

Minutes of Pilot Commission
Port Freeport
July 22, 2021
In-Person Meeting

A Special Meeting of the Pilot Commission of Port Freeport was held July 22, 2021, beginning at 12:21 PM at the Port Freeport Administration Building, 1100 Cherry Street, Freeport, Texas.

The Pilot Commission meeting will be in person and available for public attendance.

The Pilot Commission meeting will also be available for observation to the public via Zoom at the link below. The public will not be permitted to participate in the public comment via Zoom. Any public comment must be done in person at the Port Freeport Administration Building.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83009344404?pwd=K2lXQjlYSzJkQkRsNHg4T1phanZ5QT09>

Meeting ID: 830 0934 4404

Passcode: 993046

Dial by your location

1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)

1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 830 0934 4404

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kdzAQioM54>

Commissioners present:

Mr. Rudy Santos, Secretary/Treasurer

Mr. John Hoss, Commissioner

Mr. Ravi Singhania, Commissioner

Mr. Dan Croft, Commissioner

Mr. Rob Giesecke, 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

Ms. Tricia Vela, Public Affairs Assistant

Absent:

Mr. Shane Pirtle, Chairman

Also, Present:

Captain Matthew Krohn, Brazos Pilots Association
Captain Ross Coviello, Brazos Pilots Association
Captain Sean Kelly, Brazos Pilots Association
Captain Noah Niday, Brazos Pilots Association

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 Santos stated those Commissioners present in the board room included himself, Commissioner Croft, Commissioner Singhanian and Commissioner Giesecke. Commissioner Hoss will join the meeting later and Commissioner Pirtle was absent. Mr. Cordoba explained that Commissioner Pirtle was running a slight temperature so out of an abundance of precaution, he wants to make sure he is okay and will not be in attendance. Additionally, the agenda was not prepared to allow for virtual participation by Commissioners. Moving forward, the agendas will be prepared to allow more flexibility to include virtual participation.

3. Public Comment.

There were no comments from the public.

4. Approval of minutes from the Special Meeting held April 22, 2021.

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

** Commissioner Hoss joined the meeting during discussion of the next item at 12:25 p.m.*

5. Election of Chairman, Vice Chairman and Secretary/Treasurer for the period, June 2021 - May 2023.

Commissioner Santos asked if there were any nominations. Commissioner Singhanian made a motion to have the same officers for the Pilot Board as is for the Port Commission in order to keep continuity and communication among the two boards. With that, Commissioner Singhanian nominated Commissioner Hoss as Chairman, Commissioner Santos as Vice Chairman, Commissioner Croft as Secretary/Treasurer with himself, Commissioner Giesecke and Commissioner Pirtle to serve as Commissioners. Commissioner Santos then repeated the motion on the floor as stated by Commissioner Singhanian, also clarifying the reason for nominating same officers is to keep continuity between the Port Commission and Pilot Board moving forward. Commissioner Santos asked if the Commission wanted this process to be a common practice moving forward where the officers for Pilot Commission mirror the Port Commission officers. Commissioner Singhanian stated that he supports a common practice and not overlap the bylaws for the Port Commission. Commissioner Hoss commented that having been a part of both structures, having separate officers for both leads to confusion whereas having same consistency across both boards leads to less confusion.

The nomination was seconded by Commissioner Croft 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.

Captain Matthew Krohn gave a brief PowerPoint presentation that included updates regarding 1st and 2nd quarter vessel traffic numbers for 2021 as well as a 2021 vs 2020 comparison which shows a 7.95% increase in vessels. Additionally, he gave an overview of tariff surcharges, income, expenses and balance for the first six months of 2021. This included an update of pilot boat (new) loan balance, training and education, communication and dispatch and deckhands. Captain Krohn also commented on the effectiveness of the new solar lights around the Dow Thumb which has eliminated sight issues during transit.

7. Adjourn.

With no further business before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 12:43 p.m.