

ST. AUGUSTINE PORT, WATERWAY & BEACH DISTRICT
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
Tuesday, August 15, 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, August 15, 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. ROLL CALL

Chairman Matt Brown, Vice-Chairman Chris Way, Commissioner Tom Rivers, Commissioner Jane West, and Commissioner Linda Thomson were present in person. 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

The Invocation was given by Commissioner Rivers.

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

Linda Ginn of the Friends of the Summer Haven River ("FOSHR") spoke regarding the draft engineering study done by Entera for St. Johns County regarding stabilizing the Summer Haven area and shoreline. She specifically addressed the indication within it that taking no action in Summer Haven would have no cost. Rather, she indicated there would be significant costs to doing nothing and outlined such.

7. GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVE COMMENTS

Corey Sakryd, General Services Director for the City of St. Augustine, indicated that the planned dredging in Salt Run and Dolphin Drive had been completed.

Mr. Sakryd was asked about the status of the Marina breakwater dock repairs. Mr. Sakryd described the permitting status with the dock and indicated the current project completion projection was November, 2023. Discussion was also had regarding the ability to establish no wake zones within the city limits and FWC's role in such.

Chris Pacetti, Assistant Fire Chief of the City of St. Augustine Fire Department ("SAFD"), presented a summary of recent marine activity involving the SAFD. In the prior month the SAFD had been involved in fourteen calls involving use of the SAFD boat, including the successful search and rescue of a youth, whose boat was swamped near the mouth of the inlet and then carried out by the current. A discussion of the potential use of private cameras and/or increased public camera usage in the area to help identify concerns and where to allocate resources was then had. Aaron Braddock of the St. Johns County Sheriff's Air and Marine Unit then joined Chris Pacetti to add to the discussion with the Commission.

8. SECRETARY-TREASURER'S REPORT

Secretary-Treasurer Kemper then delivered the financial report. As of August 14, 2023, the District spent: \$6,644 for overtime hours of police officers of the City of St. Augustine; \$14,779 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 \$24,285. The Operating Account had \$670,868 as of August 14, 2023. The money market account had \$0 in the reserve for projects and \$1,116,888 in amounts not reserved for projects. Taxes received as of August 14, 2023, were \$716,809 for the current year and the balance of the remaining expected tax income was negative \$189 as the taxes received were greater than expected for the year and no further taxes were anticipated to be received.

Commissioner West asked about a line item within the report for the target reserve of \$1,500,000.00 for unanticipated needs resulting from natural disaster. Ms. Kemper indicated that the

line could be put back in, but that there were currently insufficient funds for the full \$1,500,000.00 given the expenditures and allocated funds over the prior several months. General Counsel Meek provided a copy of Resolution 21-01 regarding the \$1,500,000.00 reserve and advised that, adjusting for inflation since February 16, 2021, when the Resolution passed, the equivalent amount as of July 31, 2023, would be \$1,743,391.99.

9. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A Motion to approve the minutes of the July 18, 2023, regular meeting was made by Vice-Chairman Way, seconded by Commissioner Thomson, and passed by a 3-0 vote, with Chairman Brown and Commissioner West abstaining.

10. ENGINEERING REPORT

Ken Craig discussed the draft engineering study done by Entera for St. Johns County mentioned by Ms. Ginn in public comment and the options discussed in the current draft report.

11. OLD BUSINESS

None.

12. NEW BUSINESS

A. Discussion of Rubric for Funding New Projects

Commissioner West indicated that coming up with a rubric for funding requests in the future might help the Commission in weighing such requests and aid potential applicants by giving guidance on what will be considered. She further indicated that she brought this as an agenda item for discussion to see how the rest of the Commission felt on it collectively. Vice-Chairman Way indicated that guidelines could be helpful, but he would be opposed to something that did not leave some flexibility. Chairman Brown indicated that he would be in favor of guidelines that gave greater consideration to funding requests that would be spent entirely or to a significant majority within the District boundaries.

Ultimately, it was agreed that all Commissioners would consider what they would like within a rubric and bring those ideas to the next Commission meeting for further discussion on a potential creation of a rubric.

Chris Pacetti, Assistant Fire Chief of the City of St. Augustine Fire Department ("SAFD"), suggested that consideration of the rubric used for Port Security Grants might be helpful and indicated that Lieutenant Josh Underwood of the St. Johns County Sheriff's Air and Marine Unit would likely be able to give details on that. Commissioner West indicated that she would contact Lieutenant Underwood and include any useful information obtained within the suggestions she will bring to the next meeting.

B. Consideration of a Resolution Against Hard Armoring Within the Port's Jurisdiction Boundaries on the Atlantic Oceanfront

Commissioner West presented a draft resolution discouraging hard armoring for discussion by the Commission as to the Commission's interest in working toward adopting some form of such a resolution. Commissioner West indicated that the issue was being raised for discussion purposes and clarified that the draft was not a proposal to ban the use of hard armoring on the oceanfront outright, but would be an indication by the District that the District would not provide any funding for such within the District boundaries. Commissioner Rivers indicated he was opposed to the concept. Vice-Chairman Way indicated he was concerned about the extent to which such a resolution would handcuff the District's options and was opposed on that basis. Chairman Brown was in favor of the concept of limiting hard armoring, but was concerned about the potential scope/time involved. As the item was brought for discussion, there was no vote or action to be taken.

13. PUBLIC COMMENT

Nicholas Binder spoke regarding the matter of Ocean Hammock Park and that money should be spent on rehabilitating/maintaining it prior to further money being spent on walkovers.

Ken Manning spoke in opposition to a complete blanket ban of coastal hard armoring and commented that such might end up being contrary to the final Entera report that is currently in draft form.

14. COMMENTS BY COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Rivers indicated that he wanted an agenda item on the next meeting to be consideration of the District recommending to the City and/or County that a no-wake Zone be adopted in accord with the citizen concern as to the area from the intersection of

the West end of the Inlet and intercoastal on the south west end of the seawall to The Conch House.

Vice-Chairman Way indicated he would be meeting with the County tomorrow regarding Genovar and anticipated that information on potential details of the plans for the property might be given.

Chairman Brown asked Mr. Sakyrd to look into a question about a tide gauge at the Marina. Mr. Sakyrd indicated he would do so and would report back to the Commission.

Commissioner West had no additional comments beyond those already expressed in the meeting.

Commissioner Thomson indicated she thought the rubric was a good idea and was in favor of and looking forward to the further discussion of that.

15. NEXT MEETING

September 14, 2023, was announced as the next regular meeting date with the first 2023-2024 TRIM hearing meeting to occur at 5:05 thereafter. As such, the **next regular meeting will be at 3:00, p.m., on September 14, 2023**, at the St. Augustine Beach City Commission Meeting Room, 2200 A1A South, St. Augustine Beach, Florida, with the first 2023-2024 TRIM hearing meeting to occur at 5:05, p.m., on the same date at the same location.

16. ADJOURN

There being no further business, Chairman Matt Brown adjourned the meeting at 4:01, p.m.

Secretary-Treasurer

Commission Chairman Brown