

ST. AUGUSTINE PORT, WATERWAY & BEACH DISTRICT
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
Tuesday, December 17, 2019

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 17, 2019.

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Barry Benjamin called the meeting to order at 3:00 PM.

2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

3. **ROLL CALL**

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

4. **ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

A motion by Commissioner Brown to adopt the agenda as proposed was seconded by Vice-Chairman Rivers and passed unanimously.

5. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Ed Slavin
Merrill Roland

6. **GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVE COMMENTS**

Jim Piggott, Director of General Services for the City of St. Augustine, reminded the board that annual dredging of Salt Run channel would begin in January, 2020, and last for about ten weeks. He also reported that the city had provided the completed interagency contract with the District to the Florida Inland Navigation District as proof of matching funds.

Teddy Meyer, St. Johns County Parks and Recreation, said the county wants a formal agreement with the District for the District's portion of the cost of the upcoming renovations to Doug Crane Park and boat ramp, and that he will present the agreement at the next meeting.

Lt. Steve Zukowski, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, said FWC and other agencies are participating in training at the county Emergency Operations Center. He also reported the grounding of two sailboats on the shoal just north of St. Augustine Inlet.

He said the incident involved a family of two adults and three minors operating two sailboats which both failed to properly locate the sea buoy prior to approaching the inlet. He said the only safe approach to St. Augustine Inlet requires sailors to locate the sea buoy which is offshore from the inlet and then follow the navigational aids through the inlet to Matanzas Bay. In response to questions from commissioners, Lt. Zukowski said boaters attempting to sail directly to the mouth of the inlet from either the north or the south will run aground. He said all five people aboard the two sailboats were rescued with no injuries.

He also reported that a live-aboard boater anchored near Doug Crane Park passed away aboard his vessel recently and was discovered by FWC officers. Lt. Zukowski said the man was a Canadian citizen and that the vessel would be declared derelict if no one claims it.

7. SECRETARY-TREASURER'S REPORT

Secretary-Treasurer Kemper delivered the financial report. As of November 30, 2019, the District had spent \$2,860 on marine law enforcement overtime, \$8,300 on derelict boats, \$60,188 on operating expenses, and \$4,919 for the Summer Haven River project, for a sum total of \$71,348. As of that date, the District had \$2,248,408 in total funds, \$1,743,222 of which was available for use. Tax revenue collected so far for this fiscal year totals \$126,394, and \$444,240 more is expected.

8. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Vice-Chairman Rivers requested changes to the minutes of the regular meeting of November 19, 2019, as presented, and approval of them was tabled until the next meeting.

9. ENGINEERING REPORT

Mike Trudnak delivered the engineering report on behalf of Taylor Engineering. He said he reported to the Coast Guard that Marker No. 1 in Salt Run had been reported down or leaning. He said the Coast Guard inspected the marker and told him all markers in Salt Run appeared to be undamaged and on station.

10. NEW BUSINESS

A) Engineering Applicants

Secretary-Treasurer Kemper said she thought commissioners would like to choose an engineering firm from the three applications provided at last month's meeting, but commissioners indicated they would like more time to review the material and have the applicants appear at the next meeting, before voting. This item was then tabled until the next meeting.

11. OLD BUSINESS

A) Videotaping Port Meetings

Max Royle, St. Augustine Beach City Manager, and Anthony Jones, technician, presented information regarding the cost of video taping board meetings for broadcast or re-broadcast to the public. Mr. Royle explained videos of the St. Augustine Beach City Commission's meetings are not televised, but are live-streamed on the internet. He said taping meetings of the District's board would cost about \$100.00 per meeting. That price does not include extra charges for his staff's time after 5:00 p.m., or posting or streaming the videos on the internet or other media. Commissioners took no action on this item.

12. PUBLIC COMMENT

Tom Reynolds
Ed Slavin
Linda Ginn

In response to questions during public comment, Mike Trudnak said the Summer Haven River Restoration project, which the District sponsors, is the only open permit on the river and that no permit now exists to dredge the south end of the river. He said the dredging done under the District's permit ended at Station 56 west of the north bridge and that more sand exists in the river to the west between Station 56 and the inlet. He said the District's permit to dredge within its template will expire in 2026 and that obtaining a Corps of Engineers permit to dredge the entire river would require 1 to 4 years.

13. COMMENTS BY COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Brown said he wanted to discuss obtaining a supply of locks for marine sanitation devices, as suggested by marine law enforcement, but said he would wait until law enforcement members were present. He said the locks are very inexpensive and he supports buying and supplying them to local law enforcement at District expense.

14. NEXT MEETING:

Chairman Benjamin announced the next regular meeting of the board will be held at 3:00 PM on Tuesday, January 21, 2020, in the St. Augustine Beach City Commission Room.

15. ADJOURN

There being no further business, Chairman Benjamin adjourned the meeting at 3:47 p.m.

Secretary-Treasurer

Chairman