

ST. AUGUSTINE PORT, WATERWAY & BEACH DISTRICT
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
Tuesday, June 18, 2024

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 18, 2024.

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

The Invocation was passed.

4. ROLL CALL

Chairman Matt Brown, Vice-Chairman Way, Commissioner Linda Thomson, and Commissioner Nicholas Binder were present in person at the start of the meeting and Commissioner Tom Rivers joined the meeting shortly following the adoption of the agenda. 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 adopt and approve the agenda was made by Commissioner Binder, seconded by Commissioner Thomson, and passed by a 4-0 vote.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

7. GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVE COMMENTS

Russell Adams, Assistant Public Works Director for the City of St. Augustine Beach provided an update on the status of the Ocean Hammock Park boardwalk project. He indicated that the final draft of the report on the project was pending. However, overall, it was positive, with the expectation that some boards would be

replaced, some handrails would be repaired or replaced, and top rails would be tightened. Mr. Adams indicated that no further funding requests were anticipated to be made to the District for the project this year.

Corey Sakryd, General Services Director for the City of St. Augustine, advised that Channel Marker #2 in Salt Run was down. He also indicated that the City's application to FIND for funding for the dredging, which the District participates in through interlocal agreement, was to be reviewed by FIND and defended by the City in the coming days.

8. SECRETARY-TREASURER'S REPORT

Secretary-Treasurer Kemper then delivered the financial report. As of May 31, 2024, the District spent: \$4,070 for overtime hours of police officers of the City of St. Augustine; \$6,671 for overtime hours of deputies of the St. Johns County Sheriff's Department; \$2,844 for derelict boats; and, \$188,925 for unspecified marine projects. As of June 13, 2024, the State Board of Administration account had a balance of \$25,439. The Operating Account had \$757,063. The money market account had \$0 in the reserve for projects and \$1,321,768 in amounts not reserved for projects. Taxes received as of June 13, 2024, were \$759,162 for the current year and the balance of the remaining expected tax income was \$66,887.

9. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A Motion to approve the final circulated draft minutes of the May 21, 2024, regular meeting was made by Vice-Chairman Way, seconded by Commissioner Binder, and passed by a 5-0 vote.

10. ENGINEERING REPORT

Ken Craig discussed the area beach nourishment projects and indicated that the Ponte Vedra Beach nourishment project was nearing completion and that the St. Augustine Beach nourishment project was again actively pumping and proceeding.

11. OLD BUSINESS

None.

12. NEW BUSINESS

A. Sea Oats Funding

Max Royle, City Manager for the City of St. Augustine Beach, gave a presentation on a Sea Oat planting project. A similar project was previously done in 2019 and involved harvesting seeds from the area, growing the seeds into plants, and then planting 80,000 plants. The project was considered a success, but intervening storms since that time have resulted in a need to undertake a similar project again. The anticipated total cost of the project would be \$120,000, with the City of St. Augustine Beach and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection each contributing \$25,000.00 to the project. Because the project would not occur during hurricane or turtle nesting seasons, the request was for the District to add a line-item to its proposed next fiscal year budget for \$70,000.00, with the actual project to begin in early 2025. **A Motion to approve the request and add a line-item to the District's 2024-2025 proposed budget for \$70,000.00 for the project was made by Vice-Chairman Way, seconded by Commissioner Binder, and passed by a 5-0 vote.**

B. Resolution Establishing Port Procedures

A draft resolution establishing current procedures for addressing any needs for repair or replacement of channel markers and informational and safety signage was reviewed. Mr. Craig indicated that Taylor Engineering was agreeable to operating within it as drafted. General Counsel Meek addressed all Commissioner comments and questions and advised that, if it was agreeable in substance, a final draft would be prepared and presented for vote at the next meeting. All Commissioners expressed that they wished to proceed with adopting the substance of the draft resolution. As such, it was agreed that the final draft of the resolution would be presented at the next meeting for a vote by Commissioners.

C. Discussion Establishing District Goals

General Counsel Meek discussed Law 2024-136 passed in the recent Legislative Session, which was to become effective on July 1, 2024. That law, in pertinent part, revised Florida Statute 189.0694 by adding a requirement that Special Districts such as the Port District adopt goals and objectives and display them on their official websites by October 1, 2024, and each year thereafter. Additionally, by December 1, 2024, and each year thereafter, a

report on the extent to which any goals and objectives established were met was to also be published on each district's website.

After a thorough discussion of the new law and what specifically is and is not in the law, a general consensus in concept was reached as to how the Commission wished to proceed. Chairman Brown indicated he would prepare a draft in accord with the Commission discussion for further discussion and potential vote at the next Commission meeting.

13. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

14. COMMENTS BY COMMISSIONERS

None.

15. NEXT MEETING

July 16, 2024, was announced as the next regular meeting date. As such, the **next regular meeting will be at 3:00, p.m., on Tuesday, July 16, 2024**, at the St. Augustine Beach City Commission Meeting Room, 2200 A1A South, St. Augustine Beach, Florida. It was also announced that the next meeting after that would be on Thursday, August 22, 2024.

16. ADJOURN

There being no further business, Chairman Matt Brown adjourned the meeting at 3:23, p.m.

Secretary-Treasurer

Commission Chairman Brown