

**ST. AUGUSTINE PORT, WATERWAY & BEACH DISTRICT**  
**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING**  
**Tuesday, February 21, 2023**

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 21, 2023.

**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**

Commissioner Jane West gave the Invocation.

**4. ROLL CALL**

Chairman Matt Brown, Vice-Chairman Chris Way, Commissioner Tom Rivers, Commissioner Jane West, and Commissioner Linda Thomson were present. The meeting was also attended by Secretary-Treasurer Elyse Kemper and Clay Meek, General Counsel for the District. Ken Craig of Taylor Engineering, District Engineers, was present as well.

**5. ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

A suggestion to add an update regarding the District Website under old business was made. **A Motion to approve the agenda with that modification was made by Commissioner West, seconded by Vice-Chairman Way, and passed by a 5-0 vote.**

**6. PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

**7. GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVE COMMENTS**

Patrick Harvey of the St. Augustine Police Marine Operations Unit indicated there were no new current active derelict boats being worked in the area. There was a significant problem with beaching at low tide at the inlet. The depth was six feet, at high tide. The Coast Guard was "aware" of the issue and that markers were

needed. The Commission agreed that Chairman Brown would draft a letter to the Coast Guard stressing the urgency and desire that the situation be addressed as quickly as possible.

Corey Sakryd, Deputy Director of General Services for the City of St. Augustine, addressed three issues. First, previously granted funds of \$6,891.25 from October for derelict boat removal turned out to be greater than needed and \$2,442.00 was all that was actually required. However, secondly, there were a number of other derelict/at-risk boats in need of and ready for removal and four were in the District with an estimated removal cost of \$12,506.00. The City was requesting the District to grant \$4,168.75 as the 25% matching, with the other 75% to be requested from FIND. **A Motion to approve the funding request was made by Vice-Chairman Way, seconded by Commissioner Rivers, and carried by a 5-0 vote.** Finally, Mr. Sakryd indicated that dredging of Salt Run follower by the Dolphin Drive channel entrance was awaiting getting permits lined up to daisy chain the projects for efficiency and that dredging should start soon.

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

Secretary-Treasurer Kemper then delivered the financial report. As of January 31, 2023, the District spent: \$0 for overtime hours of police officers of the City of St. Augustine; \$5,194 for overtime hours of deputies of the St. Johns County Sheriff's Department; \$2,952 for derelict boats; and \$9,470 for channel marker repairs. The State Board of Administration account had a balance of \$23,679. The Operating Account had \$697,041 as of January 31, 2023. The money market account had \$0 in the reserve for projects and \$1,114,122 in amounts not reserved for projects. Taxes received as of January 31, 2023, were \$545,293 for the current year and the balance of the remaining expected tax income was \$169,727, including approximately \$98,000.00 that had already been received after January 31, 2023.

Discussion was had as to the balance of the Summer Haven grant budgeted some time ago. Commissioner Rivers suggested that it should be placed back on the monthly treasurer's report. There was then discussion and question as to what was and was not paid by and/or paid back to FEMA. After some review of the Commission discussions on the topic over recent meetings, Commissioner West suggested that all Commissioners get a full update on the history of that grant request, including an accounting of what money had



been requested from the grant, what was paid, and when and for what. Once all had a chance to review that information, any Commissioner could then suggest how to proceed as to what should be reflected on the treasurer's report and budget on the item and all Commissioners could discuss it on an informed basis. It was suggested and agreed that a discussion of the topic by the Commission would occur after such was placed on the agenda for a subsequent meeting. **A Motion to have that information prepared and sent to each Commissioner by Secretary-Treasurer Kemper, was made by Commissioner West, seconded by Vice-Chairman Way, and carried by a 5-0 vote.**

#### **9. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**A Motion to approve the minutes of the January 17, 2023, regular meeting was made by Commissioner West, seconded by Commissioner Thomson, and passed by a 5-0 vote.**

#### **10. ENGINEERING REPORT**

Ken Craig presented a detailed overview of the beach renourishment projects that were in various stages of implementation and/or planning by governmental entities from north to south as to the beaches of potential concern to the District.

#### **11. OLD BUSINESS**

##### **A. Website Update**

Commissioner West gave an overview of the progress being made on website and indicated it was under contract. Commissioner West suggested and requested submission of photographs of the various projects the District had granted funds for, such as the Genovar Project, derelict boats being removed, marker replacement and repair, and law enforcement organization equipment purchases. The photos would then be incorporated into the website and information on where and how the District spends funds.

##### **B. District Expansion**

Commissioner Rivers indicated that it was too late to submit proposed legislation for the current session. However, Senator Hutson had indicated he was receptive to sitting down with a representative from the District to discuss proposed legislation to expand the District boundaries. **A Motion to approve pursuing**

that was made by Commissioner Rivers, seconded by Commissioner West, and carried by a 5-0 vote.

## 12. NEW BUSINESS

### A. Lease Approval

General Counsel Meek gave a short presentation as to the renewal of the lease for the District's office space at the City of St. Augustine. **A Motion to approve the proposed renewal of the lease was made by Commissioner Rivers, seconded by Commissioner West, and carried by a 5-0 vote.**

## 13. PUBLIC COMMENT

Terry Parker gave public comment outlining funding that had been sought and received by and for the Summer Haven project within the last year. The requests were estimated to have cost roughly \$10,000.00 and included sand fencing and vegetation planting replacement.

## 14. COMMENTS BY COMMISSIONERS

Chairman Brown informed all as to an inquiry he had gotten about a potential grant request from Palencia for a project that turned out to be located outside the District. He also indicated that he had spoken to Henry Seiden of the Coast Guard Auxiliary and would invite him to speak to the full Commission at an upcoming meeting to give an update on Aids to Navigation.

Commissioner West reviewed that St. Johns County Parks and Recreation had previously indicated they would be at the meeting to give an update on the project list. It was speculated that they might have elected to not come due to the reception they had received at some prior meetings and the suggestion was made to try to reach out to them to advise that an update would be appreciated and that the Commission would now be a less hostile environment than in months prior to the last election. Commissioner West also indicated she was happy to help drafting proposed legislation expanding the District. Commissioner Rivers indicated he could set up a meeting to discuss the matter with Senator Hutson and Representative Stevens to present the proposal.

Commissioner Thomson indicated she had some connections to the Coast Guard and Auxiliary and would be happy to communicate with them and to receive an update from them as well. She also brought

up a question for discussion on a development on the beach and what requirements might exist for public access.

**15. NEXT MEETING**

March 21, 2023, was announced as the next regular meeting date. As such, the **next regular meeting will be at 3:00, p.m., on March 21, 2023**, 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 3:45, p.m.

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Secretary-Treasurer

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Commission Chairman Brown