

Minutes of Pilot Commission
Port Freeport
April 22, 2021
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, April 22, 2021 at 12:30 p.m. by video/teleconference initiated from the Administration Building, 1100 Cherry Street, Freeport, Texas. In order to meet CDC guidelines for social distancing and slow the spread of the Coronavirus (COVID-19), the public can join the video/teleconference meeting by following the instructions below. When the spread of COVID-19 is no longer an imminent threat to our community, in-person meetings will resume.

The meeting will not be open for the public to physically attend the meeting, but the Port welcomes the public to attend virtually. Public comment will be available at the beginning of the meeting on the agenda item indicated below. Following public comment, the public will not be permitted to communicate with the Port Commission.

The meeting agenda and agenda packet are posted online at www.portfreeport.com.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82554287748?pwd=eGk5eWE4WmpQUuhuZS81Ym54NktsZz09>

Meeting ID: 825 5428 7748

Passcode: 110258

Dial by your location

- +1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)
- +1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)
- +1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)
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- +1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 825 5428 7748

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/k6NRrcWaT>

Commissioners present:

- Mr. Shane Pirtle, Chairman
- Mr. Paul Kresta, Vice Chairman
- Mr. John Hoss, 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
- Mr. Rob Lowe, Director of Administration/CFO
- Mr. Brandon Robertson, Network Systems Manager
- Ms. Missy Bevers, Executive Assistant
- Mr. Jason Hull, Director of Engineering

Mr. Chris Hogan, Director of Protective Services
Ms. Mary Campus, Controller
Mr. Austin Seth, Operations Specialist

Absent:

Mr. Rudy Santos, Secretary/Treasurer

Also, Present:

Captain Daniel Blanton, Brazos Pilots Association
Captain Matthew Krohn, Brazos Pilots Association
Mr. Bobby Fuller, Texas Port Ministry

Commissioner Pirtle stated the following...

Today is April 22, 2021, and the time is 12:32 p.m. This is a special meeting of the Pilot Commission. I am Shane Pirtle, Chairman. We are conducting this meeting by video/telephone conference pursuant to Governor Abbott's order suspending certain provisions of the Texas Open Meetings Act in order to minimize the impact of the coronavirus outbreak. This meeting is being recorded as required by the Texas Open Meetings Act.

With the posting of today's meeting a toll-free call-in number was indicated on the agenda, along with the agenda packet. Both may be found on the Port's website www.portfreeport.com. Additionally, the public may join the meeting from a computer, tablet or smartphone or by phone using the toll-free call-in number.

This meeting will not be open for the public to physically attend the meeting, but the Port welcomes the public to attend virtually. Public comment will be available at the beginning of the meeting as indicated on the agenda. Following public comment, the public will not be permitted to communicate with the Pilot Commission.

In the event any member of the public is having any technical difficulty during the meeting, please call (979) 233-2667, and someone will assist you.

Being considerate of all participants on this call today, we respectfully request everyone "mute" their phones unless you are speaking.

An Executive Session was not noticed on the published agenda and will not occur unless otherwise indicated during the meeting.

1. CONVENE OPEN SESSION in accordance with Texas Government Code Section 551.001, et. seq., to review and consider the following:
2. Roll Call.
Commissioner Pirtle stated that those present in the board room (at a safe distance) included himself, Commissioners Kresta, Commissioner Croft, Commissioner Singhania, Phyllis Saathoff – CEO and Jason Cordoba – Legal Counsel. Commissioner Hoss was present online, and Commissioner Santos was absent from the meeting.

3. Public Comment.

There were no public comments.

4. Approval of the following minutes and transcripts from the Special Meetings held:

October 8, 2020

October 15, 2020

October 29, 2020

October 30, 2020

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

5. Receive update from the Brazos Pilot Association regarding 2021 vessel traffic, financial report, pilot boat fee collection and expenditures and other pilot matters.

Capt. Daniel Blanton gave a brief PowerPoint presentation that included updates regarding 1st quarter vessel traffic numbers for 2021 vs 2020, winter storm interruption of service and lessons learned, and an overview of 1st quarter tariff surcharge, income, expenses and balance. This included a breakdown/update of pilot boat loan refinance, training and education, communication and dispatch and deckhands.

6. Approval of the reappointment of Captain Daniel Blanton as Branch Pilot for the Ports of Brazoria County.

Mr. Durel stated that Capt. Blanton has submitted the necessary application and subsequent paperwork for renewal of his license and has found everything to be in order. Mr. Durel noted that one outstanding item is Capt. Blanton's bond renewal which is in progress. His current bond does not expire until June 30. Mr. Durel also noted that the communication and relationship between the Pilots and Port Operations is excellent. Staff recommends approval of the reappointment. Commissioners echoed Mr. Durel's sentiments regarding the relationship with the Pilots.

A motion was made by Commissioner Kresta to approve the reappointment of Captain Daniel Blanton as Branch Pilot for the Ports of Brazoria County. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Croft with all Commissioners present voting in favor of the motion.

7. Adjourn.

With no further business before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 1:03 p.m.