

Minutes of the Lower Coastal Commission of Pilotage Meeting

December 8, 2020

Charleston Branch Pilots Association Office

6 Concord Street

Charleston, South Carolina 29401

Meeting was conducted by Conference Call

Board Members Present:

Mr. Henry Hay III (Chairman)

Mr. David Galloway

Ms. Amy Riley

Mr. Joel Britt

Capt. Chris Thornton

Excused Absences were noted for:

Mr. Darrell Johnson

Mr. Kenney Riley

Staff and Others Present:

Capt. John Cameron, Pilot Commission Consultant

Capt. Whit Smith, Charleston Pilots Assoc.

Ms. Elizabeth Hills, Charleston Pilot Assoc.

Ms. Laura Smith, LLR

Mr. Hardwick Stuart, LLR Advice Counsel

Mr. Nick Wong, Charleston Maritime Assoc.

Lt. Chad Ray, USCG

Ms. Owen Gregory, Secretary

The Commissioners of Pilotage for the Port of Charleston met Tuesday December 8, 2020 by conference call. Whereas, proper notice of date, time, place and agenda information having been properly provided to the Charleston Post and Courier and proper notice also having been posted on the LLR website/Pilotage 24 hours prior to the time scheduled for the meeting and a quorum having been noted as present, Chairman Hay called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM. All votes referenced herein were unanimous unless otherwise noted.

Chairman Hay asked the Commission to approve the agenda. **Motion:** Commissioner Riley moved to approve the agenda and Commissioner Thornton seconded. **The motion passed.** Chairman Hay asked the members to read and review the draft of minutes taken during the November 10, 2020 meeting and the November Financial Report. **Motion:** Commissioner Riley moved to accept the minutes and Commissioner Britt seconded. **The motion passed.**

Under old business, Lt. Ray reported on behalf of the Coast Guard. Captain Cameron and USCG are working together on buoy movements for dredging. Coast Guard cutter Willow due in Charleston approximately the 15th of December and will be working on buoy moves around that time. Those buoys include 1 ,2, 19, 20,21 and 22 and additional buoys in the Cooper River. The Pilots Association concurs with the proposed placement of all the buoys.

Commissioner Galloway reported that Channel 13 Recording is up and running. Cantey Technology is working on a notification program that will notify them immediately if the recording system goes down. They can then respond accordingly.

Capt. Cameron advised that there is nothing new to report on the Savannah River Commission.

Ms. Smith reported for LLR. Ms. Smith reported that all Pilot physicals are up to date. Capt. Logan and Capt. Lucas have physicals due by December 31,2020.

Capt. Cameron reported that there is no new information on S.689. He will continue to keep the Commission up to date and is checking with the lobbyist.

Capt. Cameron reported on Pilot/Ladder Safety. Capt. Cameron informed the Commission that there were two minor reports since the last Commission meeting. The Pilots are using new forms to report issues and a regular program has been established for making the reports. The system is working well.

Capt. Cameron reported that Covid-19 precautions continue as noted previously. The Pilots and staff have had no issues thus far. A draft letter to DHEC concerning vaccinations and prioritization for the Pilots and staff was reviewed by the Commissioners. Commissioner Thornton made a motion to submit the letter as written to DHEC, the motion was seconded by Commissioner Galloway. The motion was voted on and carried unanimously.

Capt. Cameron updated the Commission that the apprentices Ward, Kratz and Rowe have completed their three year apprenticeship. They have met all requirements necessary for the completion of their apprenticeship as of December 31, 2020. A motion was made to approve Chairman Hay signing their licenses and to approve the registration list adding them to the roster of Pilots, effective January 1, 2021. Commissioner Thornton made the motion to approve the aforementioned items. Commissioner Galloway seconded the motion. The motion was approved. They have taken their oaths and have been elevated to First Short Branch Pilots, effective January 1, 2021.

Under New Business, Capt. Cameron reported that there are three Pilots advancing from Fourth Short Branch to Full Branch Pilots. Capt. Cisco, Capt. Campsen and Capt. Teale have come to the end of the three year period following their apprenticeship. They have completed all requirements to become Full Branch Pilots, effective January 1, 2021. Commissioner Thornton moved that these Pilots be advanced to Full Branch status effective January 1, 2021. Commissioner Britt seconded. The motion passed.

Under Commissioners Comments, Commissioner Thornton advised the Commission as information that during a recent outbound vessel transit the Master of a vessel had a professional disagreement with the Pilot, in regards to the Pilots order for additional speed. While this Captain has expressed disagreements and had issues with Pilots in the past, this is the first instance where it became a potentially serious issue. The Pilot on board handled the situation professionally. The Master was informed that his actions would be reported to the Commission. This particular Master has regular calls to Charleston, and the Pilots Association is keeping an eye on things and monitoring the problem. If anything further arises, they will report it to the Commission. Commissioner Thornton noted that this is a very uncommon problem.

There were no legal comments.

There were no public comments.

Under Announcements:

Capt. Cameron reminded everyone to include the annual registration for Pilots and the annual report on the January agenda.

Capt. Cameron also suggested that wording on the licenses be reviewed and included on the agenda.

Capt. Cameron reported that the new Drug testing company/ program is up and running smoothly. No hiccups in the transition.

Capt. Cameron reported that there was a news report implicating an inbound vessel with an approx..40 ft. Sportfishing boat hitting the jetties. The Coast Guard is investigating, and has determined that the ship was not involved in the incident.

There being no further business to bring before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Henry Hay III
Chairman

A.Owen Gregory
Secretary