

ST. AUGUSTINE PORT, WATERWAY & BEACH DISTRICT
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
Tuesday, April 19, 2016

The regular meeting of the St. Augustine Port, Waterway & Beach District was held at the St. Augustine Beach City Commission Meeting Room, 2200 A1A South, St. Augustine Beach, Florida on Tuesday, April 19, 2016.

CALL TO ORDER

Vice-Chairman Benjamin called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America followed.

ROLL CALL

Chairman Jerry Dixon, Vice-Chairman Barry Benjamin, Commissioners Mark Helman, Chuck Hennessey and Tom Rivers were in attendance. The meeting was also attended by Ken Craig of Taylor Engineering, District Counsel Jim Bedsole and Secretary-Treasurer Elyse Kemper.

SECRETARY-TREASURER'S REPORT

Secretary-Treasurer Kemper delivered the financial report to the Board. The only committed funds spent this year have been \$8,251 for St. Johns County Sheriff's office overtime pay. \$58,702 has been spent for operating expenses and \$73,841 in non-committed funds, mostly for the north beaches renourishment permitting. Funds of \$21,554 still remain in the Florida Board of Administration Fund A because that fund pays interest. District funds on deposit total \$2,111,443 with \$1,834,423 available for use. Tax revenues budgeted for this fiscal year are \$420,514 with \$32,343 remaining uncollected.

Ms. Kemper then requested commissioners to approve the payment of outstanding invoices from Taylor Engineering totaling \$115,971 from District reserves.

A motion by Vice-Chairman Benjamin to approve payment of Taylor Engineering invoices totaling \$115,971 from District reserves, seconded by Commissioner Helman, was unanimously passed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion by Vice-Chairman Benjamin to approve the minutes of the February 16, 2016 and March 22, 2016 regular meetings, seconded by Commissioner Helman, was unanimously passed.

ENGINEERING REPORT

Ken Craig delivered the engineering report on behalf of Taylor Engineering. He said his firm is finishing its reply to the most recent request for additional information about the north beaches renourishment project from FDEP and should be done with the reply this week. They are also collecting sand samples from the Summer Haven River in response to RAIs there. Since the last meeting, Taylor has submitted a grant request to the Florida Inland Navigation District for additional funding for Summer Haven River. Additionally, a permit for the shoal marker south of the City Marina has been issued by the Army Corps of Engineers.

In response to questioning by Chairman Dixon and Commissioner Hennessey, Mr. Craig explained that the request for bids for the Summer Haven River project will be posted on Taylor's website as well as placed in several trade journals. All responsive and responsible bidders will be considered.

OLD BUSINESS:

Chairman Dixon said he and Commissioner Helman will be traveling to Georgia this month to finalize plans for the new informational map of the inlet and bay area.

NEW BUSINESS:

Approval of payments for Summer Haven River Restoration-Elyse Kemper

This item was considered and approved during the Treasurer's report, above.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Jim Piggott, City of St. Augustine, said work should begin soon to install markers for the shoal south of the City Marina now that the ACOE permit has been issued. The entire Lighthouse Boat Ramp above the waterline has been successfully replaced and looks good except for a few footprints in the wet cement. The tall ship El Galeon leaves the city soon to start its summer tour of the Great Lakes area. In response to questions by Chairman Dixon, Mr. Piggott said the El Galeon pays rent at a reduced rate for docking at the City Marina. He said the presence of the large vessel precludes other, more lucrative visitors from docking and also reduces fuel sales because the pumps are blocked from use by large vessels while the El Galeon is docked. Also, the presence of crowds of tourists visiting the ship often creates stress on public services downtown by dominating city resources such as traffic regulation and trash collection. Mr. Piggott said there have also been complaints the Dolphin Drive boat basin has silted in to the extent entering and exiting the basin is difficult at low tide.

Lt. Steve Zukowski, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC), reported the owner of a derelict vessel at Crane Park has entered a plea agreement requiring him to turn the vessel over to the city for disposal. The agreement also requires him to serve 200 hours of community service. A small fishing boat beached on Anastasia State Park after

having engine trouble and the owner has been served with a notice to remove the vessel. Ultimate responsibility for the vessel's removal lies with the State Park and its parent agency, FDEP.

Officials from FWC recently inspected local bridges to determine the need for regulatory signage. While the department has been considering signs mounted on pilings, the inspection indicated water may be too deep for pilings and the department may instead install larger signage on bridge fenders, if allowed by the Florida Department of Transportation.

In response to a question by Commissioner Rivers, Lt. Zukowski said officers usually check fishing licenses of people who actually possess fish, rather than checking everyone at a location such as Vilano Pier. He added that the Pier is not an area of concern because very few fish are caught there.

Ellis Zahra, Friends of Summer Haven River, thanked commissioners for their support of the restoration project and said his organization is working to ease any possible problems with the project's funding mechanism. Chairman Dixon thanked Mr. Zahra for his assistance and asked him to continue his efforts.

COMMENTS BY COMMISSIONERS:

Commissioner Rivers asked Ms. Kemper if the District was a member of the Florida Association of Special Districts. Ms. Kemper said the District is not a member at this time.

NEXT MEETING

Chairman Dixon announced the next regular meeting will be held at 3:00 p.m. on May 17, 2016 in the same location.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business, Chairman Dixon adjourned the meeting at 4:00 p.m.

Secretary-Treasurer

Chairman