

ST. AUGUSTINE PORT, WATERWAY & BEACH DISTRICT
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
Tuesday, February 18, 2025

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, February 18, 2025.

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. INVOCATION

The Invocation was given by Vice-Chairman Rivers.

4. ROLL CALL

Chairman Matt Brown, Vice-Chairman Tom Rivers, and Commissioner Nicholas Binder were present in person. The meeting was also attended in person by Secretary-Treasurer Elyse Kemper and Clay Meek, General Counsel for the District. Jim Moreno of Taylor Engineering was also present in person. Commissioner Sandy Flowers was absent.

5. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

A Motion to approve the agenda was made by Vice-Chairman Rivers, seconded by Commissioner Binder, and passed by a 3-0 vote.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

Matt Strickland discussed and had a question regarding silting at and around the Butler Beach boat ramp and what entity is primarily responsible for addressing that.

7. GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVE COMMENTS

Eric Mauldin, St. Augustine Municipal Marina Harbormaster, indicated that all of the District's markers were on station and that the temporary buoys were received and ready to be deployed when needed.

Chris Pacetti, Assistant Fire Chief of the City of St. Augustine Fire Department ("SAFD") reviewed the fact that there had been a lull of calls until the week prior to the Commission meeting. Then a call had come in regarding a capsized boat off shore and he wanted to recognize and express appreciation for the above and beyond rescue efforts of two adults and a dog by Deputies Michaux and Weintraub of the St. Johns County Sheriff's Office.

Commissioner Rivers asked about a derelict boat near the 312 bridge. Sargeant Jason Kroll of the St. Johns County Sheriff's Office got up and addressed that and another boat that were being dealt with through the derelict process.

Corey Sakryd, General Services Director for the City of St. Augustine, indicated that the City was receiving bids that day for removal of 5 derelict vessels in the area, one of which was mentioned by Sgt. Kroll. The City intended to seek funding for the removal of the 5 vessels from FIND and the District.

8. SECRETARY-TREASURER'S REPORT

Secretary-Treasurer Kemper then delivered the financial report. As of January 31, 2025, the District spent: \$557 for overtime hours of police officers of the City of St. Augustine; \$665 for overtime hours of the City of St. Augustine Fire Department; \$8,755 for overtime hours of deputies of the St. Johns County Sheriff's Department; \$5,656 for derelict boats; \$0 for debris removal; and, \$0 for channel marker repairs. As of February 11, 2025, the State Board of Administration account had a balance of \$26,327. The Operating Account had \$610,483 as of February 11, 2025. The money market account had \$500,000 in the reserve for projects and \$1,326,320 in amounts not reserved for projects. Taxes received as of February 11, 2025, were \$638,254 for the current year and the balance of the remaining expected tax income was \$292,512.

Secretary-Treasurer Kemper indicated that she would be meeting with Jen Reed at Avid regarding an ongoing issue with transferring the audio recordings of meetings to the District's website. It was hoped that the issue was software, but there was the potential that a computer upgrade might be required and, unless there was objection or contrary instruction, she would proceed with the most economical option that allowed the District to post the audio of the meetings. No objection or contrary instruction was voiced.

9. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A Motion to approve the minutes of the January 21, 2025, regular meeting was made by Commissioner Binder, seconded by Vice-Chairman Rivers, and passed by a 3-0 vote.

10. ENGINEERING REPORT

None.

11. OLD BUSINESS

None.

12. NEW BUSINESS

A. and C. Taylor Engineering Contract and Role of Taylor Engineering to Review Design Documents and Construction Vouchers Before Payment

Commissioner Binder began the discussion of these items and indicated they were somewhat intertwined and best discussed together. Commissioner Binder was concerned about the level of oversight on some of the projects the District helps fund. It was confirmed that, if requested, Taylor Engineering could provide oversight on billings and confirmation of appropriate performance. The nature of Taylor Engineering's contract with the District allows for ad hoc services such as that, with corresponding additional payment due to Taylor Engineering for the additional services.

In the course of the discussions, Mr. Sakyrd spoke and advised that no billing is submitted for reimbursement on projects until after the corresponding work for the billing is done. Commissioner Binder questioned as to the extent that independent engineering review is done as projects are completed to ensure that the work was done up to the original design engineering standards. Mr. Sakyrd indicated that the completion supervision is generally not done by an independent engineer, but is reviewed by city staff such as the Harbormaster.

Commissioner Rivers asked Commissioner Binder his thoughts after hearing the discussion. Commissioner Binder indicated that the process seemed too loose and that it would be better to have engineering oversight on progress. Considering the additional cost of doing that, it was proposed that the District consider

having Taylor provide oversight on larger dollar value projects in which the District is involved.

B. FEMA Discussion

Commissioner Binder noted that a memo from FEMA as to a funding pause had been received in conjunction with a Court Order pausing some Federal funding programs. He questioned the anticipated effect this would have on the hoped for FEMA payments for past hurricanes. Mr. Sakyrd indicated that there was a lot of uncertainty and limited information at this point. However, the current expectation was that FEMA funding would take longer to get, but would eventually come through as it would have prior to the Court Order and memo.

13. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

14. COMMENTS BY COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Binder noted the overtime budgeted for the City of St. Augustine and the St. Johns County Sheriff's Office and noted that the City of St. Augustine Beach likely also had police overtime expenditures that could be similarly related to Port District interests. He suggested that it might be appropriate to add City of St. Augustine Beach police overtime as a regularly budgeted item.

Commissioner Rivers agreed with Commissioner Binder and thought the Commission should consider adding it this year or in the next budget.

15. NEXT MEETING

March 18, 2025, was announced as the next regular meeting date. As such, the **next regular meeting will be at 3:00, p.m., on March 18, 2025**, at the St. Augustine Beach City Commission Meeting Room, 2200 A1A South, St. Augustine Beach, Florida.

16. ADJOURN

Chairman Matt Brown adjourned the meeting at 3:52, p.m.

Secretary-Treasurer

Commission Chairman Brown