

ST. AUGUSTINE PORT, WATERWAY & BEACH DISTRICT
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
Tuesday, December 19, 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, December 19, 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. INVOCATION

The Invocation was given by Commissioner Rivers.

4. ROLL CALL

Chairman Matt Brown, Vice-Chairman Chris Way, Commissioner Tom Rivers, Commissioner Linda Thomson, 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 adding an item C to the new business. That item would be to consider a December 18, 2023, notification received from Eric Mauldin, St. Augustine Municipal Marina Harbormaster, regarding two (2) channel markers in Salt Run that were damaged and removed. **A Motion to adopt and approve the agenda amended only to include that new item as item C of new business was made by Commissioner Thomson, seconded by Vice-Chairman Way, and passed by a 5-0 vote.**

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

7. GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVE COMMENTS

Lieutenant Bill Miller of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission ("FWC") spoke briefly regarding November updates.

Carl Blow of the Florida Inland Navigation District ("FIND") indicated that the Summer Haven breach closure was to be finished in February for a bit under \$6,000,000.00, with most of the money being Federal funds, with some from FIND. He also alerted all to an upcoming FIND meeting on January 19, 2024, at the Hyatt in Vilano and indicated there would be a public outreach session at 6:00, p.m., on January 18, 2024, at the same location. The FIND grant application season had started. He also indicated that, based on what has occurred in Jupiter inlet, there was some concern that significant beach renourishment in this area could lead to increased shoaling in the inlet or Salt Run and it was something to be aware of and watched for.

8. SECRETARY-TREASURER'S REPORT

Secretary-Treasurer Kemper then delivered the financial report. As of November 30, 2023, the District spent: \$4,070 for overtime hours of police officers of the City of St. Augustine; \$3,229 for overtime hours of deputies of the St. Johns County Sheriff's Department; \$2,844 for derelict boats; and, \$184,425 for unspecified marine projects. The State Board of Administration account had a balance of \$24,744. The Operating Account had \$549,272 as of November 30, 2023. The money market account had \$0 in the reserve for projects and \$1,118,755 in amounts not reserved for projects. Taxes received as of November 30, 2023, were \$264,872 for the current year and the balance of the remaining expected tax income was \$561,177.

9. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A Motion to approve the minutes of the November 21, 2023, regular meeting was made by Commissioner Rivers, seconded by Vice-Chairman Way, and passed by a 5-0 vote.

10. ENGINEERING REPORT

Ken Craig discussed the current beach restoration projects in the area. Mr. Craig indicated the Summer Haven study had been presented to the County Commission earlier in the day and that the Commission

had approved an economic study of the options set forth in the study.

11. OLD BUSINESS

A. Dredging Interlocal Agreement with City of St. Augustine

Corey Sakryd, General Services Director for the City of St. Augustine, appeared for the District's execution of the Salt Run channel interlocal agreement. It was reviewed that the District had approved inclusion of this amount within this year's budget at the May 16, 2023, District Commission meeting. **A Motion to approve proceeding with and execution of the agreement was made by Vice-Chairman Way, seconded by Commissioner Binder, and passed by a 5-0 vote.**

B. Update on Regatta of Lights Event

Commissioner Thomson advised that she attended and was a judge for the event, which went well. She further indicated that the Commodore had asked her to relay a thank you to the Commission and District for its financial support. Carl Blow also spoke on this and indicated that FIND provided \$500.00 for the Regatta and that there was a good chance that FIND would be increasing the potential funding available for such events in the near future.

12. NEW BUSINESS

A. Reallocation of funds Originally Designated for New Boardwalk

Russell Adams, Assistant Public Works Director for the City of St. Augustine, began and was joined by Max Royle, City Manager for the City of St. Augustine. The City wished to end further work on dune walkovers considering the number of walkovers that had been done so far and the increasing cost of such. Because the City had not yet fully utilized the grant funding that had been approved by the District, the City had a new alternative request for funding.

The City's first request was for funding for improvement to a parking area for beach visitors and, if that was not approved, the alternative request was for funding for the Ocean Hammock Park Boardwalk project. A vote was first taken as to the proposal to end further dune walkover work and associated expenditure of funding for such. **A Motion to accept the City's proposal to end**

the dune walkover work as it currently exists and cancel any amount of the funding grant by the District that had not yet been used was made by Commissioner Thomson, seconded by Vice-Chairman Way, and passed by a 5-0 vote.

Thereafter, the alternative new requests of the City were considered, each of which was to be less than the amount of the unused funding from the dune walkovers. No grant funding was approved for parking, as set forth below. **A Motion to approve the alternative grant request of \$25,000.00 for the Ocean Hammock Park Boardwalk project was made by Vice-Chairman Way, seconded by Commissioner Binder, and passed by a 5-0 vote.**

B. Funding Request for Improvement to Parking Area for Beach Visitors

This was presented and discussed in conjunction with reallocation of funds for dune walkovers. **A Motion to approve the funding request was made by Commissioner Rivers and died for lack of a second.**

C. Discussion of Damaged Salt Run Channel Markers

The Commission reviewed that on January 18, 2024, the District had learned that channel markers red 8 and green 13 in Salt Run were damaged and had been removed. Significantly damaged or missing Salt Run channel markers were both an imminent danger to the health or welfare of the citizens of the District and constituted a deterioration of a critical service of the District. Within the meeting itself, an appropriate contractor that had assets deployed in that area already was contacted. Based upon the estimate provided, **a Motion to authorize entering into an agreement with that contractor to proceed with replacing the two pilings for a total cost to not exceed \$5,000.00 was made by Commissioner Binder, seconded by Commissioner Rivers, and passed by a 5-0 vote.**

13. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

14. COMMENTS BY COMMISSIONERS

All Commissioners gave comments of well-wishing for the upcoming holidays.

15. NEXT MEETING

January 16, 2024, was announced as the next regular meeting date. As such, the **next regular meeting will be at 3:00, p.m., on January 16, 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 3:57, p.m.

Secretary-Treasurer

Commission Chairman Brown