

ST. AUGUSTINE PORT, WATERWAY & BEACH DISTRICT
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
Tuesday, October 15, 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, October 15, 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

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

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

7. GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVE COMMENTS

Corey Sakryd, General Services Director for the City of St. Augustine, reviewed that the District previously agreed to a \$250,000.00 funding request related to damage from natural disaster. The City also pursued as much recovery as possible from FEMA, which had finally agreed to funding that will result in \$125,169.91 coming back to the District shortly. Mr. Sakyrd then indicated that the City had just submitted a new request of the

District for \$250,000.00 based upon what was experienced with Hurricane Milton. The total expected cost of the project was \$2,000,000.00 and funding from FIND was also being sought for \$500,000.00, with the City funding the remainder from general fund reserves subject to pursuit of FEMA recovery. FEMA reimbursement cannot be obtained until the project is complete. A detailed funding application was submitted, but could not be added to the October agenda.

Eric Mauldin, St. Augustine Municipal Marina Harbormaster, then spoke and played video from the marina while under the effects of Milton. He also discussed the various damages sustained to the marina, including finger piers as well as damages to the lighthouse park boat ramp. The \$250,000.00 request from the District would address damages to both the marina and the lighthouse park boat ramp.

Mr. Sakyrd then advised that funding would again be sought from FEMA in the maximum amount possible. However, it was not expected that approval would be given for long-term repairs and strengthening. Both Mayor Sikes-Kline and City Manager Birchim were present as well and thanked the Commission for its past support and consideration of the request. The Commission agreed that the request was to be placed on the November agenda for a formal consideration and vote at that time.

Eric Mauldin, St. Augustine Municipal Marina Harbormaster, then again commented to advise of Salt Run channel marker damage. Taylor Engineering was requested to proceed in accord with the current Resolution regarding channel marker replacement/repair.

Carl Blow of the Florida Inland Navigation District ("FIND") indicated that an emergency funding request had been made by the City of St. Augustine relative to the Hurricane Milton damage and was expected to be considered at an upcoming FIND meeting on Friday in Fernandina Beach. He also said that the City had a good record of getting FEMA reimbursement.

Lieutenant Josh Underwood of the St. Johns County Sheriff's Air and Marine Unit and Chris Pacetti, Assistant Fire Chief of the City of St. Augustine Fire Department ("SAFD") gave an overview of Hurricane Milton's impact on the area.

8. SECRETARY-TREASURER'S REPORT

Secretary-Treasurer Kemper then delivered the financial report. As of September 30, 2024, the District spent: \$0 for overtime hours of police officers of the City of St. Augustine; \$2,696 for overtime hours of deputies of the St. Johns County Sheriff's Department; and, \$0 for derelict boats. As of October 9, 2024, the State Board of Administration account had a balance of \$25,793. The Operating Account had \$737,556 as of October 9, 2024. The money market account had \$0 in the reserve for projects and \$1,323,979 in amounts not reserved for projects. Taxes received as of October 9, 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 September 17, 2024, regular meeting, the September 17, 2024, First Public TRIM Meeting, and the October 2, 2024, Final Public TRIM Meeting was made by Commissioner Rivers, seconded by Commissioner Binder, and passed by a 4-0 vote.

10. ENGINEERING REPORT

Ken Craig echoed the pertinent government representative comments regarding Hurricane Milton. He also indicated that the development of the County's Coastal Development Plan was underway.

11. OLD BUSINESS

None.

12. NEW BUSINESS

A. Temporary Channel Marker Funding

Vice-Chairman Way reviewed the information that had been obtained regarding obtaining one temporary green marker, one temporary red marker, appropriate chain, and an anchor and the costs of such. These materials were anticipated to address temporary marker outages and Harbormaster Mauldin indicated the City of St. Augustine would be willing to store the items on behalf of the District. **A Motion to approve expenditure of up to \$4,000.00 to obtain two temporary buoys, appropriate chain, and an anchor was made by Vice-Chairman Way, seconded by Commissioner Binder, and passed by a 4-0 vote.**

B. Consideration of Website Modifications

General Counsel Meek reviewed questions and potential Americans with Disabilities Act as Amended ("ADAA") concerns that had arisen regarding the District's website. After discussion, the Commission consensus was to first reach out to the current District webhosts to determine their thoughts on the level of ADAA concern and their ability to and potential cost of addressing the concerns. Chairman Brown indicated he would initiate that contact and report back to the Commission.

13. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

14. COMMENTS BY COMMISSIONERS

All were encouraged to vote.

15. NEXT MEETING

November 19, 2024, was announced as the next regular meeting date. As such, the **next regular meeting will be at 3:00, p.m., on November 19, 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 3:59, p.m.

Secretary-Treasurer

Commission Chairman Brown