

ST. AUGUSTINE PORT, WATERWAY & BEACH DISTRICT
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
Tuesday, September 17, 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, September 17, 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 given by Commissioner Rivers.

4. ROLL CALL

Chairman Matt Brown, Vice-Chairman Chris Way, Commissioner Tom Rivers, and Commissioner Nicholas Binder 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.

5. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Discussion was had regarding New Business item F of the proposed agenda not being needed as it was already included in the proposed budget for consideration at the first TRIM hearing. **A motion to remove New Business item F and approve the agenda with that amendment was made by Chairman Brown, seconded by Commissioner Rivers, and passed by a 4-0 vote.**

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

7. GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVE COMMENTS

Carl Blow of the Florida Inland Navigation District ("FIND") indicated that the final FIND budget hearing was to occur in the next two to three weeks and he was 99% certain the three area

projects that had been at or near the top of the tentative project list would get approved and funded. If all were approved at that final hearing, the funding would total \$825,000.00 for the area. He also commented on first responder vessel funding that was available for up to \$125,000.00 to keep in mind for future FIND funding cycle requests.

Corey Sakryd, General Services Director for the City of St. Augustine, began discussing a request for funding for derelict docks and boats and then agreed that he would hold his comments to discuss the requests in conjunction with item B of new business.

Lieutenant Josh Underwood of the St. Johns County Sheriff's Air and Marine Unit advised that there had been no significant calls for service recently and updated the Commission on assets obtained through non-District grant and funding requests.

8. SECRETARY-TREASURER'S REPORT

Secretary-Treasurer Kemper then delivered the financial report. As of August 31, 2024, the District spent: \$14,718 for overtime hours of police officers of the City of St. Augustine; \$19,948 for overtime hours of deputies of the St. Johns County Sheriff's Department; and, \$6,483 for derelict boats. As of September 14, 2024, the State Board of Administration account had a balance of \$25,793. The Operating Account had \$778,520 as of September 14, 2024. The money market account had \$0 in the reserve for projects and \$1,323,417 in amounts not reserved for projects. Taxes received as of September 14, 2024, were \$813,436 for the current year and the balance of the remaining expected tax income was \$12,613.

9. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion to approve the minutes of the July 16, 2024, regular meeting was made by Commissioner Binder, seconded by Vice-Chairman Way, and passed by a 4-0 vote.

A motion to approve the minutes of the August 22, 2024, regular meeting was made by Chairman Brown, seconded by Commissioner Binder, and passed by a 4-0 vote.

10. ENGINEERING REPORT

Ken Craig indicated that the shore protection work at St. Augustine Beach had been completed. He also indicated that the County had retained a consultant to assist in a Coastal Development Plan and

that he and Taylor Engineering would monitor and report the progress on that periodically.

11. OLD BUSINESS

A. Adoption of State Mandated District Goals

A short review of the prior discussion on the District Goals and Objectives was had. **A motion to adopt the District mission statement as the District's Goals and Objectives was made by Commissioner Binder, seconded by Vice-Chairman Way, and carried by a 4-0 vote.**

12. NEW BUSINESS

A. Funding Request by FWC

Lieutenant Bill Miller of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission ("FWC") presented a funding request for \$25,021.00 for the purchase and shipping for a replacement collar for a vessel. Carl Blow spoke regarding the inability for that funding request to be included within the current FIND budget cycle and stated that requests need to be made by March, with approval coming in the following October. The condition of the current collar was described as being in need of replacement prior to that. **A motion to approve the funding request was made by Vice-Chairman Way, seconded by Commissioner Binder, and passed by a 4-0 vote.**

B. Funding Request by City of St. Augustine

Corey Sakryd, General Services Director for the City of St. Augustine, presented a request to include \$100,000.00 in the 2024-2025 budget for Salt Run dredging. This would be in the form of an interlocal agreement and funding request to FIND for \$300,000.00 for a total of \$400,000.00 of dredging funding. It was noted that the cost of dredging had increased significantly. This funding would daisy chain on the funding for Salt Run dredging currently pending with FIND and would not be incurred until late next year. Carl Blow spoke and confirmed the costs had increased and noted that places to put dredged materials were getting limited and could significantly constrain the ability to dredge in the future. **A motion to approve the request to include \$100,000.00 in the 2024-2025 budget for Salt Run dredging was made by Commissioner Rivers, seconded by Commissioner Binder, and carried by a 4-0 vote.**

Mr. Sakryd then discussed a request for funding for \$3,293.43 for removal of derelict dock debris and \$7,008.61 for derelict vessel removal, for a total of \$10,302.04. **A motion to approve the funding request was made by Vice-Chairman Way, seconded by Commissioner Binder, and passed by a 4-0 vote.**

Discussion was also had regarding the need to account for future needs to remove derelict docks or other materials from the waterways. **A motion to add the item "Debris Removal" to next year's budget and fund it in the amount of \$10,000.00 was made by Commissioner Rivers, seconded by Vice-Chairman Way, and passed by a 4-0 vote.**

C. Funding Request by St. Augustine Yacht Club

Kathleen and Daniel Floryan, the current and past Commodores of the organization made a request for \$5,000.00 in funding to support the Regatta of Lights. After discussion and questioning by the Commission, **a motion to approve the request was made by Commissioner Rivers, seconded by Commissioner Binder, and passed by a 3-1 vote, with Chairman Brown opposed.**

D. Approval of the Auditor's Engagement for Fiscal Year Ending September, 2024

After discussion, **a motion to approve the Auditor's Engagement for the Fiscal Year Ending September, 2024, was made by Commissioner Binder, seconded by Vice-Chairman Way, and carried by a 4-0 vote.**

E. Extension of Taylor Engineering Contract

After discussion, **a motion to approve a two year extension of the contract with Taylor Engineering was made by Commissioner Rivers, seconded by Vice-Chairman Way, and carried by a 4-0 vote.**

F. Removed from Agenda as Set Forth in Item 5 Above

G. Funding Request by St. Johns County Sheriff's Office

Deputy Michael Ettel presented a funding request for UCC and SAR improvements to the Sheriff Department's Unified Command Vehicle. In his presentation, he was joined by Lieutenant Josh Underwood, Chris Pacetti of the St. Augustine Fire Department, and Lieutenant Bill Miller of FWC. The improvements were asserted as being able to increase the ability for surface detecting radar to extend significantly further out to sea and would now allow for thermal night vision as well. This was presented as an asset that would

be available to all the first responder groups present. **A Motion to approve the funding request of \$33,843.99 was made by Vice-Chairman Way, seconded by Commissioner Rivers, and passed by a 4-0 vote.**

13. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

14. COMMENTS BY COMMISSIONERS

Vice-Chairman Way gave an update on the information he had gathered regarding obtaining one temporary red and one temporary green channel marker as well as an anchor and appropriate chain. The projected cost was estimated at \$1,554.00. It was agreed that formal presentation and approval of that would be placed upon the agenda for the next regular meeting.

Commissioner Rivers mentioned an upcoming meeting and social in the area of the Florida Association of Special Districts in October.

Chairman Brown commented upon the need for all Commissioners to complete four hours of ethics training each calendar year.

15. NEXT MEETING

October 15, 2024, was announced as the next regular meeting date. As such, the **next regular meeting will be at 3:00, p.m., on October 15, 2024**, 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 4:11, p.m.

Secretary-Treasurer

Commission Chairman Brown