

**ST. AUGUSTINE PORT, WATERWAY & BEACH DISTRICT**  
**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING**  
**Tuesday, February 20, 2024**

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 20, 2024.

**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 Commissioner Rivers.

**4. ROLL CALL**

Chairman Matt Brown, Commissioner Tom Rivers, Commissioner Linda Thomson, 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. Ken Craig of Taylor Engineering, District Engineers, was present in person as well.

**5. ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

**A Motion to adopt and approve the agenda was made by Commissioner Binder, seconded by Commissioner Thomson, and passed by a 4-0 vote.**

**6. PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

**7. GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVE COMMENTS**

Lieutenant Bill Miller of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission ("FWC") spoke briefly regarding twelve vessels in various stages of the derelict boat removal process and noted that derelict boats were being aggressively addressed.

**8. SECRETARY-TREASURER'S REPORT**

Secretary-Treasurer Kemper then delivered the financial report. As of January 31, 2024, the District spent: \$4,070 for overtime hours of police officers of the City of St. Augustine; \$5,222 for overtime hours of deputies of the St. Johns County Sheriff's Department; \$2,844 for derelict boats; and, \$188,925 for unspecified marine projects. The State Board of Administration account had a balance of \$24,979. The Operating Account had \$955,758 as of January 31, 2024. The money market account had \$0 in the reserve for projects and \$1,119,706 in amounts not reserved for projects. Taxes received as of January 31, 2024, were \$264,872 for the current year and the balance of the remaining expected tax income was \$561,177.

Secretary-Treasurer Kemper indicated that it was her intent to move some funds from the operating account to the money market account to increase the interest being earned unless any Commissioner envisioned an upcoming significant potential funding need or otherwise objected. All Commissioners expressed that there was no objection to proceeding in that manner.

**9. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**A Motion to approve the final circulated draft of the minutes of the January 16, 2024, regular meeting was made by Commissioner Rivers, seconded by Commissioner Thomson, and passed by a 4-0 vote.**

**10. ENGINEERING REPORT**

Ken Craig indicated that the St. Augustine shore protection project was expected to start in the next two weeks. He also indicated that he recently attended a state conference of shore and beach professionals and that the St. Augustine beach and waterway area was commented upon favorably by multiple attendees.

**11. OLD BUSINESS**

None.

**12. NEW BUSINESS**

None.

**13. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Patrick Harvey of the St. Augustine Police Marine Operations Unit advised the Commission about a signage issue in Salt Run. The

normal and accurate signage at issue indicated that boaters were free to resume normal speed. That signage had been removed and replaced with inaccurate signage indicating that it was a slow speed/no wake zone. The person or persons who had replaced the sign were currently unknown, but the signage is wrong and the change was not authorized or correct.

All Commissioners agreed that the issue needed to be placed on the next meeting's agenda. Further, Secretary-Treasurer Kemper was directed to see if Vice-Chairman Way could obtain information on changing the signage back to correct signage to present to the full Commission for consideration for action at the next meeting.

**14. COMMENTS BY COMMISSIONERS**

Commissioner Thomson commented about a discussion at a recent County Commission meeting about the process and cost of planned dredging and placement.

Commissioner Binder noted that he had meet with the Cochrans on January 23, 2024, regarding some of the concerns that had been raised at the January Port District Commission meeting.

**15. NEXT MEETING**

Due to use of the facilities for voting, the normal meeting location was not going to be available for the normal meeting date of the third Tuesday of March. Other potential available dates were reviewed and March 21, 2024, was identified and announced as the next regular meeting date. As such, the **next regular meeting will be at 3:00, p.m., on Thursday, March 21, 2024**, at the St. Augustine Beach City Commission Meeting Room, 2200 A1A South, St. Augustine Beach, Florida.

**16. ADJOURN**

There being no further business, Chairman Matt Brown adjourned the meeting at 3:12, p.m.

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Secretary-Treasurer

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Commission Chairman Brown