

Minutes of the Lower Coastal Commission of Pilotage Meeting

January 10, 2023  
Charleston Branch Pilots Association Office  
6 Concord Street  
Charleston, South Carolina 29401

Board Members Present:

Mr. David Galloway (Chairman)  
Ms. Amy Riley  
Mr. Henry Hay  
Capt. Chris Thornton  
Mr. Joel Britt

Excused Absences were noted for:

Mr. Ben Flowers  
Mr. Darrell Johnson

Staff and Others Present:

Capt. John Cameron, Pilot Commission Consultant  
Capt. Crayton Walters, Charleston Pilots Assoc.  
Ms. Elizabeth Hills, Charleston Pilots Assoc.  
Ms. Laura Smith, LLR  
Mr. Hardwick Stuart, LLR Counsel  
Lt. James Sullivan, USCG  
Ms. Owen Gregory, Secretary

The Commissioners of Pilotage for the Port of Charleston met January 10, 2023 at the Charleston Pilots Office. 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 Galloway called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM. All votes referenced herein were unanimous otherwise noted.

Chairman Galloway asked the members to approve the agenda. **Motion:** Commissioner Riley moved to accept the agenda and Commissioner Thornton seconded. **The motion passed.** Chairman Galloway asked the Commission to approve the December 13, 2022 minutes and the December financial reports. **Motion:** Commissioner Thornton moved to accept the minutes and the financial report and Commissioner Riley seconded. **The motion passed.**

Under old business, Lt. Sullivan reported for the Coast Guard. There would be a dead ship tow taking place on Thursday, January 12 at 0900 hours. A safety zone would be put in place.

Ms. Smith reported for LLR. LLR is still expecting health forms from Capt. Logan. Capt. Stuhr and Capt. Stewart health forms are due by January 31, 2022.

Capt. Cameron reported that the License Reciprocity bill is going back up in front of the Legislature. The bill had been modified before to exclude pilotage, and now we must make sure to get it back in for a modification. Still awaiting the status of the amendment.

Under New Business, Capt. Cameron released the 2022 Annual Pilotage Report to the Commissioners. The number of arrivals is still trending down due to the fact ships are getting larger, therefore fewer ships. The goal is still to have no more than 300 moves per Pilot. The Annual Pilot Register includes all 20 Pilots and the number is stable through the year (no retirements indicated). Commissioner Thornton moved to accept the register of pilots. Commissioner Riley seconded. **The motion passed.**

Capt. Cameron informed the Commission that the Coast Guard had concluded its investigation into the Ever Forward grounding event that took place in the vicinity of Craighill Channel. In the findings of the investigation, the Coast Guard has recommended that Pilot groups consider bridge resource management and cell-phone and distraction policies.

Under Commissioner comments, Commissioner Thornton informed the Commission that the Pilots already have an unwritten policy in place for cell phones to be used for professional purposes only while on a ship. A new cell phone policy will be enacted by other Pilot groups and Commissions in light of the findings, and cell phone use will be regulated to professional use only while on the job. It is recommended to keep this issue on the agenda for further review.

There were no legal comments.

There were no public comments.

There were no Announcements.

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

Respectfully submitted,  
Mr. David R. Galloway  
Chairman

A.Owen Gregory  
Secretary