

ST. AUGUSTINE PORT, WATERWAY & BEACH DISTRICT
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
Tuesday, March 21, 2023

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, March 21, 2023.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Matt Brown 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. INVOCATION

Commissioner Linda Thomson gave the Invocation.

4. ROLL CALL

Chairman Matt Brown, Vice-Chairman Chris Way, Commissioner Tom Rivers, and Commissioner Linda Thomson were present in person. Commissioner Jane West was present by remote electronic means. The meeting was also attended in person by Secretary-Treasurer Elyse Kemper and Clay Meek, General Counsel for the District. Ken Craig of Taylor Engineering, District Engineers, was present in person as well.

5. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

A Motion to approve the agenda was made by Commissioner Rivers, seconded by Vice-Chairman Way, and passed by a 5-0 vote.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

7. GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVE COMMENTS

Henry Seiden and Lyn McClelland of the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary gave a presentation on aids to navigation, the various entities that have aids to navigation in the area, and reporting downed and damaged aids. Ms. McClelland also spoke on the Coast Guard Academy and opportunities for high school students.

Jim Piggott, Director of the General Services Department of the City of St. Augustine spoke on three matters. First, he noted that the Salt Run aid to navigation that had been at issue was repaired/replaced. Second, he discussed efforts of the City and FWC to establish no wake zone space at Bird Island. Approval was expected in a month and signage was expected to go up in late April. Third, he announced that due to his impending retirement, this would be the last meeting he would attend in his role as Director of the General Services Department of the City of St. Augustine.

Aaron Braddock of the St. Johns County Sheriff's Air and Marine Unit was joined by Lieutenant Bill Miller of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission ("FWC"). They addressed the upcoming Blessing of the Fleet and reported on 6 boats on the derelict boat list.

8. SECRETARY-TREASURER'S REPORT

Secretary-Treasurer Kemper then delivered the financial report. As of February 28, 2023, the District spent: \$0 for overtime hours of police officers of the City of St. Augustine; \$7,133 for overtime hours of deputies of the St. Johns County Sheriff's Department; \$2,952 for derelict boats; and \$9,470 for channel marker repairs. The State Board of Administration account had a balance of \$23,766. The Operating Account had \$787,034 as of February 28, 2023. The money market account had \$0 in the reserve for projects and \$1,114,550 in amounts not reserved for projects. Taxes received as of February 28, 2023, were \$649,263 for the current year and the balance of the remaining expected tax income was \$67,357.

9. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A Motion to approve the minutes of the January 17, 2023, regular meeting was made by Commissioner Thomson, seconded by Vice-Chairman Way, and passed by a 5-0 vote.

10. ENGINEERING REPORT

Ken Craig indicated there was little new to report at this time, but that a busy summer was expected starting in July. Palm Valley dredging was starting.

11. OLD BUSINESS

None.

12. NEW BUSINESS

A. Genovar Property

Carl Blow of the Florida Inland Navigation District ("FIND") began by indicating that his preference would be that Mr. Piggott not retire. Mr. Blow then provided a four page handout regarding pending FIND matters. Mr. Blow then gave a detailed presentation on the San Sebastian River, dredging, and the pending FIND funding application by the County relative to the Genovar land purchase. Notably, Mr. Blow discussed in depth the lack of other available land around Genovar and the potential benefit of having the County's Genovar plans include space for commercial use. That would help ensure that cost-effective dredging off-loading would be available in the area going forward.

All Commissioners agreed that the District would prefer that the Genovar project accommodate the commercial use needed for dredging off-loading use in addition to recreational and personal uses. Vice-Chairman Way agreed to reach out to the County to relay the desire and it was further agreed that Chairman Brown would prepare a letter relaying the same sentiment in writing.

13. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

14. COMMENTS BY COMMISSIONERS

All Commissioners expressed gratitude for his work and well-wishes to Mr. Piggott. All further expressed gratitude to Henry Seiden, Lyn McClelland, and the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary and Vice-Chairman Way asked about youth boating programs and expressed a hope that Henry Seiden and/or Lyn McClelland could return once those were restarted.

Chairman Brown informed all that bycatch reduction devices were available through Guana Tolomato Matanzas National Estuarine Research Reserve ("GTMNERR").

15. NEXT MEETING

March 21, 2023, was announced as the next regular meeting date. As such, the **next regular meeting will be at 3:00, p.m., on April 18, 2023**, at the St. Augustine Beach City Commission Meeting Room, 2200 A1A South, St. Augustine Beach, Florida

16. ADJOURN

There being no further business, Chairman Matt Brown adjourned the meeting at 4:08, p.m.

Secretary-Treasurer

Commission Chairman Brown