

ST. AUGUSTINE PORT, WATERWAY & BEACH DISTRICT
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
Tuesday, June 19, 2018

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, June 19, 2018.

1. **CALL TO ORDER:**

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

2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

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

3. **ROLL CALL:**

Vice-Chairman Benjamin, and Commissioners Tom Rivers, Mark Helman and Chris Way were in attendance. Chairman Jerry Dixon was absent. The meeting was also attended by Mike Trudnak of Taylor Engineering, District Counsel Jim Bedsole and Secretary-Treasurer Elyse Kemper.

4. **SECRETARY-TREASURER'S REPORT:**

Secretary-Treasurer Kemper delivered the financial report. As of May 31, 2018, the District had received \$488,664 in tax revenue, and spent a total of \$308,649, including \$89,875 in operating expenses, \$24,754 for budgeted projects, and \$194,020 for non-budgeted items. As of May 31, 2018, the District had \$2,122,514 on deposit, of which \$1,875,972 is held in reserve.

5. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

A motion by Commissioner Rivers to approve the minutes of the May 15, 2018 regular meeting was seconded by Vice-Chairman Benjamin and passed unanimously.

6. **ENGINEERING REPORT:**

Mike Trudnak delivered the engineering report on behalf of Taylor Engineering. Mr. Trudnak said Turnbull Environmental, the contractor on the Summer Haven River project, is continuing to coordinate with Taylor to complete close-out of the old portion of the project in preparation for the new legislative grant. He said he will be meeting with representatives of FDEP in a few days to prepare for the close-out and re-start of the District's contract with that agency.

7. OLD BUSINESS:

A. Sea Oats Discussion

Mayor of St Augustine Beach Undine George appeared with City Manager Max Royle and Dr. Rahesh Srinivas to discuss the need for replanting sea oats in recently re-nourished areas of their city's beaches. They said the District funded the project cost in 2006 with \$37,000 but that due to rising costs the current project would likely cost in excess of \$70,000. Mayor George said the city will cover the cost of permitting. In response to questions from Commissioner Way, George said the project will start north of 10th Street and extend south to Sea Colony subdivision. Commissioner Helman cited the District's small budget and said \$50,000 would be too much. Commissioner Benjamin questioned why no other agencies are contributing to this effort. Commissioner Way said he would consider funding a percentage of the cost or a fixed amount.

Mayor George said it was critical to get the project going while weather conditions are favorable and asked the board to consider \$50,000. Commissioner Benjamin said he would consider \$25,000 and Commissioner Helman said he would support that amount. Commissioner Rivers said the board would like to assist but has a very limited budget.

A motion by Commissioner Way to commit \$25,000 in the budget for Fiscal Year 2019 for planting sea oats on St. Augustine Beach, as described, was seconded by Commissioner Benjamin and passed unanimously.

8. NEW BUSINESS:

A. SJSO Marine Division

Corporal Josh Underwood, SJSO Marine Division, presented information to the board about a new navigation system available for marine law enforcement and first responders that his agency would like to install. He said the equipment will soon be in use by the Coast Guard and SJSO would be able to actively interface with them using the new technology. He said the cost of the upgrade is \$12,335.

Commissioner Helman said the best time to consider this will be at the budget hearings coming in September and that requests for funding should be filed during August. Commissioner Benjamin said the budget application is on the website. Corporal Underwood said they will submit a written request.

9. GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVE COMMENTS:

Jim Piggott, Director of General Services, City of St. Augustine, said the city has located seven derelict boats outside the city limits and is planning to remove them. The city will be seeking funds to that purpose from FIND and the District. The city is rebuilding the docks damaged by Hurricane Irma and continuing with the bayfront connectivity project, both of which will be completed in September. The opening ceremony for the connectivity project will be the week after Labor Day, and all commissioners are invited to attend. In response

to questions from Commissioners Rivers and Helman about the date of completion of inlet dredging, Mr. Piggott deferred to Mr. Trudnak who said the contractor will be completely off the site in one week.

Mr. Billy Zeits appeared on behalf of the St. Johns County Parks and Recreation Department and said the county will be focusing in the coming year on enhancing public access to the Intracoastal Waterway through improvements in parking and other facility improvements. Commissioner Helman inquired about the availability of the Butler Beach Ramp. Mr. Zeits said the ramp is being used to stage the Treasure Beach dredge project and will be out of use for until 2019. In order to aid access to the water by boaters, he said the county is exploring the possibility of opening up public use at nearby private ramps until the Butler ramp reopens.

St. Augustine Fire Department Officer Chris Pacetti reported the city's fireboat had been in service 29 hours last month and responded to 17 calls, 12 of which were emergencies, and engaged in training with the USCG.

Corporal Josh Underwood, SJSO Marine Unit, said his agency was on the water 121 hours last month, fielded 59 calls for service, did 11 vessel safety inspections, 9 wake patrols, assisted other agencies 6 times, issued 10 warnings and 5 citations, assisted one boater in distress and performed 12 marine safety device inspections. He also distributed information to the board regarding the recommendations of the St. Augustine Harbor Safety and Security Committee and July 4th boating restrictions for Matanzas Bay.

Officer Steve Zukowski, FWC, said the regulatory buoys placed at local bridges by FWC are unfortunately the wrong type for the bay and have the wrong message on them. The buoys say "manatee zone" and are designed to lay over in the current, making them unreadable. He said the proper no wake zone buoys will be installed by July. He reported Memorial Day Weekend passed without any accidents and only one arrest for boating under the influence, although there have been some problems at the City Marina due to high winds and strong tides causing boats to touch. In response to questions from Commissioner Helman, Zukowski said the sailboat grounded on the 206 causeway since Hurricane Matthew is still there because the county and FDOT cannot agree which agency is responsible to remove it, as it is now considered "litter".

10. **PUBLIC COMMENT: NONE**

11. **COMMENTS BY COMMISSIONERS:**

Commissioner Helman asked Secretary/Treasure Elyse Kemper about the status of the bids for a new District website. Ms. Kemper said she would bring the bids to the board for consideration as soon as she has three as requested by commissioners.

12. **NEXT MEETING**

Vice- Chairman Benjamin announced the next meeting of the board will be held at 3:00 p.m.

on Tuesday, July 17, 2018, in the St. Augustine Beach City Commission Room.

ADJOURN:

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

Secretary-Treasurer

Chairman

wk/rg/port/minutes-2018/Minutes6-19-18 meeting