

Minutes of Meeting  
May 19, 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 Port Commission will conduct a meeting on Tuesday, May 19, 2020 at 1:00 p.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).

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Commissioners present via teleconference:

Mr. Shane Pirtle, Chairman  
Mr. Paul Kresta, Vice Chairman  
Mr. Rudy Santos, Secretary  
Mr. John Hoss, Asst. Secretary  
Mr. Ravi K. Singhania, Commissioner  
Mr. Dan Croft, Commissioner

Staff Members Present:

Mr. Jason Cordoba, Legal Counsel  
Ms. Phyllis Saathoff, Executive Director/CEO  
Mr. Rob Lowe, Director of Administration/CFO  
Mr. Al Durel, Director of Operations  
Ms. Missy Bevers, Executive Assistant  
Mr. Brandon Robertson, Network Systems Manager  
Ms. Lauren McCormick, Public Affairs Manager  
Ms. Marilyn Miller, Public Affairs Assistant

Also, present via teleconference:

Mr. Quentin Stubbs, NOAA  
Mr. Joe Smith

Commissioner Pirtle stated the following information...

Today's date is May 19, 2020, and the time is 1:00 p.m. This is a special meeting of the Commissioners of Port Freeport. I am Shane Pirtle, Port Commission 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. Following today's meeting written minutes and this recording will be made available to the public.

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](http://www.portfreeport.com). Additionally, as posted on the agenda, the public may join the meeting from a computer, tablet or smartphone. You may also dial the toll-free call in number using your phone.

In the event any member of the public is having any technical difficulty during the meeting, please call (979) 233-2667, press zero and someone will do the best they can to assist you. Please state you need technical assistance regarding the Port Commission Video/Teleconference Meeting.

Being considerate of all participants on this call today, we respectfully request everyone "mute" their devices unless you are speaking. This will prevent unintended disruptions from background noises.

As required by law and as a commitment to transparency we continue to include a public comment section with our meeting. If you would like to participate in the public comment section of our meeting the general guidelines and rules still apply. Those guidelines being:

- Each individual will be permitted to speak for five (5) minutes.
- Members of the public will only be permitted to speak during the posted public comment section.
- Members of the public will not be permitted to participate during agenda items.
- Commissioners cannot engage in discussion with members of the public during public comment.

A roll call will be taken to record the Commissioners, staff and legal counsel in attendance. The Commissioners, staff and legal counsel will announce their name before they speak each time. After each item on the agenda is introduced, I will call upon each commissioner individually for questions or comments and for their vote on each motion at the appropriate time.

Should a participating commissioner be temporarily disconnected, the meeting will be paused to allow time for the commissioner to rejoin the teleconference meeting.

We will proceed with the agenda now.

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 noted all Commissioners, including himself were present online with the exception of Commissioner Hoss, who joined the meeting late. Ms. Saathoff noted that present in the board room with her were Al Durel - Director of Operation, Rob Lowe - CFO, Missy Bevers - Executive Assistant and Brandon Robertson - Network Systems Manager.
3. Public Comment - There were no public comments.

4. Discuss and consider a resolution regarding the 2020 appraised values.

Commissioner Pirtle read aloud the following from the proposed resolution...

***WHEREAS**, based on the foregoing, the Port supports any and all emergency action and relief the Governor may take to either provide additional exemptions to property owners, freezing the appraised value to those values issued in 2019 plus all new 2020 values added and/or any other additional action to provide real property tax relief to all Texans.*

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE PORT COMMISSION OF PORT FREEPORT:** that the Port acknowledges and recognizes the leadership the Governor has displayed in saving and protecting the lives and livelihoods of Texans during this unprecedented time; and*

***BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE PORT COMMISSION OF PORT FREEPORT:** that the Port supports the Governor in future actions that will save and protect the lives and livelihoods of Texans, including any and all emergency action and relief the Governor may take to either provide additional exemptions to property owners, freezing the appraised value to those values issued in 2019 plus all new 2020 values added and/or any other additional action to provide real property tax relief to all Texans.*

Ms. Saathoff suggested the board consider revising the wording of the resolution to further clarify to state “freezing the appraised value to those values issued in 2019 *plus all new investments added*” instead of plus all new 2020 values added.

A motion was made by Commissioner Singhanian to adopt the resolution with the modified language and send same to Brazoria County elected officials as well as state legislators. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kresta with all Commissioners present voting in favor of the motion.

5. Approval of an extension to the Security Services Agreement with Sunstates Security, LLC for a term of two years through May 31, 2022.

Commissioner Pirtle stated this agreement was discussed at the previous board meeting. Staff was asked to revise the language in item 4.C.i. of the agreement for clarification. That change has been made and the agreement is ready for approval.

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

6. Adjourn.

With no further business before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 1:18 PM.