

ST. AUGUSTINE PORT, WATERWAY & BEACH DISTRICT
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
Tuesday, September 17, 2019

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, September 17, 2019.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Vice-Chairman Tom Rivers called the meeting to order at 3:00 PM.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

3. ROLL CALL

Vice-Chairman Tom Rivers and Commissioners Matt Brown, Sandy Flowers and Chris Way were in attendance. Chairman Barry Benjamin was absent. The meeting was also attended by Mike Trudnak of Taylor Engineering, District Counsel Jim Bedsole and Secretary-Treasurer Elyse Kemper.

4. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Vice-Chairman Rivers asked if commissioners had any changes to the agenda. There being no changes, Commissioner Brown moved to approve the agenda and was seconded by Commissioner Way. The board then voted to approve the agenda with Commissioner Flowers voting against.

5. SECRETARY-TREASURER'S REPORT

Secretary-Treasurer Kemper delivered the financial report. As of August 31, 2019, the District had spent a total of \$474,043 in fiscal year 2018-2019, including \$124,125 in operating expenses, \$149,918 on budgeted projects, and \$200,000 on the City of St. Augustine Seawall connectivity project. As of that date, the District had total funds on deposit of \$2,174,062 and the Summer Haven River account contained an additional \$16,859.

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion by Commissioner Way to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of August 20, 2019, was seconded by Commissioner Brown and passed with Commissioner Flowers voting against.

7. ENGINEERING REPORT

Mike Trudnak delivered the engineering report on behalf of Taylor Engineering. He said the contractor chosen to install additional sea oats on the Summer Haven berm will be placing the plants within a few days. He said no final response has come yet from FEMA regarding the District's appeal for the expenses of emergency repairs after Hurricane Irma.

8. GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVE COMMENTS

Neil Shinkre, Director of Public Works for St. Johns County, and Carl Blow, St. Johns County's representative to FIND, explained the county is now mobilized to begin emergency repairs to the recurring breach of Old A1A at Summer Haven which opened again during the recent passing of Hurricane Dorian. He said the county would prefer using the sand which has been washed into the Summer Haven River for this repair and that the county needs immediate authorization from the board to work under the District's existing FDEP permit for the restoration of the river. They explained the project will use sand from the river and that none will be trucked in for this repair. Mr. Blow added that FIND is beginning a project in the ICW which will supply another 350 thousand cubic yards of sand for the entire length of the beach, including the breach area. Commissioner Flowers complained that public comment should be allowed prior to voting.

A motion by Vice-Chairman Rivers to approve the request was seconded by Commissioner Way and passed unanimously.

Mr. Shrinkre thanked the board for its prompt approval of his request and immediately departed the meeting to inform county administrators.

Jim Piggott, Director of General Services for the City of St. Augustine, said a derelict vessel near the 312 Bridge will cost \$29,000 to remove, and that 75% of the cost is provided by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. He asked the board to agree to provide matching funds for the remaining 25%, or a total of \$7,250.

A motion by Commissioner Flowers to approve the expense was seconded by Commissioner Way and passed unanimously.

Teddy Meyer, St. Johns County Parks and Recreation, said permitting for the planned improvements at the Doug Crane Boat Ramp will probably require at least another thirty (30) days and that work will begin after the permit is issued.

Sgt. Josh Underwood, St. Johns County Sheriff's Office Marine Unit, reported that last month his agency spent 131 man-hours on the water, responded to 86 calls for assistance, performed 31 marine inspections, wrote 5 warnings and 4 citations, and removed 2 sections of floating concrete dock from the bay. He added that two buoys were off station in the inlet and that the Coast Guard will re-set them within thirty days. On questioning by commissioners, Sgt. Underwood said his request in a prior meeting for the District to underwrite a city mooring ball for securing crew-less vessels was not for intoxicated boaters but for any vessel without an operator. Mr. Piggott said the balls are rented to boaters who

are insured and cannot be used to secure vessels without insurance and that a method for payment of rent must be assured before mooring. Otherwise, the city will be liable for any damages and will be without insurance. Also, the city would have no way to remove such a vessel should it be abandoned. Commissioner Flowers moved to have the District fund a mooring ball. Vice-Chairman Rivers said the motion was out of order because it was not on the agenda. There was no second to the motion.

A discussion then ensued regarding the St. Johns County Sheriff's Office marine overtime line-item of \$20,000 per year. Commissioners questioned Sgt. Underwood and decided to leave the budget item at \$20,000.

A motion by Commissioner Way to leave the budget line-item of \$20,000 for the St. Johns County Sheriff's Office marine unit overtime at the same amount in next year's budget was seconded by Vice-Chairman Rivers and passed unanimously.

9. NEW BUSINESS

A. Regatta of Lights Request - Dan Florian

Dan Floryan appeared on behalf of the St. Augustine Yacht Club and requested \$7,000 for the annual Regatta of Lights. He said the money would be for advertising and promotion. The Board asked Mr. Florian to come back next month with a written request.

10. OLD BUSINESS - NONE

11. PUBLIC COMMENT

Ed Slavin
Tom Reynolds

12. COMMENTS BY COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Flowers commented generally that she was uncomfortable with what she perceives as a lack of oversight in the handling of District funds, including the practice of allowing the board chair spending authority up to six thousand dollars for emergency repair projects.

13. NEXT MEETING:

Vice-Chairman Rivers announced the next regular meeting of the board will be held at 3:00 PM on Tuesday, October 15, 2019, in the St. Augustine Beach City Commission Room.

14. ADJOURN

Commissioner Brown moved to adjourn and Commissioner Way seconded the motion.

The meeting adjourned at 4:20 p.m.

Secretary-Treasurer

Chairman

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