

Minutes of the Lower Coastal Commission of Pilotage Meeting

July 11, 2023

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

Board Members Present:

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

Excused Absences were noted for:

Mr. Darrell Johnson
Mr. Ben Flowers

Staff and Others Present:

Capt. John Cameron, Pilot Commission Consultant
Capt. Crayton Walters, Charleston Pilots Association
Ms. Laura Smith, LLR
Mr. Hardwick Stuart, LLR Counsel
Lt. Ryan Brodie, USCG
Ms. Owen Gregory, Secretary

The Commissioners of Pilotage for the Port of Charleston met July 11, 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 Hay called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM. All votes referenced herein were unanimous otherwise noted.

Chairman Hay asked the members to approve the agenda. **Motion:** Commissioner Page moved to accept the agenda and Commissioner Thornton seconded. **The motion passed.** Chairman Hay asked the Commission to approve the June 13, 2023 minutes and the June financial reports. **Motion:** Commissioner Britt moved to accept the minutes and the financial report and Commissioner Galloway seconded. **The motion passed.**

Under old business, Lt. Brodie reported for the Coast Guard. The Cutter Willow will be back the week of the 24th for offshore moves. The Drum Island range will be rebuilt with a new front and rear range.

Ms. Smith reported for LLR. All physicals are up to date and there is nothing new to report.

Capt. Cameron reported that nine regulations that were proposed, were approved by the legislation.

Under Short Branch Limits, Pilots Charges and Fees after 45 days, could charge 1.5% interest-compounded for any month overdue.

Pilots asked to change the draft limits for foreign yachts in Chptr. 6, Paragraph 10 from 11 feet or less to 12 feet or less. Commissioner Galloway made the motion to change the maximum draft to 12 feet. Commissioner Thornton seconded. The motion passed.

Pilots had also requested to change boarding time from 3hr on arrival to 6hr, and asked to apply the regulation as previously amended.

Commissioner Galloway reported for the Personnel Committee regarding New Apprentices. All applicants were sent their letters and were each given 60 days to reply and update their files.

Under New Business, Capt. Cameron reported on the approved Rate Card from May. In regards to the revised Rate card, it was proposed to add 1.5% monthly interest to late payments and to clarify detention changes. Additional services for detention of a pilot can be seen as piloting during a compass adjustment, sea trials, drills, provisioning or other deviations from a normal transit. Commissioner Thornton made the motion to approve the revised rate card. Commissioner Page seconded. The Motion passed and will be drafted to go into effect August 1.

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. Henry Hay
Chairman

A.Owen Gregory
Secretary

SOUTH CAROLINA COMMISSIONERS OF PILOTAGE
LOWER COASTAL AREA
PILOTAGE RATES, FEES & CHARGES
Rate card approved July 11, 2023. Rates effective not sooner than August 1, 2023.

All vessels calling at Charleston and lower coastal ports requiring or requesting pilotage will pay full pilotage rates and fees, per Title 54 of the SC code. Pilotage rates apply separately to inbound and outbound passages, and are based on the International Tonnage Convention of 1969 and deepest navigational draft.

The tonnage rate shall be **\$77.90 per 1,000 gross registered tons**, or fraction thereof. Tows are computed on the total tonnage of all tugs and towed vessels.

The draft rate shall be **\$31.85 per draft foot**, computed in half-foot increments, or fraction thereof. Tows will be computed on the deeper draft of the tug or tow.

Minimum charge for an inbound or outbound passage is \$1500.00 in the Port of Charleston if tonnage and draft rates sum to a lesser amount. Elsewhere in the Lower Coastal Zone, the minimum is 150% of the established minimum charge for the Port of Charleston. All ships underway and "dead" (i.e. ships without their own propulsion, or ships under tow) are charged double the applicable rates.

EXTRA FEES

1. The fee per zone for a shift within the harbor is \$400. "Dead" ships are charged double the normal shift fee. Zones are as follows:

Zone 1: Outboard of US Rte 17 bridges to harbor entrance.

Zone 2: Inboard of US Rte 17 & outboard of I-526 bridges.

Zone 3: Cooper River, inboard of I-526 bridge.

Zone 4: Wando River, inboard of I-526 bridge.

2. For cancellation after the pilot is dispatched, the fee is \$1500.

3. Delay fees, excluding local weather, per half hour or fraction thereof (applied if within 2 hrs and the pilot had been dispatched):

	1 st ½ hr	2 nd ½ hr	3 rd ½ hr	Additional ½ hrs
Arrival	no cost	no cost	\$750	Cancellation/\$1500
Departure	\$300	\$300	\$750	\$750

4. A fuel surcharge, approved November 2, 2004, is added to each inbound and outbound passage, based on current fuel costs. The surcharge changes monthly and is computed based on rack rate on the final day of the previous month, less \$0.9491/gallon, times 58 gallons. In 2022, the surcharge ranged from \$111.11 to \$259.60.

5. Detention of a pilot onboard at master's request is charged the same fee as a departure delay, including additional services, such as piloting during a compass adjustment, sea trials, drills, provisioning, or other deviations from a normal transit. When a pilot is unable to disembark an arriving vessel 30 minutes after passing a line, detention will begin to accrue, charged the same fee as a departure delay. When a pilot is unable to disembark a departing vessel, the fee is \$750.00/day, plus deck officer quarters & 1st class return travel to Charleston.

6. Payment is due upon invoicing. Balances beyond 45 days shall be considered in-arrears, and may be charged 1.5% interest monthly, or any portion thereof. Lines and agencies in arrears may be placed on a cash basis for future departures.

7. Charges for passengers and launch services are billed by Charleston Navigation Company. Please contact the dispatcher.

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