

ST. AUGUSTINE PORT, WATERWAY & BEACH DISTRICT
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
Thursday, September 14, 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 Thursday, September 14, 2023.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Matt Brown called the meeting to order at 3:01, 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, 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 Vice-Chairman Way, seconded by Commissioner Thomson, and passed by a 4-0 vote.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

Ken Manning spoke regarding his qualifications and desire to fill the Commissioner seat vacated by Commissioner West.

Nicolas Binder spoke regarding the Ocean Hammock walkover.

Greg Burke expressed concerns regarding derelict vessels in Salt Run.

7. GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVE COMMENTS

Lieutenant Bill Miller of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission ("FWC") reviewed speed zones and derelict

vessel definitions and requirements in general and then specifically addressed the boat referenced by Mr. Burke. A direct question was entertained by Mr. Burke and discussed and answered while Lieutenant Miller was speaking to the Commission.

Corporal Aaron Braddock of the St. Johns County Sheriff's Air and Marine Unit gave a short update on activities after the recent tropical system, Hurricane Lee ("Lee"), and spoke to the boat about which Mr. Burke was concerned. He also introduced a new deputy of the unit, Jacob Bradley.

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 eight calls involving use of the SAFD boat, including debris and vessels in distress with Lee, but indicated the storm was not overly eventful.

Patrick Harvey of the St. Augustine Police Marine Operations Unit gave a review of Lee and indicated that one boat sank approximately one mile directly off of the inlet, which had been buoyed by and was being handled by the Coast Guard.

Corey Sakryd, General Services Director for the City of St. Augustine, gave an about the status of the Marina breakwater dock repairs. Mr. Sakyrd also described a hoped for presence of a tall ship in St. Augustine from Mid-January to Mid-February, pending completion of the dock project.

8. SECRETARY-TREASURER'S REPORT

Secretary-Treasurer Kemper then delivered the financial report. As of August 31, 2023, the District spent: \$7,633 for overtime hours of police officers of the City of St. Augustine; \$16,020 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 \$24,401. The Operating Account had \$665,219 as of August 31, 2023. The money market account had \$0 in the reserve for projects and \$1,117,262 in amounts not reserved for projects. Taxes received as of August 31, 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.

9. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A Motion to approve the minutes of the August 15, 2023, regular meeting was made by Commissioner Thomson, seconded by Vice-Chairman Way, and passed by a 4-0 vote, with Chairman Brown.

10. ENGINEERING REPORT

Ken Craig discussed upcoming public hearings for the Summer Haven report and Army Corps of Engineers Back Bay study. Also, area beach restoration had been put on hold because of Lee, but was partially done.

11. OLD BUSINESS

A. Recommend county/city support for No Wake Zone

Corey Sakryd, General Services Director for the City of St. Augustine, reviewed the City's pursuit of no-wake zones in the Hospital Creek/Bird Island areas and the challenges and costs associated with such. Lieutenants Josh Underwood and Bill Miller also spoke on the paper-documented data that would be needed by FWC. Based upon that, it was doubtful that pursuit of the no-wake zone of potential concern would succeed.

12. NEW BUSINESS

A. Commissioner West Resignation

Chairman Brown reviewed the fact that Commissioner West had been hired as the City Attorney for the City of Palatka and had indicated that she had expressed that she perceived a potential conflict of interest and resigned from the her Port District Commission seat. General Counsel Meek reviewed the contact that had been made with the Governor's Office and indicated would be maintained, as needed, to assist with the Governor appointing someone to the vacant Commission seat. Mr. Meek was asked and indicated that the resignation was effective upon being made by Commissioner West and that Commission action was not required. Such was also not prohibited, and a **Motion to accept the resignation was made by Commissioner Rivers, seconded by Commissioner Thomson, and passed by a 4-0 vote.**

13. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

14. COMMENTS BY COMMISSIONERS

Vice-Chairman Way gave a short update on the County's Genovar plans and indicated that he would keep the District updated as the design process proceeded.

Commissioner Thomson indicated she planned to attend the public hearing on the Summer Haven report.

Chairman Brown indicated he also planned to attend the public hearing on the Summer Haven report.

15. NEXT MEETING

October 17, 2023, was announced as the next regular meeting date with the final 2023-2024 TRIM hearing meeting to occur at 5:05, p.m., on October 3, 2023. As such, the **next regular meeting will be at 3:00, p.m., on October 17, 2023**, at the St. Augustine Beach City Commission Meeting Room, 2200 A1A South, St. Augustine Beach, Florida, and **the final 2023-2024 TRIM hearing meeting will occur at 5:05, p.m., on October 3, 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 3:42, p.m.

Secretary-Treasurer

Commission Chairman Brown