

Minutes of Pilot Commission Port Freeport February 8, 2018

A Meeting of the Pilot Commission of Port Freeport was held February 8, 2018, beginning at 2:01 PM at the Port Freeport Administration Building, 1100 Cherry Street, Freeport, Texas.

Commissioners present:

Mr. Paul Kresta, Chairman
Mr. John Hoss, Vice Chairman
Mr. Shane Pirtle, Secretary/Treasurer
Mr. Rudy Santos, Commissioner
Mr. Bill Terry, Commissioner
Mr. Ravi Singhanian, Commissioner

Staff Members present:

Mr. Jason Cordoba, Legal Counsel
Ms. Phyllis Saathoff, Executive Director/CEO
Mr. John Mannion, Chief Financial Officer
Mr. Al Durel, Director of Operations
Mr. Jason Hull, Director of Engineering
Mr. Chris Hogan, Director of Protective Services
Ms. Missy Bevers, Executive Assistant
Ms. Mary Campus, Controller
Mr. Brandon Robertson, Network Systems Manager

Also present:

Captain James Teeter, Brazos Pilots Association
Captain Billy Burns, Brazos Pilots Association
Captain Matthew Krohn, Brazos Pilots Association
Captain Nick Miller, Brazos Pilots Association
Ms. Ann Poninski, P66
Mr. Chris Noble, Dole Fresh Fruit

1. CONVENE OPEN SESSION in accordance with Texas Government Code Section 551.001, et. seq., to review and consider the following:
2. Approval of minutes from the Special Meeting held November 30, 2017.

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

3. Receive report from Executive Director/CEO and/or Port staff on activities and matters related to the Freeport Harbor.

Mr. Jason Hull shared pictures of the lights on Seaway Point showing that they are now in working order. Equipment for the solar lights has been shipped and is expected to be installed next week. Mr. Al Durel reported attending the Lone Star Harbor Safety Committee February 2 in Houston, stating that Port Freeport's subcommittee gave an update on activities in Freeport. The new Rear Admiral Paul Thomas was in attendance and recognized the PCT and its 26 members for their handling of activities during Hurricane Harvey. PCT members, which include representatives from Houston, Texas City, Galveston and Freeport, were praised by Admiral Thomas for their efforts. And Mr. Durel and Captain Burns received written commendations. Mr. Durel added the Admiral wants to schedule a visit and tour of Port Freeport soon and noted that the Admiral was the Captain of the Port when the 9/11 events took place and spearheaded, along with the Coast Guard, the plans to secure the Port.

4. Receive report from Commissioners on Pilot Board matters.

There were no reports from Commissioners.

5. Update from the Brazos Pilots Association on pilot boat construction, year-to-date vessel traffic, pilot boat fees assessed and other pilot matters.

Captain Burns, President of the Brazos Pilots Association reported on the 2017 vessel traffic, stating there were 929 ships which equated to 1900 movements and a 14% increase in ship traffic from 2016. 38% of the traffic came from Dow while Phillips contributed 29% (14% LPG and 15% crude oil). Port Freeport was responsible for 28% of the ship movements. To date, the Pilots have collected \$114,250 in boat tariff fees. They have met with the architects, plans have been drawn and the keel will be laid out next month. The boat is expected to be completed by the end of the year. Moving into 2018, Captain Burns stated the Pilots want to work with the Port User Group to put dispatch in place before the end of the year, preferably in the summer. Copies of the plans have been submitted to the Pilot Board and User Group and includes plans for funding the project. Commissioner Kresta noted for the record that the Pilot Board received copies of the boat fees statements as well as a copy of the year-end statement for the Education Fund. Commissioner Hoss asked for clarification on the letter accompanying the Education Fund statement. Captain Burns stated the Education Fund has always been a separate entity in a non-interest-bearing checking account at Texas Gulf Bank. The Pilots want to move the funds into an interest-bearing account. The interest the account draws would stay in that account for educational purposes only. Ms. Saathoff enquired about the additional items the User Group would be discussing. Captain Burns stated that along with dispatch, discussions will continue with the building of the new boat and allowing extra crew members. Commissioner Santos inquired as to how many Pilots are currently staffed. The Association has three pilots and two deputies. The deputies will come on as full pilots at the end of the year. Captain Burns also noted that the Port Safety Guidelines need to be revisited and updated. This will also be reviewed through the Port User Group.

6. Approval of the reappointment of Captain Billy J. Burns as Branch Pilot for the Ports of Brazoria County.

Commissioner Kresta and Ms. Saathoff noted the renewal packet submitted was very thorough and included all the appropriate documents.

A motion was made by Commissioner Pirtle to approve the reappointment of Captain Billy J. Burns as Branch Pilot. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Singhanian with all Commissioners present voting in favor of the motion.

With no further business before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 2:23 p.m.