

ST. AUGUSTINE PORT, WATERWAY & BEACH DISTRICT
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
Tuesday, November 16, 2021

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 16, 2021.

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, and Commissioners Tom Rivers, Sandy Flowers, and Jane West 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 motion to approve the agenda was made by Commissioner West, seconded by Commissioner Rivers, and passed by a 5-0 vote.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

7. GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVE COMMENTS

Carlos Aviles, Chief of the City of St. Augustine Fire Department, appeared and thanked the District for the continued support. The recent storm caused a great deal of activity from the fire department and the support from the District was helpful in being able to meet the needs caused by the storm.

Jim Piggott appeared on behalf of the City of St. Augustine. Mr. Piggott mentioned four items. The invoice for removal of the piece of dock that had been removed from the waterways was \$4,000.00 and presented to Ms. Kemper. No boats were lost from the mooring field as a result of the recent storm. The FIND grant application for dredging is due in March, so an interlocal agreement would be presented shortly for that continued project. Last, there were two derelict boats to be pulled, one from the Salt Run and one by the Doug Crane boat ramp, for a total cost of \$7,450.00, to be paid for in a 75%/25% proportion with FIND. The District's 25% portion would be \$1,862.50. **A Motion to approve the expenditure from the derelict boats removal budget was made by Commissioner West, second by Commissioner Flowers, and carried by a 5-0 vote.**

Patrick Harvey of the St. Augustine Police Marine Unit indicated that there was a derelict boat next to the bridge tied to DOT property. The actual owner and registered owner were not the same. The City was reaching out to the registered owner at this stage and also starting the 90 day derelict boat process.

Sydney Lindblad of St. Johns County Parks and Recreation Department briefly presented and reviewed beach damage from the storm. There was significant beach erosion, but the beaches were largely reopened/reopening. Commissioner West thanked her for the outreach from the County and one-on-one meetings with the District Commissioners.

Sergeant Josh Underwood of the St. Johns County Sheriff's Marine Unit appeared next and also indicated they had been busy with boat problems from the storm. He requested that the District consider establishing a fund/budget for towing costs for boats in storms in emergent situations. Commissioner Flowers agreed to look into gathering information on towing costs and Chairman Brown agreed to look into whether other Port Authorities have similar funds.

Chris Pacetti of the St. Augustine Fire Department appeared next and described the many problems from the recent storm. There were 10 may-day calls in the storm and 5 bridge strikes.

8. SECRETARY-TREASURER'S REPORT

Secretary-Treasurer Kemper delivered the financial report. As of October 31, 2021, the District spent: \$0 for overtime hours of police officers of the City of St. Augustine and \$1,153 for overtime hours of deputies of the St. John's County Sheriff's

Department. The State Board of Administration account had a balance of \$23,169. The Operating Account had \$220,130 as of October 31, 2021. The money market account had \$1,500,000 in the reserve for projects and \$986,440 in addition. Taxes received as of October 31, 2021, were \$10,665.

9. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion to approve the minutes of the October 19, 2021, regular meeting was made by Vice-Chairman Way, seconded by Commissioner Rivers, and passed by a 5-0 vote.

10. ENGINEERING REPORT

Ken Craig of Taylor Engineering indicated there was nothing to report other than to discuss matters on the agenda under old business. Commissioner Flowers questioned Mr. Craig about the damage from the storm. The FEMA dune had been significantly damaged, but the District dune performed well and was largely intact. Commissioner Flowers asked about getting a drone video from Taylor Engineering showing the extent of the damage for review.

11. OLD BUSINESS

A. Purchase of Radiation Detector

Sergeant Josh Underwood was present to address further questions. There was discussion about pursuing Federal grants or other funding sources. Chris Pacetti joined Sergeant Underwood to describe the efforts to secure other funding and the problems encountered. Ultimately a **Motion to approve the funding request of \$13,500.00 was made by Commissioner Flowers, seconded by Commissioner Rivers, and carried by a 4-1 vote, with Chairman Brown opposed.**

B. Summer Haven Sand Fencing

Mr. Craig indicated that a sand fencing permit had been obtained from DEP and noted it was not currently turtle nesting season. Terry Parker of the Friends of the Summer Haven River discussed options for overseeing the project from bidding to completion to extend sand fencing north from the area approved for projects done by the County. The Commission had concerns and wanted further information before agreeing to proceed with agreeing to the full project. There was no estimate of the cost of the project and Mr. Parker agreed to secure three bids to bring back to the next

Commission meeting. **A Motion to authorize Friends of Summer Haven to obtain three bids to be brought brought back for consideration made by Chairman Brown, seconded by Vice-Chairman Way, and passed by a 5-0 vote.**

C. Army Corp permit extension

Mr. Craig indicated the request had been made and was pending. The permit remained valid until the request was approved or denied and there was no way to know how long that would take.

12. New Business

A. Presentation Regarding Impaired Water Quality

Jen Lomberk described the Matanzas Riverkeeper organization as a non-profit, non-governmental organization that works to improve water quality in various ways from advocating rules and regulations to the Litter-getter boat. After describing the activities, efforts, and problems being addressed, Ms. Lomberk described a funding/grant interest. There was significant interest among the Commissioners and a **Motion to have Ms. Lomberk return with a specific funding request was made by Commissioner West, Seconded by Chairman Brown, and carried by a 5-0 vote.**

B. Port Property Lease Request

An inquiry as to use of/building on District property had been received and options for addressing the current and possible future requests was presented. After significant discussion, the Commission agreed that a specific proposal would need to be made with details by any person before the matter could be considered at all, but there was a strong opposition to the general concept of the use of District property by a private entity.

13. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

14. COMMENTS BY COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Flowers had suggested considering hiring a part-time Executive Director in earlier discussions. In Commissioner Comments, Commissioner Rivers agreed that this or a consultant was something that should be considered and discussed further and it was agreed that this would be placed on a future agenda for

discussion. Commissioner Rivers also mentioned the need for a Commissioner to attend the Nights of Lights for the District and Commissioner West agreed to do so.

Chairman Brown indicated that he had been gathering information on the idea of a boat ramp under the 312 bridge. Positive headway and response had been given by the DOT and County thus far.

Commissioner West renewed the suggestion that an updating of the District's website should be looked at.

Commissioner Flowers indicated a desire to move the Commissioner meetings to 5:00, p.m., in the St. Augustine City Hall.

There were no other Commissioner comments.

15. NEXT MEETING

December 21, 2021, was announced as the next regular meeting date. As such, the **next regular meeting will be at 3:00, p.m., on December 16, 2021**, at the St. Augustine Beach City Commission Meeting Room, 2200 AlA South, St. Augustine Beach, Florida.

16. ADJOURN

There being no further business, Chairman Matt Brown adjourned the meeting at 4:33, p.m.

Secretary-Treasurer

Commission Chairman Brown