

**ST. AUGUSTINE PORT, WATERWAY & BEACH DISTRICT**  
**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING**  
**Tuesday, April 16, 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, April 16, 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") gave an update on shorebird nesting in the area.

Deputy Richard Michaux of the St. Johns County Sheriff's Air and Marine Unit spoke on a concern regarding three sets of mooring dolphins in the area and vagueness as to the rules and requirements

for time to stay on the moorings. Some individuals were attempting to claim residency on the moorings and a review of Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission ("FWC") language was underway to assist in maintaining temporary use only of the moorings.

Carl Blow of the Florida Inland Navigation District ("FIND") spoke on the four FIND funding applications from St. Johns County and government entities within it. The four roughly equated to the allocation available to the county as a whole and he was optimistic as to the odds of the four applications getting funding. Mr. Blow also commented on the mooring dolphins and indicated that a main purpose of the dolphins being put in was to assist with barges and slack tide concerns with going under bridges in the area.

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

Secretary-Treasurer Kemper then delivered the financial report. As of March 31, 2024, the District spent: \$4,070 for overtime hours of police officers of the City of St. Augustine; \$5,722 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.

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

**A Motion to approve the circulated draft minutes of the March 21, 2024, regular meeting was made by Commissioner Rivers, seconded by Commissioner Thomson, and passed by a 4-0 vote.**

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

Ken Craig mentioned the upcoming Back Bay feasibility public meeting/workshop to be held by the Army Corps of Engineers. He also discussed the area beach nourishment projects and indicated that the Porpoise Point drive seawall project was done.

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

- A. Salt Run No Wake Signage
- B. Channel Marker Replacement

Eric Mauldin, St. Augustine Municipal Marina Harbormaster, addressed both of these matters in a single presentation. He outlined that markers Green 3, Red 8, Red 12, and Green 13 were in need of replacement. The City's contractor would be able to replace the four markers for an estimated cost of \$18,000.00. Additionally, a danger sign for rocks needed replacement and the



estimated cost of such was \$200.00 per side for a two sided sign. Finally, a resume normal speed sign was missing in a slow speed zone in Salt Run. The City was willing to install the sign at no cost, but the estimated cost of the sign was \$750.00, plus up to \$250.00 in shipping. The Commission agreed that these issues constituted an imminent danger to the health or welfare of the citizens of the District and were a deterioration of a critical service of the District. **A Motion to approve the City proceeding with addressing the three matters at a total cost of up to \$19,200.00 was made by Commissioner Rivers, seconded by Commissioner Thomson, and passed by a 4-0 vote.**

Harbormaster Mauldin also spoke on the potential benefit of pursuing a new San Sebastian slow speed zone and requested authorization from the District to pursue the necessary permit modification with FWC. No expenditure of District funds was sought in conjunction with this. **A Motion to approve proceeding with seeking permit modification with FWC was made by Commissioner Thomson, seconded by Commissioner Binder, and passed by a 4-0 vote.**

## **12. NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. Funding Request for a New RIB for Police Vessel**

Patrick Harvey of the St. Augustine Police Marine Operations Unit presented a funding request for a replacement collar(hybrid RIB). The use and function of the collar was described and a completed funding application had been submitted in advance of the meeting. The funding request was in the amount of \$18,772.09. **A Motion to approve the funding request of \$18,772.09 was made by Commissioner Binder, seconded by Commissioner Rivers, and passed by a 4-0 vote.**

## **13. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Carl Blow spoke on FIND funding that can be sought for law enforcement vessels. For future reference, he indicated that up to \$100,000.00 can be available with a 50/50 match and that the deadline for applications for such funding is at the end of March.

## **14. COMMENTS BY COMMISSIONERS**

Commissioner Rivers commented that it was good to have any funding applications submitted well in advance of the Commission meetings to allow time for review.

Chairman Brown mentioned pending Federal rulemaking as to vessels over 35 feet to address right whale protection.

Commissioner Thomson commented on the Commission being able to fund items such as those approved at the meeting as a result of good budget management by the Commissioners.

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

**15. NEXT MEETING**

May 21, 2024, was announced as the next regular meeting date. As such, the **next regular meeting will be at 3:00, p.m., on Tuesday, May 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 3:39, p.m.

---

Secretary-Treasurer

---

Commission Chairman Brown