

ST. AUGUSTINE PORT, WATERWAY & BEACH DISTRICT
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
Tuesday, July 20, 2021

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, July 20, 2021.

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. ROLL CALL

Chairman Matt Brown, Vice-Chairman Chris Way, and Commissioners Tom Rivers, and Sandy Flowers were present. The meeting was also attended by Secretary-Treasurer Elyse Kemper and Clay Meek, General Counsel for the District.

4. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Following a discussion of having the question of having an invocation and the need for that to be on a published agenda with opportunity for public comment was had, it was agreed that the question of an invocation would be on the agenda for the next meeting. **A motion to approve the current agenda, without modification, was made by Commissioner Flowers, seconded by Vice-Chairman Way, and passed by a 3-1 vote, with Commissioner Rivers opposed.**

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

Dr. Michel S. Pawlowski spoke in favor of prayer at the start of public meetings.

6. GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVE COMMENTS

Steve Zukowski, Patrol Supervisor Lieutenant, of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission ("FWC") spoke regarding several matters. The July 4th week was not overly busy, but the turnout for the holiday and fireworks was good. There was one incident regarding personal fireworks, but the two people promptly

stopped with a warning only. There had been several boating accidents over the prior month, including a BUI incident involving multiple vessels. The Red Snapper event was good with few small fish taken, although a charter boat in Flagler County was found to have multiple undersized fish other than Red Snapper. The charter operator had been cited before and the penalty was expected to be significant. Flounder gigging was going well, with no citations to date. An investigation was ongoing as to two individuals from Hastings that had a small green turtle and were passing it back and forth and posted it on facebook.

Vice-Chairman Way asked about kill/engine cut-off switch requirements on boats and Commissioner Flowers asked about the Red Snapper season duration. Lt. Zukowski immediately addressed the question of Red Snapper seasons and the variation between the East and West Coasts of Florida and between Federal and State waters. After the other government representatives spoke, Lt. Zukowski addressed Vice-Chairman Way's question regarding a change in the requirement that apparently went into effect on April 1, 2021, as to Federal waters only.

Nathan Otter of St. Johns County Parks and Recreation Department provided an update on the Vilano basin dredge. Mobilization was to have started that day, with a barge on the way. Substantial completion was expected on October 22, 2022, and final completion was expected on November 6, 2026.

Carl Blow of the Florida Inland Navigation District ("FIND") provided a handout of and spoke about the FIND ranking of government projects that had requested FIND money, mostly with a 50% match. There were a total of 45 applications and the City of St. Augustine and St. Johns County did well. There were to be two more budget hearings and all projects have to be fully permitted by September 20, 2021, or they could not be funded. It was anticipated that the funding for Salt Run dredging was very, very likely to be funded. In response to a question from Commissioner Flowers, Mr. Blow indicated that the deadline for submissions for next year was the end of March, 2022.

Mr. Blow also indicated that FIND currently allows up to \$50,000.00, per year, per county, for derelict boat removal, with a 25% local match requirement. There was significant pressure to increase the \$50,000.00 to \$75,000.00 and there was a good chance that change would be made in the future.

7. SECRETARY-TREASURER'S REPORT

Secretary-Treasurer Kemper delivered the financial report. As of June 30, 2021, the District spent: \$1,154 for overtime hours of police officers of the City of St. Augustine and \$8,131 for overtime hours of deputies of the St. John's County Sheriff's Department. The State Board of Administration account had a balance of \$23,159. The Operating Account had \$279,051 as of June 30, 2021. The money market account had \$1,500,000 in the reserve for projects and \$985,926 in addition. Taxes received as of June 30, 2021, were \$584,621.

8. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion to approve the minutes of the June 15, 2021, regular meeting was made by Vice-Chairman Way, seconded by Commissioner Rivers, and passed by a 4-0 vote.

9. ENGINEERING REPORT

There was no representative of Taylor Engineering present and no Engineering Report.

10. OLD BUSINESS

There were no items on the agenda under old business to be discussed.

11. New Business

A. Establish Millage Rate

Secretary-Treasurer Kemper presented proposed figures based on the rolled back rate of 0.0574, which would generate estimated revenue of \$596,348 and the non-rolled back rate of 0.0589, which would generate estimated revenue of \$621,283.

Initially, a motion to use the rolled back rate of 0.0574 was made by Commissioner Flowers and seconded by Commissioner Rivers. The motion failed with votes to approve the motion being made by Commissioner Flowers and Commissioner Rivers, and with Chairman Brown and Vice-Chairman Way being opposed.

Further discussion was had as to this being the preliminary proposed millage rate and that the Commission could either stick with the higher, non-rolled back rate or vote for a lower rate at

the next meeting, but that starting with the lower rate and then going up at the next meeting could not be done. With that understanding, Vice-Chairman Way made a **Motion to proceed with the non-rolled back rate of 0.0589. The Motion was seconded by Chairman Brown and carried by a 3-1 vote, with Commissioner Flowers opposed.**

12. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

13. COMMENTS BY COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Rivers questioned Chairman Brown as to the extent of and nature of his possible opposition to an invocation, because he could not do so outside of a meeting due to the Sunshine Law. Chairman Brown and Commissioner Rivers had a short discussion on their views and possible areas of agreement.

Vice-Chairman Way indicated that the sign for the Salt Run piling to be placed by Yelton had arrived and the piling, with sign, should be placed soon.

Chairman Brown indicated that Reuben Franklin with the City of St Augustine was to get back with him on information as to permitting requirements for gravel at May Street. Chairman Brown also asked if the City of St. Augustine Beach had made any funding requests in the past several months and Secretary-Treasurer Kemper indicated they had not.

14. NEXT MEETING

August 17, 2021, was announced as the next meeting date. As such, the **next meeting will be at 3:00, p.m., on August 17, 2021,** at the St. Augustine Beach City Commission Meeting Room, 2200 A1A South, St. Augustine Beach, Florida.

15. ADJOURN

There being no further business, Chairman Matt Brown adjourned the meeting at 4:00, p.m.

Secretary-Treasurer

Commission Chairman Brown