

ST. AUGUSTINE PORT, WATERWAY & BEACH DISTRICT
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
Tuesday, November 17, 2015

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, November 17, 2015.

CALL TO ORDER

Vice-Chairman Barry Benjamin called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America followed.

ROLL CALL

Vice-Chairman Barry Benjamin, Commissioners Mark Helman and Tom Rivers were in attendance. Chairman Jerry Dixon arrived at 3:19 p.m. Commissioner Chuck Hennessey was absent. The meeting was also attended by Ken Craig of Taylor Engineering, District Counsel Jim Bedsole, and Secretary-Treasurer Elyse Kemper.

SECRETARY-TREASURER'S REPORT

Secretary-Treasurer Kemper delivered the financial report to the Board. As of October 31, 2015, the District had spent a total of \$14,550 on projects and operating expenses. October was the first month of the fiscal year 2015-2016. As of October 31, total deposits were \$1,854,225.00. Of that total, \$1,444,461.00 was available for use on new projects. Tax revenue received to date is \$8,078.00, with \$412,436.00 more expected in this fiscal year.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Helman moved to approve the minutes of the October 20, 2015 regular meeting, which motion was seconded by Vice-Chairman Benjamin. The motion passed unanimously.

ENGINEERING REPORT

Ken Craig delivered the engineering report on behalf of Taylor Engineering. He said the application to FDEP regarding the future placement of sand on the north beaches is on track to be completed by the end of calendar year 2015.

As to the Summer Haven River restoration, Mr. Craig said Taylor's staff is considering whether to modify the proposed dune placement area because of the greater than expected amount of sand to be transferred from the dredge site. Also, extra sand will be generated by the removal of the shoal at the northern mouth of the river. Work is progressing on the

technical specifications for the entire project and those should be completed during the first quarter of 2016. The current estimated job cost for the entire restoration is \$2.9 million dollars.

OLD BUSINESS: NONE

NEW BUSINESS:

Regatta of Lights - Dan Floryan

Dan Floryan appeared on behalf of the St. Augustine Yacht Club and renewed their request for \$6,500.00 for the Regatta of Lights. Mr. Floryan said the event draws thousands of tourists and locals to the bayfront each year to see the parade of several dozen boats adorned with Christmas lighting. All commissioners expressed their support for the event and the advertising value the District receives from it.

Commissioner Benjamin moved to approve the request to give the St. Augustine Yacht Club \$6,500.00 for the Regatta of Lights. Chairman Dixon seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Lt. Steve Zukowski, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC), said a derelict vessel was removed from the Vilano boat ramp last month and disposed of by county crews. Another small fishing boat washed up on the beach and was removed by its owner. That boat had overturned and been lost in an incident near Jacksonville some time ago.

There have been several accidents in the past month, mostly caused by the seasonal increase in traffic from larger, transient vessels ferrying south for the Winter. Most of the damage has been to docks from either large wakes or vessel strikes.

Wil Smith, Director of Parks & Recreation for St. Johns County, said the county plans to bid out the transport of another 150 tons of concrete to local artificial reefs in February, 2016. The concrete will be loaded at St. Augustine Airport and taken by barge directly offshore. In response to questions by Chairman Dixon and Commissioner Helman, Mr. Smith said the reefs are all situated more than three miles offshore because of the presence of shrimping grounds and whale calving areas closer to shore. Also, the requirement to maintain a minimum depth of fifty feet at low tide is difficult to achieve nearer to the shore.

COMMENTS BY COMMISSIONERS

Chairman Dixon reported he met with representatives of Taylor Engineering and Friends of the Summer Haven River to discuss seeking grant funds for the river restoration project.

Commissioner Helman noted there have recently been questions to the board from members of the public about the possibility of contributing funds to dredge the channel into Comache Cove Marina. He said he personally contacted the management of Comache Cove and was informed they have privately contracted to have the channel dredged. Chairman Dixon said

the only time the District has dredged the channel into any private area was the entrance to the Davis Shores boat basin several years ago and that the dredge site was actually at the edge of the Intracoastal Waterway, not on private property.

Commissioner Rivers reported that a dock on the Intracoastal Waterway in North Beach was severely damaged by wake from a passing southbound vessel last month. Lt. Zukowski said a large vessel at low speed throws a very large wake and that vessels going south in the Fall often cause damage as they pass. He said vessel operators are responsible for the damage but are difficult to locate after they leave the area. In order to find such a vessel, law enforcement needs the name and description of the vessel, its direction of travel, and the time of the incident. He said some accidents are due to lack of experience on the part operators and that most large vessels carry liability insurance.

NEXT MEETING

Chairman Dixon announced the next regular meeting will be held at 3:00 p.m. on December 15, 2015 in the same location.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business, Vice-Chairman Benjamin adjourned the meeting at 4:00 p.m.

Secretary-Treasurer

Chairman