

ST. AUGUSTINE PORT, WATERWAY & BEACH DISTRICT
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
Tuesday, November 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, November 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

The Invocation was passed.

4. Swearing In

Nicholas Binder was sworn in by Clay Meek, General Counsel. Mr. Binder was appointed by the Governor to fill seat group 2 vacated by Jane West.

5. ROLL CALL

Chairman Matt Brown, Vice-Chairman Chris Way, and Commissioner Nicholas Binder were present at the start of the meeting. Commissioner Tom Rivers and Commissioner Linda Thomson were delayed due to traffic being obstructed by an accident, but arrived prior to all votes taken by the Commission following 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.

6. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

A Motion to approve the agenda was made by Vice-Chairman Way, seconded by Commissioner Binder, and passed by a 3-0 vote.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

8. GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVE COMMENTS

Lieutenant Bill Miller of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission ("FWC") spoke briefly regarding a process by which an owner of a vessel at risk of being found derelict can turn over title to the vessel to the state before the vessel is declared derelict.

Deputy Richard Michaux of the St. Johns County Sheriff's Air and Marine Unit spoke regarding debris that had been identified off the coast that may be from the vessel Carol Ann. The Carol Ann was noted to have been missing since October and Deputy Michaux indicated that any questions as to the matter or the three missing boaters from the Carol Ann should be directed to U.S. Coast Guard Sector Miami.

Eric Mauldin, St. Augustine Municipal Marina Harbormaster, indicated the Marina Breakwater dock repairs were about 1/3 complete. He also addressed the Commission about contact from the state regarding inspections to wake control markers within the District and indicated the City was willing to undertake the inspections. All Commissioners expressed agreement to the offer. General Counsel Meek indicated that there was some concern over whether an interlocal would be advisable and it was agreed that he would be in contact with Mr. Mauldin and, if needed, the City Attorney for the City of St. Augustine to move forward.

Corey Sakryd, General Services Director for the City of St. Augustine, spoke briefly regarding the Salt Run channel interlocal agreement to be presented in accord with the funding added by the District to the current year's budget at the May 16, 2023, District Commission meeting.

Carl Blow of the Florida Inland Navigation District ("FIND") reviewed the upcoming FIND application deadline and that potential funding had increased for law enforcement boats, addressing spoil islands near waterways, and derelict boat removal. The FIND grant application deadline was the end of March, 2024. He also indicated that the dredging at Matanzas Inlet was to finish sometime in 2024.

9. SECRETARY-TREASURER'S REPORT

Secretary-Treasurer Kemper then delivered the financial report. As of October 31, 2023, the District spent: \$0 for overtime hours of police officers of the City of St. Augustine; \$3,032 for overtime hours of deputies of the St. Johns County Sheriff's

Department; \$2,844 for derelict boats; and, \$84,425 for unspecified marine projects. The State Board of Administration account had a balance of \$24,629. The Operating Account had \$459,275 as of October 31, 2023. The money market account had \$0 in the reserve for projects and \$1,118,296 in amounts not reserved for projects. Taxes received as of October 31, 2023, were \$56,103 for the current year and the balance of the remaining expected tax income was \$769,946.

10. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A Motion to approve the minutes of the October 17, 2023, regular meeting was made by Commissioner Thomson, seconded by Vice-Chairman Way, and passed by a 5-0 vote.

11. ENGINEERING REPORT

Ken Craig indicated the Summer Haven study had been completed and was expected to be presented to the County Council in December. Mr. Craig also discussed the current beach restoration projects in the area.

12. OLD BUSINESS

None.

13. NEW BUSINESS

A. Grant Application to NOAA for Enhancement to Bird Island

J. B. Miller, Land Management Coordinator for the City of St. Augustine, provided an overview of a grant application being made to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration ("NOAA") regarding enhancement to Fish Island a/k/a Julia's Island. If approved, the enhancements would improve the Island's function as a bird nesting habitat. If approved, the project was contemplated to take three years for design and build, which was noted as an ambitious, but feasible, timeline. No funding was being sought from the District for this project.

14. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

15. COMMENTS BY COMMISSIONERS

All Commissioners wished everyone present a Happy Thanksgiving.

16. NEXT MEETING

December 19, 2023, was announced as the next regular meeting date. As such, the **next regular meeting will be at 3:00, p.m., on December 19, 2023**, at the St. Augustine Beach City Commission Meeting Room, 2200 A1A South, St. Augustine Beach, Florida.

17. ADJOURN

There being no further business, Chairman Matt Brown adjourned the meeting at 3:39, p.m.

Secretary-Treasurer

Commission Chairman Brown