

ST. AUGUSTINE PORT, WATERWAY & BEACH DISTRICT
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
Tuesday, October 19, 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, October 19, 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. Invocation

Commissioner Tom Rivers noted that he gave the invocation at the September meeting and was the Seat 5 Commissioner. Commissioner Rivers further noted that the rotation of giving the invocation was to rotate, with the Commissioner for Seat 1 to give the invocation at the current meeting. Commissioner Flowers is the Seat 1 Commissioner, but did not speak up in any way. Due to the failure of Commissioner Flowers to give an invocation, Commissioner Rivers gave the Invocation.

4. ROLL CALL

Chairman Matt Brown, Vice-Chairman Chris Way, and Commissioners Tom Rivers, Sandy Flowers, and Jane West were present. The meeting was also attended by Secretary-Treasurer Elyse Kemper and Clay Meek, General Counsel for the District. Ken Craig of Taylor Engineering, District Engineers, was present as well.

5. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

A motion to approve the agenda was made by Commissioner West, seconded by Vice-Chairman Way, and passed by a 5-0 vote.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

7. GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVE COMMENTS

Sydney Lindblad of St. Johns County Parks and Recreation Department briefly presented and reviewed beach pass sales. There had been a notable increase in 2021 passes over those of 2019, with 2020 not considered due to COVID limitations. On-line passes were anticipated to continue to increase. The revenue from beach passes goes back to funding for beaches. An overview of the anticipated projects for the coming year was also given, which included the Vilano parking lot, Doug Crane boat ramp, Ponte Vedra West boat ramp, Butler West, and beach walk-over improvements.

Jim Piggott appeared on behalf of the City of St. Augustine. Mr. Piggott presented parking passes for use for Port District business with the City. Mr. Piggott also indicated that an interlocal agreement would be presented in the near future pursuant to ongoing funding application with FIND for Salt Run dredging.

Carl Blow of the Florida Inland Navigation District ("FIND") provided a handout and spoke on the FIND funding of government projects and indicated that the City of St. Augustine and St. Johns County did well. Mr. Blow indicated that the deadline for submissions for next year was March 31, 2022. Also, it was confirmed that FIND can help fund purchase of property for boat ramps, with up to a 50% award. It was discussed among Commissioners that the County's study of projects and intent as to boat ramps was needed as soon as possible.

Steve Zukowski, Patrol Supervisor Lieutenant, of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission ("FWC") spoke regarding several matters. Pursuant to the new at-risk derelict boat program, a review of boats in the area had been done and was overall positive with 10 at risk vessels identified and 1 new boat identified as derelict. There were no significant accidents or fisheries issues.

8. SECRETARY-TREASURER'S REPORT

Secretary-Treasurer Kemper delivered the financial report. As of September 30, 2021, the District spent: \$3,562 for overtime hours of police officers of the City of St. Augustine and \$11,999 for overtime hours of deputies of the St. John's County Sheriff's Department. The State Board of Administration account had a balance of \$23,167. The Operating Account had \$218,869 as of September 30, 2021. The money market account had \$1,500,000 in

the reserve for projects and \$986,342 in addition. Taxes received as of September 30, 2021, were \$585,867.

9. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion to approve the minutes of the September 16, 2021, regular meeting, September 16, 2021, first public hearing, and October 1, 2021, final public hearing was made by Commissioner West, seconded by Commissioner Rivers, and passed by a 4-1 vote, with Commissioner Flowers opposed.

10. ENGINEERING REPORT

Ken Craig of Taylor Engineering indicated there was nothing to report other than to discuss matters on the agenda under old business.

11. OLD BUSINESS

A. Motion and Vote on Proposed Summer Haven Study

There was discussion of information that was to be provided following the last meeting. Ms. Darby presented and reiterated her understanding as to the support at the state level that existed. Ms. Darby reviewed some of the history regarding Summer Haven and the desired study. Ultimately, the majority of the Commission indicated that sufficient information had not been provided to be comfortable voting on the matter. Ms. Darby stated that there was not sufficient time to wait until the next regular Commission meeting. **Commissioner Flowers made a Motion for a special meeting, which Motion died for a lack of second.** Commissioner Rivers asked to move the agenda and the Commission moved forward on the agenda.

B. Purchase of Radiation Detector

Sergeant Josh Underwood was not present, so the matter was moved to the next meeting for discussion.

C. Discussion Regarding ACOE permit expiring

Linda Ginn of the Friends of the Summer Haven River invited Steven Tatoul of the Friends of the Summer Haven River to present a slide presentation of the progress made in Summer Haven so far. After the presentation, Linda Ginn renewed a request that the District request Taylor Engineering send a letter seeking an extension of

the Army Corps of Engineers permit for the Summer Haven project. Ken Craig of Taylor Engineering confirmed what Ms. Ginn relayed and that Taylor would prepare and send the letter at no charge. **A Motion to authorize Taylor Engineering to pursue renewal of the permit was made by Chairman Brown, seconded by Commissioner Rivers, and passed by a 4-1 vote, with Commissioner Flowers opposed.**

D. Summer Haven Sand Fencing

Linda Ginn of the Friends of the Summer Haven River was requesting that Taylor Engineering be allowed to ask for a DEP field permit to extend sand fencing north from the area approved for projects done by the County. Ken Craig estimated the cost of seeking the permit to be about \$600.00. **A Motion to authorize Taylor Engineering to proceed was made by Commissioner West, seconded by Commissioner Rivers, and passed by a 4-1 vote, with Commissioner Flowers opposed.**

E. May St. Pothole Fill

There was discussion and regarding Commissioner Flowers indicating that the cost would actually be \$7,700.00, rather than the prior estimates. It was confirmed that the exemption from DEP would need to be given first. After some discussion, conditioned on DEP granting the exemption, an **amended Motion to approve proceeding with expenditure up to \$8,000.00, conditioned on DEP exemption having been given was made by Commissioner West, seconded by Commissioner Flowers, and carried by a 4-1 vote, with Commissioner Rivers opposed.**

12. New Business

A. Regatta of Lights

Justin Mueller outlined the event and project and indicated that there was a \$10,000.00 budget in cash, with a \$2,500.00 in-kind budget. It was confirmed that there would be benefit in the form of the Port District's sponsorship being prominently advertised and displayed by the event. The amount requested from the District was \$7,500.00. **A Motion to approve the \$7,500.00 request was made by Commissioner West, seconded by Chairman Brown, and carried by a 5-0 vote.**

13. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

14. COMMENTS BY COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner West indicated that an updating of the District's website should be looked at. There were no other Commissioner comments.

15. NEXT MEETING

November 16, 2021, was announced as the next regular meeting date. As such, the **next regular meeting will be at 3:00, p.m., on November 16, 2021**, 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 4:57, p.m.

Secretary-Treasurer

Commission Chairman Brown