

# Minutes of Pilot Commission Port Freeport June 7, 2018

A Special Meeting of the Pilot Commission of Port Freeport was held June 7, 2018, beginning at 12:05 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. Bill Terry, Commissioner  
Mr. Rudy Santos, Commissioner  
Mr. Ravi Singhanian, 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. Austin Seth, Operations Specialist

Also, present:

Captain Jim Teeter, Brazos Pilots Association  
Captain Billy J. Burns, Brazos Pilots Association  
Captain Daniel Blanton, Brazos Pilots Association  
Captain Matthew Krohn, Brazos Pilots Association  
Mr. Bobby Fuller, Texas Port Ministry  
Mr. Chris Noble, Dole Fresh Fruit  
Mr. Ross Coviello  
Mr. Sean Kelly  
Mr. John Hazley, Enterprise  
Ms. Ann Marie Poninski, Phillips 66  
Mr. Niels Aalund, WGMA

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 Meetings held April 12, 2018.

A motion was made by Commissioner Pirtle to approve the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hoss 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 Channel.

Ms. Saathoff reported the Port Commission entered into an agreement with Locus LLC to provide programming for the simulator at the San Jacinto College Maritime Facility for the Freeport Harbor Channel. This program will be available for use by the Pilots and others as a training tool to simulate activities in the channel. Commissioner Kresta requested an update on the lighting of the channel. Ms. Saathoff stated that at this time, all updates have been completed that can be done with lighting. Captain Blanton added the only outstanding lights are the ones inside the Dow Thumb. These will be addressed after the Freeport Harbor Channel Improvement Project is complete.

4. Receive update from the Brazos Pilots Association regarding pilot boat construction, year-to-date vessel traffic, pilot boat fee collection and expenditures and other pilot matters.

Captain Burns reported the traffic is about 2% down from this time last year. The channel saw 766 movements the first two quarters of last year, and down to 751 this year. Traffic is not expected to increase until LNG comes online. He also reported the year-to-date pilot boat fees collected is \$130,000 and the account balance is \$210,000. The Pilots average approximately \$25,000/month on boat fees and continue making interest-only payments. Captain Blanton shared a picture of the new pilot boat under construction. The production schedule still shows completion the first week of December however, Captain Blanton is hopeful it will be completed in November.

5. Receive update from the Freeport Harbor Working Group.

Ms. Ann Marie Poninski reported the working group was tasked with coming up with a pilot dispatch. The Group decided we needed more than just a pilot dispatch, we needed a vessel traffic information service which includes vessel surveillance, monitoring environmental conditions, data management and communications as well as the personnel to manage that. The group is working through all the details of these items. Commissioner Hoss inquired about the timeframe of these items. Ms. Poninski stated it will be a phased in approach because the environmental monitors will take time but hope to start implementing in the next few months. The monitoring will include salinity, currents and NOAA Port System.

6. Receive recommendation from the Brazos Pilots Association for the appointment of Deputy Branch Pilots.

Captain Burns stated the Pilots received approximately 18 applications from prospective candidates and interviewed almost 90%. The Pilots feel they have two highly qualified, educated and well-trained individuals who will be a great asset to the organization. Captain Burns asked for the Board's approval of Mr. Ross Coviello and Mr. Sean Kelly as Deputy Branch Pilots.

7. Review and consider selection of Deputy Branch Pilots for the Ports of Brazoria County.

Ms. Saathoff stated staff has reviewed the applicants per the Pilot and Pilotage Rules and Regulations application process.

A motion was made by Commissioner Pirtle to approve the applicants recommended. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hoss with all Commissioners present voting in favor of the motion.

8. Adjourn.

With no further business before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 12:21 p.m.