel echoed his sentiments stating that Captain Coviello is always professional, courteous and willing to work as a team player. Staff recommends approval of this appointment.

A motion was made by Commissioner Hoss to approve the appointment of Captain Ross Coviello as Branch Pilot. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Singhania with all Commissioners present voting in favor of the motion.

6. Adoption of a Resolution recognizing Captain James Teeter for his years of service as Branch Pilot for the Ports of Brazoria County.

At this time Commissioner Pirtle read a resolution recognizing Captain Teeter on his retirement from the Brazos Pilots Association April 27, 2020, his 19 years of service as Branch Pilot and stellar achievement of safely piloting 8,463 vessels in the Freeport Harbor Channel.

Commissioner Hoss also acknowledged Captain Teeter's contributions to the Freeport Harbor Channel Improvement Project to assisting with the design efforts on the channel as well as his contributions to managing the flood control projects around the inner harbor.

A motion was made by Commissioner Hoss to adopt the resolution with the inclusion of the attachment he sent to the Commission. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Santos with all Commissioners present voting in favor of the motion.

6. Receive update from the Brazos Pilots Association regarding 2020 vessel traffic, financial report, pilot boat fee collection and expenditures and other pilot matters.

Captain Blanton began his presentation by thanking the Port Commission for their approval to appoint the two candidates as Branch Pilots and acknowledged the commitment by the Pilots to create a solid team moving forward with the Port's growth. Captain Blanton stated that first quarter ship movements were really strong however second quarter was down 20% and down 5% from last year. He noted that some of the numbers are skewed due to Phillips maintenance on their terminal. He stated that G&H Towing has a tug in the shop for maintenance due to mechanical issues. The Pilots hope to get that tug back to give the Port greater flexibility to assist with moving two ships at a time. He reported on pilot boat fees and how much has been paid into the account. He noted that everyone is trying to find liquidity but is confident that in a hurricane season the Pilots would be fine. Should the pandemic heat back up and we get a hurricane, Captain Blanton stated he most likely would request permission to retain the pilot fees for the pilot boat until the end of hurricane season, adding the account can carry through the summer. Otherwise, the boat payments are bringing in more than expected when the tariff was originally set. All funds are going straight to paying principal and interest off. Ms. Saathoff noted that the final order adopted three year ago provided and allowed for four months of payments to be held in reserve. Captain Blanton noted he doesn't anticipate anything going awry, but if the opportunity presents itself, he would make that request.

7. Adjourn.

With no further business before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 12:17 p.m.