

ST. AUGUSTINE PORT, WATERWAY & BEACH DISTRICT
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
Tuesday, May 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 Tuesday, May 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, Commissioner Tom Rivers, Commissioner Linda Thomson, and Commissioner Nicholas Binder were present in person at the start of the meeting and Vice-Chairman Way joined the meeting shortly following the adoption of the agenda. 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 Rivers, seconded by Commissioner Binder, and passed by a 4-0 vote.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

7. GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVE COMMENTS

Eric Mauldin, St. Augustine Municipal Marina Harbormaster, indicated that the channel marker and signage issues addressed at the April 16, 2024, meeting had been completed, except for the signage for rocks, which was to be installed this week. Further, rather than the approved cost of up to \$19,200.00, the project was

expected to be completed for \$18,055.00 and the District would pay only what the total ended up being.

Harbormaster Mauldin also presented a request for funding for derelict boat removal on behalf of Corey Sakryd, General Services Director for the City of St. Augustine. The request was in the amount of \$3,919.50 for the removal of two boats. **A Motion to approve the funding request was made by Commissioner Thomson, seconded by Commissioner Rivers, and passed by a 5-0 vote.**

Corporal Aaron Braddock of the St. Johns County Sheriff's Air and Marine Unit gave a report on a shrimp boat that had been on a mooring dolphin for a prolonged time.

Patrick Harvey of the St. Augustine Police Marine Operations Unit advised that the grant of \$18,772.09 given at the April 16, 2024, Commission meeting for a replacement collar would not be fully utilized. Instead, the cost was expected to come in at \$17,685.93 and the reimbursement request to the District would be in the final lower amount.

Chris Pacetti, Assistant Fire Chief of the City of St. Augustine Fire Department ("SAFD"), gave an overview of recent calls involving his department, including a particularly challenging one involving a runaway vessel from a dock.

8. SECRETARY-TREASURER'S REPORT

Secretary-Treasurer Kemper then delivered the financial report. As of April 30, 2024, the District spent: \$4,070 for overtime hours of police officers of the City of St. Augustine; \$6,122 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. As of May 16, 2024, the State Board of Administration account had a balance of \$25,321. The Operating Account had \$765,111. The money market account had \$0 in the reserve for projects and \$1,321,207 in amounts not reserved for projects. Taxes received as of May 16, 2024, were \$759,162 for the current year and the balance of the remaining expected tax income was \$66,887.

9. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A Motion to approve the final circulated draft minutes of the March 21, 2024, regular meeting was made by Commissioner Rivers, seconded by Commissioner Binder, and passed by a 5-0 vote.

10. ENGINEERING REPORT

Ken Craig addressed Commission Binder's questions regarding the City of St. Augustine Beach walkover project and indicated that the project was being directed and overseen by the City. It was suggested that Commissioner Binder would ask the City to present an update on the project at an upcoming meeting.

Mr. Craig discussed the area beach nourishment projects and indicated that the St. Augustine Beach nourishment project was delayed to avoid unreasonable impact on shore bird nesting season. It was also noted that sea turtle nesting season was beginning.

11. OLD BUSINESS

None.

12. NEW BUSINESS

A. Channel Marker Replacement Procedure

Discussion was had on prior procedures for addressing channel marker and signage repairs and replacements and the potential benefit of establishing a current uniform procedure going forward. Direction was given to General Counsel Meek to prepare a draft Resolution establishing procedures for such repair and replacement in accord with Commission guidance. That draft Resolution was to be brought back before the Commission for further consideration.

Discussion was initiated by Vice-Chairman Way and had on the potential benefit of obtaining a temporary marker bouy or bouys that could be used for times markers are missing. The Commission generally felt that warranted consideration upon having further information, including the potential cost of such, which was to be investigated.

B. Linda Thomson Resignation

Commissioner Thomson announced her resignation from Seat 1, effective August 30, 2024, as she intends to run for St. Johns County School Board, District 5. General Counsel Meek advised that, given the timing of when the resignation would be effective, the vacancy would be appropriately filled by appointment by the Governor. The Commission directed General Counsel Meek to proceed with the necessary steps to notify the Governor's Office and coordinate the process for appointment of a new Commissioner to Commissioner Thompson's seat.

13. PUBLIC COMMENT

Christopher Lowe spoke regarding a mobile pump out business he operates in the area and expressed concerns about area boaters improperly discharging in the waterways. Corporal Aaron Braddock of the St. Johns County Sheriff's Air and Marine Unit, Patrick Harvey of the St. Augustine Police Marine Operations Unit, and Eric Mauldin, St. Augustine Municipal Marina Harbormaster, all spoke regarding efforts made by local governmental entities to address that problem. They also provided Mr. Lowe with contact information to assist with those efforts when he sees or is aware of specific problems or problem areas.

14. COMMENTS BY COMMISSIONERS

Chairman Brown briefly discussed polluted waterways grant funding information.

Commissioner Thomson indicated she had enjoyed her time on the Commission and will miss everyone as she attempts to move on to the School Board. All Commissioners expressed well wishes to Commissioner Thomson and thanked her for her service.

15. NEXT MEETING

June 18, 2024, was announced as the next regular meeting date. As such, the **next regular meeting will be at 3:00, p.m., on Tuesday, June 18, 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 3:51, p.m.

Secretary-Treasurer

Commission Chairman Brown