

ST. AUGUSTINE PORT, WATERWAY & BEACH DISTRICT
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
Thursday, March 21, 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 Thursday, March 21, 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 Thomson.

4. ROLL CALL

Chairman Matt Brown, Vice-Chairman Christopher Way, 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 Vice-Chairman Way, seconded by Commissioner Binder, and passed by a 4-0 vote.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

7. GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVE COMMENTS

Deputy Richard Michaux of the St. Johns County Sheriff's Air and Marine Unit spoke on behalf of Lieutenant Bill Miller of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission ("FWC") who was unable to present information due to an urgent call. Deputy Michaux gave an update on derelict boats and the upcoming Blessing of the Fleet.

Corey Sakryd, General Services Director for the City of St. Augustine, spoke regarding plans for the Blessing of the Fleet. Also, effort was being made to maximize FEMA payments for the damage to the breakwater dock at the Municipal Marina and, depending upon the FEMA funding obtained, the City might be able to return some of the District's grant money for the project. Additionally, he indicated that the Spanish tall ship visit was going well and was extended to July 15, 2024.

Carl Blow of the Florida Inland Navigation District ("FIND") spoke on the FIND dredging in Matanzas being done in conjunction with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which was anticipated to remove 531,000 cubic yards of material. Mr. Blow also reviewed the anticipated FIND funding applications from St. Johns County and government entities within it and was optimistic that full or close to full funding would be available, depending upon how high the projects ranked when submitted.

8. SECRETARY-TREASURER'S REPORT

Secretary-Treasurer Kemper then delivered the financial report.

9. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A Motion to approve the circulated draft minutes of the February 20, 2024, regular meeting was made by Commissioner Binder, seconded by Commissioner Thomson, and passed by a 3-0 vote, with Vice-Chairman Way abstaining.

10. ENGINEERING REPORT

Ken Craig indicated that the beach nourishment project at Ponte Vedra Beach was under mobilization and was expected to run through August. The St. Augustine Beach beach nourishment project was expected to start in early April.

11. OLD BUSINESS

A. Salt Run No Wake Signage

Vice-Chairman Way indicated that he understood that Patrick Harvey was going to take down the perceived incorrect sign and Vice-Chairman Way had not heard further from him since. Chairman Brown indicated he would follow-up with Patrick Harvey on the status of removing the offending sign and determining the next step in ensuring that all the proper District signage is in the proper place in Salt Run.

12. NEW BUSINESS

A. Resolution Requested by Supervisor of Elections

The Supervisor of Elections, Vicky Oakes, had requested a Resolution setting forth certain information to assist her in preparations for the next general election. An appropriate resolution was presented in the form of Resolution 24-01. **A Motion to adopt Resolution 24-01 was made by Chairman Brown, seconded by Vice-Chairman Way, and passed by a 4-0 vote.**

B. Channel Marker Replacement

Vice-Chairman Way indicated that markers 8 and 13 in Salt Run were missing and the proper coordinates for the markers were needed in order to get an estimate for replacement. Marker 4 was also noted to need attention and possible replacement. Ken Craig indicated that Taylor Engineering could provide the proper coordinates. Corey Sakryd was asked about the city's ability to fabricate signs or have signs fabricated. Mr. Sakryd indicated that the city uses outside fabrication and agreed to get information on the cost of creating signage and present it to the Commission.

13. PUBLIC COMMENT

Carl Blow spoke on any wake signage needing a permit from FWC that would likely have information on what signs should be where. He also commented on the need for sign pilings to be placed properly to last and that Yelton does a good job of placing pilings.

Richard Michaux indicated that Patrick Harvey of the St. Augustine Police Marine Operations Unit was anticipated to be out until the following Tuesday and that contact with him should not be attempted until after that.

Chris Pacetti indicated that he thought the no wake signage might have been turned around by someone to face the wrong direction.

Steve Zukowsky gave helpful detail on what information should be on valid and authorized signage and where the information should appear on the sign. He also spoke regarding the need for replacement of faded signage at the entrance to San Sebastian and speculated if such was a City of St. Augustine issue.

14. COMMENTS BY COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Thomson commented on what a good event the Blessing of the Fleet is.

Commissioner Binder commented on the status of the Ocean Hammock Park walkway project.

Chairman Brown mentioned that the County Parks and Recreation staff was interested in expanding and improving the facilities at Butler West and had indicated that input and expression of support from individual District Commissioners was desired and hoped to help with being able to move forward.

15. NEXT MEETING

April 16, 2024, was announced as the next regular meeting date. As such, the **next regular meeting will be at 3:00, p.m., on Tuesday, April 16, 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 3:37, p.m.

Secretary-Treasurer

Commission Chairman Brown