

ST. AUGUSTINE PORT, WATERWAY & BEACH DISTRICT
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
Tuesday, September 11, 2018

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, September 11, 2018.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Vice-Chairman Barry Benjamin 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

Vice-Chairman Benjamin, and Commissioners Tom Rivers and Chris Way were in attendance. Chairman Jerry Dixon and Commissioner Mark Helman were absent. The meeting was also attended by Mike Trudnak of Taylor Engineering, District Counsel Jim Bedsole and Secretary-Treasurer Elyse Kemper.

4. SECRETARY-TREASURER'S REPORT

Secretary-Treasurer Kemper delivered the financial report. As of August 31, 2018, the District has spent a total of \$331,692 in fiscal year 2017-2018. About \$19,000 has been spent for marine law enforcement overtime, \$10,000 for removal of derelict vessels, \$5,000 for the Regatta of Lights, \$150,000 for the repair of the City Marina, \$15,000 for channel marker repairs in Salt Run, \$24,000 for removal of hurricane debris from Matanzas Bay, and \$108,000 in operating expenses. As of August 31, 2018, the District had total funds of 2.1 million dollars and \$334,000 in account for the Summer Haven River restoration project.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion by Commissioner Way to approve the minutes of the August 14, 2018 regular meeting was seconded by Commissioner Rivers and passed unanimously.

6. ENGINEERING REPORT

Mike Trudnak delivered the engineering report on behalf of Taylor Engineering. He reported the Summer Haven River restoration project will re-start in September with an expanded

beach template allowing sand to be placed on an additional three thousand feet of beach from Marineland up to the site of the 2008 breach at Summer Haven.

7. OLD BUSINESS

A. Review Budget projects and costs - All Commissioners

Secretary-Treasurer Kemper led a discussion with board members of the current budget and what they may wish to propose for fiscal year 2018-2019. She presented income data based on projected tax revenue with no change in the current millage rate of 0.0638 mills. Commissioners discussed the items presented and deferred any decision on these until the first public hearing on millage and budget.

During the discussion, Teddy Meyer of the St. Johns County Parks and Recreation Department talked briefly about a request St. Johns County wishes to make for \$30,000 for renovation of boat ramps of which there are more than a dozen in the county. Vice-Chairman Benjamin asked Mr. Meyer to appear at next month's meeting with a full presentation and expressed his personal position that he would support a request if given the opportunity to consider all the details of the project. Mr. Meyer agreed to appear at the next meeting with full information.

8. NEW BUSINESS

A. Ribbon Cutting Ceremony City Marina - Jim Piggott

Jim Piggott, Director of General Services for the City of St. Augustine, invited commissioners to the official opening ceremony for the bayfront "connectivity" project and the official re-opening of the full City Marina. He reported business at the marina is very good and that the city mooring fields had a record number of rentals this year. He said fuel sales have been good since the repair of damage to pumps and lines. In response to a question by Commissioner Way, Mr. Piggott said the city mooring field is available for use by private vessels only, and that commercial owners are excluded for liability reasons.

Vice-Chairman Benjamin said he would like to see the board's pay increased to \$200 per month for members and \$225 per month for the chairman.

A motion by Vice-Chairman Benjamin to increase the board's pay to \$200 per month for members and \$225 per month for the chairman, was seconded by Commissioner Rivers and passed unanimously.

9. GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVE COMMENTS

Cpl. Josh Underwood, St. Johns County Sheriff's Office Marine Unit, said in the last month, his agency had spent 112 hours on 26 patrols, issued 4 boating citations and 10 warnings, issued 2 resource citations and responded to 4 boating distress calls. He said the Marine Unit

trained with the Coast Guard, Customs, and the fire department on new radiation monitoring equipment and procedures last month. He added that there have recently been a number of packages of narcotics found in local waters and on beaches.

10. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Linda Ginn, Friends of Summer Haven River, reported dredging of the Intracoastal Waterway by the Florida Inland Navigation District will begin in October, 2018, and sand will be distributed along the entire length of Summer Haven's beach from the 2008 breach area on the north to Highway A1A on the south. She said her organization is working with Rivers and Trails to place an educational kiosk near the river and requested the board's consent to use the district's logo on the kiosk in consideration of its commitment to the restoration project. Commissioners unanimously agreed to such use. In response to questions by Commissioner Rivers, Mrs. Ginn said the recent high tides did no damage to the Summer Haven beach.

Lt. Steve Zukowski, FWC, said Labor Day weekend was quiet on the water with few incidents other than two BUI's in Palm Coast. Otherwise, the Fall run of finger mullet has arrived and is bringing a large number of redfish into local waterways which has resulted in an increase in redfish size and bag limit violations.

11. **COMMENTS BY COMMISSIONERS: NONE**

12. **NEXT MEETING**

Vice-Chairman Benjamin announced the next regular meeting of the board will be held at 3:00 p.m. on Tuesday, October 16, 2018, in the St. Augustine Beach City Commission Room. The first public hearing on the 2018-2019 millage and budget will be held at 5:05 p.m. today.

13. **ADJOURN**

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

Secretary-Treasurer

Chairman