

ST. AUGUSTINE PORT, WATERWAY & BEACH DISTRICT
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
Tuesday, April 18, 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, April 18, 2023.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Vice-Chairman Chris Way 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 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.

4. INVOCATION

Commissioner Tom Rivers gave the Invocation.

5. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

A Motion to approve the agenda was made by Commissioner Rivers, seconded by Commissioner Thomson, and passed by a 4-0 vote.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

7. GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVE COMMENTS

Corey Sakryd, Deputy Director of General Services for the City of St. Augustine, addressed three issues. First, an approximately 30 foot section of derelict dock had appeared in the waterway by the Bridge of Lions and was in need of removal. An estimate for \$3,200.00 for the removal had been obtained and the City was requesting that the District approve reimbursement of expenditure of up to that amount for the removal. **A Motion to approve the**

funding request was made by Commissioner Rivers, seconded by Commissioner Thomson, and carried by a 4-0 vote. Second, Mr. Sakryd gave a brief overview of the Salt Run dredging needs and history and how the dredging needs had increased. He indicated that a funding application would be presented at the next District meeting for \$100,000.00 in conjunction with a \$300,000.00 funding request from FIND. Third, Mr. Sakryd indicated that City Commissioner Cynthia Garris had suggested the City consider naming the green space located at the southwest corner of the Bridge of Lions "Sam's Park" in memory of former Harbormaster Sam Adukiewicz, who was the City's first Harbormaster. A survey had been posted on-line by the City and all were encouraged to participate with thoughts and suggestions on naming the green space.

Carl Blow of the Florida Inland Navigation District ("FIND") began by commenting positively on the idea of Sam's Park. Mr. Blow then provided a handout regarding the Genovar FIND funding request and indicated that there was a good chance that the request could get funding of approximately \$700,000.00 since the City had held off on applications to assist funding of the County's application. Positive discussion was also had on the fact that the application included commercial use of Genovar.

Vice-Chairman Way inquired about two sailboats north of the Conch House. Patrick Harvey of the St. Augustine Police Marine Operations Unit addressed the question and indicated that both had been looked at and had valid numbers and were legally present in their locations.

8. SECRETARY-TREASURER'S REPORT

Secretary-Treasurer Kemper then delivered the financial report. As of March 31, 2023, the District spent: \$2,590 for overtime hours of police officers of the City of St. Augustine; \$7,982 for overtime hours of deputies of the St. Johns County Sheriff's Department; \$4,339 for derelict boats; and \$9,470 for channel marker repairs. The State Board of Administration account had a balance of \$23,864. The Operating Account had \$703,262 as of March 31, 2023. The money market account had \$0 in the reserve for projects and \$1,115,023 in amounts not reserved for projects. Taxes received as of March 31, 2023, were \$661,107 for the current year and the balance of the remaining expected tax income was \$55,513.

9. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A Motion to approve the minutes of the March 21, 2023, regular meeting was made by Commissioner Thomson, seconded by Commissioner Rivers, and passed by a 4-0 vote.

10. ENGINEERING REPORT

Ken Craig indicated there were no pending District projects and gave an update on other area projects of potential interest.

11. OLD BUSINESS

None.

12. NEW BUSINESS

A. St. Johns County Access Master Plan

Nathan Otter, Superintendent for Natural Resources for St. Johns County, gave a presentation on the St. Johns County Public Waterway Access Master Plan in conjunction with representatives of Dewberry Engineers. Hannah Hart and Terry Hull of Dewberry went through a 28 page powerpoint presentation. The presentation included: the purpose and need of a 5 year plan; growth in population and boater registrations; the process, principles, and stakeholder and public involvement involved in developing the plan; information gathered; immediate needs identified; short term needs and goals identified; long terms needs identified; proposed waterway access sites; and conclusions and improvement opportunities. Questions were taken and discussion was had between the presenters and Commissioners at the end. In response to questioning, Mr. Otter indicated that the next step in the process for the County was to identify funding opportunities, including, but not limited to pursuing LAMP (Land Acquisition and Management Program) funding.

13. PUBLIC COMMENT

Nicholas Binder spoke regarding an update on the matter of Ocean Hammock Park beach access and the walkway there. He indicated that over 5,300 online signatures had been gathered opposing any change to the walkway.

14. COMMENTS BY COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Rivers expressed sympathy with Mr. Binder's situation.

Commissioner Thomson commented on pending legislation to provide \$2,500,000.00 for the purchase of private property along the ocean in Summer Haven.

Commissioner West indicated that the District would keep monitoring Mr. Binder's issue, but also noted that the current matter was outside of the District's authority.

15. NEXT MEETING

May 16, 2023, was announced as the next regular meeting date. As such, the **next regular meeting will be at 3:00, p.m., on May 16, 2023**, at the St. Augustine Beach City Commission Meeting Room, 2200 A1A South, St. Augustine Beach, Florida

16. ADJOURN

There being no further business, Vice-Chairman Chris Way adjourned the meeting at 4:18, p.m.

Secretary-Treasurer

Commission Chairman Brown