

Minutes of Port Commission Special Meeting  
June 13, 2024  
In Person & Videoconference

A Special Meeting of the Port Commission of Port Freeport was held June 13, 2024, beginning at 12:16 PM at the Administration Building, 1100 Cherry Street, Freeport, Texas.

**This meeting agenda with the agenda packet is posted online at [www.portfreeport.com](http://www.portfreeport.com)**

The meeting will be conducted pursuant to Section 551.127 of the Texas Government Code titled "Videoconference Call." A quorum of the Port 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 attend the meeting in person or by videoconference.

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Commissioners present in person:

Mr. Ravi Singhania, Chairman  
Mr. Rob Giesecke, Vice Chairman  
Ms. Barbara Fratila, Secretary  
Mr. Kim Kincannon, Asst. Secretary  
Mr. Rudy Santos, Commissioner

Staff Members Present:

Mr. Grady Randle, Randle Law Office  
Ms. Phyllis Saathoff, Executive Director/CEO  
Mr. Rob Lowe, Director of Administration/CFO  
Mr. Jason Miura, Director of Business & Economic Development  
Mr. Brandon Robertson, Director of Information Technology  
Mr. Jesse Hibbetts, Director of Operations  
Ms. Missy Bevers, Executive Assistant  
Ms. Tricia Vela, Public Affairs Assistant

Absent:

Mr. Dan Croft, Commissioner

Also, Present:

Mr. Peter Nemeth, Crane, Caton & James  
Mr. Manrique Bermudez, Chiquita  
Ms. Blair Brownlow, Chiquita

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 Singhania noted that Commissioner Croft was absent, and all other Commissioners were present in the Board Room.
3. Public Comment – There were no public comments.
4. Public Testimony – There was no public testimony.
5. EXECUTIVE SESSION in accordance with Subchapter D of the Open Meetings Act, Texas Government Code Section 551.001, et. seq., to review and consider the following:
  - A. Under authority of Section 551.072 (Deliberation Concerning Real Property Matters) for discussion regarding:
    1. The potential purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property located at Port Freeport, including but not limited to the real property located at and contiguous to Berths 1, 2, 5, 7 and 8.
6. RECONVENE OPEN SESSION to review and consider the following:
7. Discuss and consider approval of a Lease Agreement between Port Freeport and Chiquita Fresh North America, L.L.C.

Mr. Miura began by introducing Mr. Manrique Bermudez and Ms. Blair Brownlow from Chiquita who were both present in the audience. He stated that staff is recommending approval of a lease agreement between Port Freeport and Chiquita Fresh North America. The lease agreement is for a primary term of five years with a renewal option and three separate leased areas on the terminal (9 acre wheeled yard, 2 acre grounded yard and 1 acre 8<sup>th</sup> Street yard). The agreement conforms to the standard terms with both a base rent and MAG the Port is accustomed to. Staff recommends approval and is grateful for the partnership with Chiquita over the years.

Mr. Bermudez thanked the Port for the long-standing partnership with Chiquita and to have the new lease agreement. Chiquita will do their part with investments to enhance its ability to serve its customers. Mr. Bermudez noted that bananas are their main focus followed by pineapples, adding that they also participate in the export business with surrounding industry participating in their customer portfolio. Chiquita appreciates Port Freeport's support.

A motion was made by Commissioner Giesecke to approve the proposed lease with Chiquita. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kincannon with all Commissioners present voting in favor of the motion.

8. Adjourn.

With no further business before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 12:55 PM.