

ST. AUGUSTINE PORT, WATERWAY & BEACH DISTRICT
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
Tuesday, December 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, December 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, Commissioner Tom Rivers, Commissioner Nicholas Binder, and Commissioner Sandy Flowers were present in person. The meeting was also attended in person by Secretary-Treasurer Elyse Kemper and Clay Meek, General Counsel for the District.

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, shared and discussed a December 11, 2024, memo regarding concerns about sewage discharge in local waterways. Eric Mauldin, St. Augustine Municipal Marina Harbormaster, joined Mr. Sakryd. The two of them outlined the actual facts regarding discharge and the boat pump-out opportunities and enforcement options utilized to keep sewage out of the local waterways.

8. SECRETARY-TREASURER'S REPORT

Secretary-Treasurer Kemper then delivered the financial report. As of November 30, 2024, the District spent: \$0 for overtime hours of police officers of the City of St. Augustine; \$6,391 for overtime hours of deputies of the St. Johns County Sheriff's Department; and, \$7,332 for derelict boats. As of December 15, 2024, the State Board of Administration account had a balance of \$26,121. The Operating Account had \$637,073 as of December 15, 2024. The money market account had \$0 in the reserve for projects and \$1,325,067 in amounts not reserved for projects. Taxes received as of December 15, 2024, were \$121,579 for the current year and the balance of the remaining expected tax income was \$809,187.

Ms. Kemper also advised that a letter had been received from the State regarding the vote by which the 2024-2025 millage rate was adopted. Ms. Kemper agreed to forward the letter to all Commissioners prior to the next meeting, at which the Commission would discuss its options and desired course of action as a noticed agenda item.

9. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion to approve the minutes of the November 19, 2024, regular meeting was made by Commissioner Binder, seconded by Commissioner Rivers, and passed by a 4-0 vote.

10. ENGINEERING REPORT

None.

11. OLD BUSINESS

A. Channel Marker Proposal

One bid had been received by Taylor for \$11,200.00 for the two markers, two (2) and eleven (11). **A motion to accept and approve the bid was made by Commissioner Binder, seconded by Commissioner Flowers, and passed by a 4-0 vote.**

12. NEW BUSINESS

A. Election of Officers

Nominations were first taken for Chairman. Commissioner Rivers nominated Chairman Brown to continue to be Chairman. No other

nominations were made. **The nomination passed by a 3-1 vote, with Commissioner Flowers opposed.**

Nominations were then taken for Vice-Chairman. Commissioner Binder nominated Commissioner Rivers to be Vice-Chairman. No other nominations were made. **The nomination passed by a 3-1 vote, with Commissioner Flowers opposed.**

13. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

14. COMMENTS BY COMMISSIONERS

Vice-Chairman Rivers asked Commissioner Binder for his thoughts on attending the Regatta of Lights. Commissioner Binder said it was a very good event and well run and thought that the TDC should provide greater funding in coming years. Commissioner Binder also commented on the need for greater recognition of the District for the funding it provides by recipients of the funding. Commissioner Binder further commented that he attended the promotion of Sgt. Braddock and other officers of the St. Johns County Sheriff's Office and congratulated them all.

Chris Pacetti, Assistant Fire Chief of the City of St. Augustine Fire Department ("SAFD") answered a question regarding overtime funding. He explained that it was his understanding that, in addition to the funding provided directly by the District, a significant portion of the annual first responder overtime budgeted by the District was utilized in the Regatta of Lights event.

Commissioner Flowers commented on boat parades in Jacksonville and Palm Coast that provide payouts for the winners and her thoughts that such would increase interest and participation.

Vice-Chairman Rivers recalled and commented on the District having an interest in and a history of payments to private vendors to assist with pump-outs in the area waterways.

Chairman Brown discussed a dock proposal on Water Street, which was being currently addressed by the St. Augustine Planning and Zoning Board and that he was opposed to the dock. He further indicated that it did not appear that the Planning and Zoning Board was inclined to allow it and that concerned members of the public should direct their comments and concerns to the Planning and Zoning Board.

Commissioner Flowers indicated she was also opposed to the dock.

Deputy Richard Michaux of the St. Johns County Sheriff's Air and Marine Unit provided additional information regarding the costs incurred by the Sheriff's Office as a part of having assets and personnel on hand for the Regatta. The overtime for that personnel is included within and a significant portion of the amount spent by the District for Sheriff Department overtime between October and November, which went from \$2,696.00 to \$7,332.00.

15. NEXT MEETING

January 21, 2025, was announced as the next regular meeting date. As such, the **next regular meeting will be at 3:00, p.m., on January 21, 2025**, 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 3:34, p.m.

Secretary-Treasurer

Commission Chairman Brown