

Minutes of Pilot Commission
Port Freeport
January 7, 2026

A Special Meeting of the Pilot Commission of Port Freeport was held January 7, 2026, beginning at 1:02 PM at the Port Freeport Administration Building, 1100 Cherry Street, Freeport, Texas.

Commissioners present in person:

Mr. Rob Giesecke, Chairman
Mr. Rudy Santos, Vice Chairman
Mr. Kim Kincannon, Secretary/Treasurer
Mr. Dan Croft, Commissioner
Ms. Barbara Fratila, Commissioner
Mr. Ravi Singhanian, Commissioner

Staff Members Present:

Ms. Heather Cook, Randle Law Firm
Ms. Phyllis Saathoff, Executive Director/CEO
Mr. Rob Lowe, Director of Administration/CFO
Mr. Jesse Hibbetts, Director of Operations
Mr. Brandon Robertson, Director of IT
Ms. Missy Bevers, Executive Assistant
Ms. Amy O'Brien, Controller
Ms. Amanda Veliz, Public Affairs Manager

Also, present:

Capt. Billy Burns, Brazos Pilots Association
Capt. Noah Niday, Brazos Pilots Association

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 Giesecke noted that all Commissioners were present in the Board Room.

3. Public Comment - There were no comments from the public.

4. Public Testimony - There was no testimony from the public.

5. Approval of minutes from the Special Meeting held October 23, 2025.

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

6. Review and consider approval of the reappointment of Captain Noah Niday as Branch Pilot for the Ports of Brazoria County.

Ms. Saathoff stated that Captain Niday has submitted all required documentation, meets all requirements for reappointment, and recommends approval of the reappointment of Captain Noah Niday as branch pilot for the Ports of Brazoria County. She noted this is Captain Niday's first reappointment as a branch pilot. Captain Niday stated that it has been a pleasure to be a pilot at Port Freeport and be a part of the port's growth. He added that, of all the places he could have worked as a pilot, he is glad it's Brazoria County and looks forward to continuing to serve as a branch pilot in the county.

A motion was made by Commissioner Singhanian to approve the reappointment. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kincannon with all Commissioners present voting in favor of the motion.

7. Review and consider approval of the reappointment of Captain Billy Burns as Branch Pilot for the Ports of Brazoria County.

Ms. Saathoff stated that Captain Burns first joined the Brazos Pilots in 1998 with this being his seventh renewal as a branch pilot. Captain Burns has submitted all required documentation and meets all requirements. Ms. Saathoff recommends approval of the reappointment. Captain Burns stated that it has been an absolute joy working with the port for 28 years. He stated that each one of the Commissions has had a special project to advance the port with the current body doubling the projects and the advancement of the port. He added that he is very proud to be working for Port Freeport.

A motion was made by Commissioner Singhanian to approve the reappointment. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Santos with all Commissioners present voting in favor of the motion.

8. Adjourn.

With no further business before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 1:09 PM.