

Minutes of Pilot Commission
Port Freeport
March 10, 2022

A Special Meeting of the Pilot Commission of Port Freeport was held March 10, 2022, beginning at 9:36 AM at the Port Freeport Administration Building, 1100 Cherry Street, Freeport, Texas.

The meeting will be conducted pursuant to Section 551.127 of the Texas Government Code titled "Videoconference Call." The quorum of the Pilot Commission, including the presiding officer, will be present at the Commissioner Meeting Room located at 1100 Cherry Street, Freeport, Texas. The public will be permitted to physically attend the meeting in person or by videoconference.

Public comment will be available at the beginning of the meeting during the agenda item devoted to public comment. Public comment may be communicated in person or by videoconference, but in either event public comment will be limited to 5 minutes per participant and must be communicated verbally. Following public comment, the public will not be permitted to communicate with the Pilot Commission.

This meeting agenda and agenda packet is posted online at www.portfreeport.com

The videoconference is available online as follows:

Join Zoom Meeting

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Meeting ID: 818 0210 2213

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Commissioners present in person:

Mr. John Hoss, Chairman

Mr. Rudy Santos, Vice Chairman

Mr. Dan Croft, Secretary

Mr. Rob Giesecke, Asst. Secretary

Mr. Shane Pirtle, Commissioner

Commissioners present virtually:

Mr. Ravi Singhania, Commissioner

Staff Members present:

Mr. Peter Nemeth, Interim Legal Counsel

Ms. Phyllis Saathoff, Executive Director/CEO
Mr. Rob Lowe, Director of Administration/CFO
Mr. Al Durel, Director of Operations
Mr. Jason Hull, Director of Engineering
Mr. Mike Wilson, Director of Economic Development
Mr. Chris Hogan, Director of Protective Services
Mr. Brandon Robertson, Network Systems Manager
Ms. Missy Bevers, Executive Assistant
Mr. Austin Seth, Operations Specialist
Ms. Mary Campus, Controller
Ms. Tricia Vela, Public Affairs Assistant

Also, present:

Capt. Daniel Blanton, Brazos Pilots Association
Capt. Billy Burns, Brazos Pilots Association
Capt. Matthew Krohn, Brazos Pilots Association
Capt. Sean Kelly, Brazos Pilots Association
Capt. Ross Coviello, Brazos Pilots Association
Capt. Noah Niday, Brazos Pilots Association
Ms. Taylor Niday
Mr. Henry Chambless

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 Hoss noted that Commissioner Singhania is participating in the meeting virtually and Commissioner Pirtle is absent. All other Commissioners were present in the Board Room.

3. Public Comment.

There were no comments from the public.

4. Approval of minutes from the Special Meeting held February 17, 2022.

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

5. Approval of changes to the Basic Operating Procedures for the Freeport Harbor Channel:

Capt. Krohn reported that since the February 17 presentation of proposed changes to the Basic Operating Procedures, the Pilots have not received any requested changes or opposition to the procedures. The modifications will eliminate the excess requests for waivers and improve traffic flow without the need of a waiver. Capt. Krohn briefly highlighted the changes to the Basic Operating Procedures as outlined below. He also noted the changes will be effective April 1, 2022, to allow dispatch to adjust to the new changes.

**Zone 1: 984ft, 170ft beam, 42ft draft
(Entrance Channel & FLNG Basin)**

- Vessels >984ft waiver required
- Night transits >820ft LOA or beam >145ft waiver required

**Zone 2: 910ft, 160ft beam, 42ft draft
(Dow & Seaway/Enterprise)**

- Vessels >910ft LOA or >160ft beam waiver required and DLR (Daylight Restricted)
- Night transit vessels >820ft LOA or >145ft beam waiver required
- SW2 (Seaway Terminal Berth 2) arrival in ballast not DLR
- Dow A14 >107ft waiver required
- No vessel in/out A14W with vessel at A8
- Tug/Barge on the wire DLR

**Zone 3: 820ft, 145ft, 42ft
(P66 and Port Freeport 6, 7 & 8 Docks)**

- No waiver required >750ft LOA or >107ft beam or >700ft & >36ft draft for night transit in/out (Waiver required >820ft LOA or >145ft beam in/out)
- Ro/Ro type vessel sail at night without waiver
- Passing rule – combined beam <275ft (78.329m) of both the moored and passing vessel day/night
- Tug/Barge on the wire DLR

**Zone 4: Docks 1, 2 & 3 – 775ft, Dock 5 660ft, 135 ft beam, 36ft draft
(BASF & Port Freeport 5, 1, 2 & 3 Docks)**

- Ro/Ro type vessel sail at night without waiver except Dock 5 is DLR
- Dock 5 >625ft LOA DLR and 2 pilots
- Tug/Barge on the wire DLR

**Zone 5: 300ft, 75ft, 14ft
Freeport Launch & all berths upriver of Freeport Launch**

- >300ft LOA or >75ft beam required a waiver and DLR
- >14ft draft requires a waiver and DLR
- Tug/Barge on the wire DLR

A motion was made by Commissioner Santos to approve the Basic Operating Procedures as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Singhanian with all Commissioners present voting in favor of the motion.

6. Approval of Captain Noah Niday as Branch Pilot for the Ports of Brazoria County.

Mr. Durel stated that staff received the application of appointment for Captain Noah Niday to Branch Pilot and found all documentation to be in order. Mr. Durel added that the operations department communicates closely with the Pilots and Captain Niday is always a team player and very good at his job. Staff recommends approval of this appointment.

Captain Krohn spoke to the Commission stating that Captain Niday has exceeded all expectations and during his time as deputy has made more transits in the Freeport Ship Channel than any other deputy pilot before him, for a total of 1678, which is over 300 more than the

predecessors. Captain Krohn and the Pilots proudly recommend Captain Niday for appointment as a Branch Pilot for Brazoria County Ports.

Captain Niday thanked the Port Commission for the opportunity and support in appointing him Branch Pilot.

A motion was made by Commissioner Croft to approve the appointment of Captain Noah Niday as Branch Pilot. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Giesecke with all Commissioners present voting in favor of the motion.

7. Adjourn.

With no further business before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 10:01 AM.