

ST. AUGUSTINE PORT, WATERWAY & BEACH DISTRICT
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
Tuesday, June 16, 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, June 16, 2015.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Jerry Dixon called the meeting to order at 3:10 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

ROLL CALL

Chairman Jerry Dixon, Commissioners Barry Benjamin, and Chuck Hennessey were in attendance. Commissioners Mark Helman and Tom Rivers were absent. The meeting was also attended by Ken Craig of Taylor Engineering, District Counsel James Bedsole, and Secretary-Treasurer Elyse Kemper.

SECRETARY-TREASURER'S REPORT

Secretary-Treasurer Kemper delivered the financial report to the board. As of May 31, 2015, the District had expended \$14,328 of total committed funds of \$262,985, and spent \$76,929 on operating expenses, for a total of \$95,387 spent. The District had \$2,014,504 on deposit with \$8,673 expected tax revenue remaining uncollected. As of June 15, 2015, net available funds totaled \$1,771,614.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Hennessey moved to approve the minutes of the May 19, 2015 regular meeting, which motion was seconded by Commissioner Benjamin. The motion passed unanimously.

ENGINEERING REPORT

Ken Craig delivered the engineering report on behalf of Taylor Engineering. He said the only activity for the coming month is the scheduled arrival of the Corps of Engineers hopper dredge Murden due to appear on or about July 12, 2015 to begin the maintenance dredging of the federal navigation channel.

OLD BUSINESS

Chairman Dixon said he had been scheduled to meet with the cartographer for Sea Grant to review revisions to the harbor/inlet map but that the meeting had been delayed. He will report at the next meeting on any progress.

Eric Helstrom appeared on behalf of St. Johns County Marine Rescue regarding his agency's application for \$57,500 in local matching funds for a dock and three boat lifts in the Vilano Boat Ramp basin. Chairman Dixon said he was in favor of committing the funds which will not be required unless the county is awarded the other seventy-five percent grant from the federal Homeland Security Administration. Commissioner Benjamin said the district needs to receive some permanent recognition for the donation, such as a plaque displayed on the dock, if it is built. Mr. Helstrom said something very prominent would be done to commemorate the donation, if made.

Commissioner Benjamin moved to approve the commitment of \$57,500 in local matching funds for construction of the three boat lifts and a dock, contingent upon award of the Homeland Security grant. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hennessey and passed unanimously.

Wil Smith, St. Johns County Director of Parks and Recreation responded to a question by Chairman Dixon about the establishment of no-wake zones in the Intracoastal Waterway. Mr. Smith said the county first determines an area its staff designates as needing speed control for boat traffic, and then formally requests FWC to regulate the area. FWC then monitors that zone for as long as a year and, if it concludes that a no-wake zone should be imposed, requests the county to draft the necessary legislation.

Chairman Dixon then asked if the county was still looking for new boat ramp. Mr. Smith said very few suitable sites are available for a new facility. He added that the county has for some time considered enlarging the boat ramp on the west end of the Palm Valley Bridge. Improvement of that ramp has been delayed because of a retention pond owned by FDOT which restricts any expansion. He said Frank Butler Park will be the next ramp to be repaired. The ramp needs extensive dredging from the parking lot all the way out to the Intracoastal Waterway. He said the ramp is not accessible from the Intracoastal at low tide, even for very shallow draft boats. All of the county's ramps are at or above capacity during boating season.

Mr. Smith said one thousand tons of concrete had recently been added to offshore artificial reefs. The material had been previously donated by a contractor and stockpiled at St. Augustine Airport. Bids were recently received for moving additional barges to offshore artificial reef sites.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

COMMENTS BY COMMISSIONERS

Chairman Dixon said he will attend the next meeting of the National Estuarine Research Reserve management advisory group with FIND commissioner Carl Blow.

NEXT MEETING

Chairman Dixon announced the next regular meeting will be held at 3:00 p.m. on July 21, 2015 in the same location.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business, Chairman Dixon adjourned the meeting at 3:35 p.m.

Secretary-Treasurer

Chairman