

ST. AUGUSTINE PORT, WATERWAY & BEACH DISTRICT
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
Tuesday, December 15, 2020

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 15, 2020.

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 and Commissioner Tom Rivers were in attendance at the start of the meeting and Vice-Chairman Chris Way arrived thereafter and was present for all action requiring a vote by the Commission. The meeting was also attended by Secretary-Treasurer Elyse Kemper and Clay Meek, General Counsel for the District.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

5. GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVE COMMENTS

Sergeant Josh Underwood of the St. Johns County Sheriff's Marine Unit reported that, since the last meeting, there had been 46 wake zone patrols, 18 warrants issued for safety violations, 2 citations were issued for navigation lights, and 1 boating accident handles by the St. Johns County Sheriff's Office. Captain Jerry Dedge of the St. Johns County Sheriff's Office was introduced by Josh Underwood. A matching fund grant that was to have been considered was tabled until the next Commission meeting to allow input and vote by all Commissioners.

Bill Miller, acting Lieutenant of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, commented on four current derelict vessels in the process of being removed.

Teddy Meyer of the St. Johns County Parks and Recreation Department provided an overview/update of the Doug Crane Boat Ramp. The project was in the final stages of permitting with the Army Corps of Engineers ("Army Corps"), a contractor was lined up, and the last detail was review of the parking lot and possible expansion of the parking lot and esthetic upgrades to the parking lot. The timeline anticipated was between now and Memorial Day.

The other project upon which an update was given was the County maritime master plan, which had been delayed by COVID and money being diverted to deal with COVID and was now anticipated to be going to FIND in January for review.

Sydney Lindblad, Natural Resources Manager of St. Johns County, provided updates on two projects. One was Butler Park East, that would involve updating the parking lot to expand it and make the parking lot more ADA accessible and redoing the bathroom. The project was hoped to be completed by May, 2021. Second, beach passes are going on sale and are being offered on-line for the first time, in addition to in-person purchases.

Jim Piggott appeared on behalf of the City of St. Augustine. Mr. Piggott presented the interlocal agreement for signature for part 2 of the 3 part funding of dredging of Salt Run. Mr. Piggott also indicated that the \$17,220.00 approved in the November meeting for removal of a derelict boat was pending 75% reimbursement from FIND and that the boat itself had been removed.

Carl Blow of the Florida Inland Navigation District ("FIND") indicated that the 75% funding mentioned by Mr. Piggott was on the consent agenda for January and was very likely to be approved. Mr. Blow presented information from 2011 as to the Port's past position on the reserve funds and the urgent needs that can arise that can only be addressed by having a sufficiently large reserve fund. Mr. Blow indicated that the Army Corps operated two hopper dredges such as could have been used in 2011 and that one of those costs \$25,000.00 to \$30,000.00 per day, with the charges starting the moment the dredge leaves its station or last project until it returns to station or goes to the next project. A dredge can move approximately 2,000 cubic yards of sand per day and, in 2011, it was estimated that there was 35,000 cubic yards in the shoal needing removal. Mr. Blow also discussed the north jetty to the inlet and the extent to which it allows sand to "leak" into the inlet. A study had been started before to repair the jetty, but

the Army Corps elected to delay that until a full study of the sand building up at Porpoise Point had been done. Mr. Blow handed out information regarding the current intent of the Army Corps as to the north jetty and upper inlet.

Commissioner Rivers asked Mr. Blow to verbally explain the intent and plan for the north jetty. Mr. Blow indicated that he understood that the current rocks would be moved, a new barrier would be placed to stop sand movement, and the rocks would then be placed back where they were on top of the barrier. Mr. Blow indicated that, depending on what the computer modeling Army Corps shows, other measures might be utilized to stabilize the sand at Porpoise Point prior to the jetty work.

6. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Vice-Chairman Way arrived during government representative comments and, upon the conclusion of Mr. Blow's comments, **a motion to approve the agenda was made by Commissioner Rivers, seconded by Vice-Chairman Way, and passed by a 3-0 vote.**

7. SECRETARY-TREASURER'S REPORT

Secretary-Treasurer Kemper delivered the financial report. As of November 30, 2020, the District spent: \$150 for overtime hours of police officers of the City of St. Augustine and \$4,994 for overtime hours of deputies of the St. John's County Sheriff's Department. The State Board of Administration account had a balance of \$23,141. The Operating Account had \$302,423. The money market account had \$2,284,506. Taxes received as of November 30, 2020, were \$245,443, with an additional approximate \$100,000.00 having been received on the date of the meeting. It was anticipated that approximately \$350,000.00 would be moved to the money market account.

8. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Rivers proposed correction to the minutes of the November 17, 2020, regular meeting to reflect that the meeting was adjourned by Chairman Brown. **A motion to approve the minutes as amended was made by Vice-Chairman Way and seconded by Commissioner Rivers and passed by a 3-0 vote.**

9. ENGINEERING REPORT

Chairman Brown indicated that Taylor Engineering would not be present at meetings going forward unless requested for a meeting

or unless there was something noteworthy to report. Neither of those being the case for this meeting, Taylor Engineering was not present and there was no report.

10. OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

11. New Business

A. St. Johns County Legislative Delegation

Discussion was had as to the representative to send to speak to the St. John's Legislative delegation and the expanded boundaries of the District to be sought. It was unanimously decided that the sole issue to be presented would be district boundaries and that General Counsel, Clay Meek, would make the presentation.

A short discussion was also had as to the ability to charge for beach/boat ramp use/access. Mr. Blow advised that a requirement for getting FIND grants is that all citizens of Florida be treated equally, which would prevent charging non-District or non-County residents for use of boat ramps without giving up FIND money.

B. Establish Surplus Funds

Tabled until next meeting.

C. USACE Applications re: Summer Haven

Tabled until next meeting.

D. Grants for Seawall Construction from USACE

Tabled until next meeting.

E. Procedure for replacing Channel Markers

Chairman Brown indicated he understood this to be a two-part issue. The first part would be the question of the authorization needed to approve replacement. The second part would be the question of the type of markers to use going forward. Both matters were tabled until next meeting to be discussed in two parts, with Taylor Engineering to be present for such.

F. South Atlantic Coastal Study

Tabled until next meeting.

12. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

13. COMMENTS BY COMMISSIONERS

All commissioners commented on the Vilano dredge activities. Also, all advised that there were no additional comments or revisions to the draft letter to the Coast Guard, as revised by Chairman Brown.

Secretary-Treasurer Kemper advised that she had received notice from the Florida Department of Revenue that the District's budget had been reviewed and was found to be in full compliance.

14. NEXT MEETING

January 19, 2021, was announced as the next meeting date. As such, the **next meeting will be at 3:00, p.m., On January 19, 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 3:52, p.m.

Secretary-Treasurer

Commission Chairman Brown