

ST. AUGUSTINE PORT, WATERWAY & BEACH DISTRICT
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
Tuesday, June 21, 2022

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, June 21, 2022.

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 Rivers gave the Invocation.

4. ROLL CALL

Chairman Matt Brown, Vice-Chairman Chris Way, and Commissioners Tom Rivers and Sandy Flowers 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 Vice-Chairman Way, seconded by Commissioner Flowers, and passed by a 4-0 vote.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

7. GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVE COMMENTS

Jim Piggott, Director of the General Services Department of the City of St. Augustine, made a derelict boat removal reimbursement request for \$1,315.15. A Motion to approve the request was made by Vice-Chairman Way, seconded by Commissioner Rivers, and passed by a 4-0 vote.

Mr. Piggott also noted that budget season was approaching and reminded that the yearly cost sharing for Salt Run Dredging would be coming up and \$50,000.00 would be requested again.

Lieutenant Josh Underwood of the St. Johns County Sheriff's Air and Marine Unit indicted there was a new derelict boat on South Ponte Vedra Beach and FWC was the lead agency on it. The marker down in San Sebastian was being disposed of and notice was given to the Coast Guard for replacement. It was noted that there had been an increase in derelict vessels.

Patrick Harvey of the St. Augustine Police Marine Unit, commented on the new derelict vessel in San Sebastian. It had changed owners, but the owner does not appear to have the means to remove it and the removal process was moving forward.

Ryan Kane, Director of Parks and Recreation for St. Johns County, and Gail Oliver, Director of Land management for St. Johns County, discussed boat ramp and beach access projects and gave out a white sheet summarizing such. Numerous improvements and construction plans were discussed in various stages regarding a Vilano Jetty Study, Butler West, Doug Crane, Palm Valley east, Palm Valley West, and the Vilano Boat Ramp. Project costs were significantly higher than initially projected and budgeted, but the County was pushing forward to increase waterway access. Ms. Oliver described the challenges and process for acquiring land for use in public projects such as boat ramps. The ideal spot for a boat ramp would be 5 to 10 acres and private buyers are able to frequently pay more. Ms. Oliver was asked about the potential for the land under the 312 bridge and she indicated that the problems with the land under the 312 bridge were access and dredging needs. The goal of the County was to find a good deep-water access location to minimize ongoing dredging needs and costs.

8. SECRETARY-TREASURER'S REPORT

Secretary-Treasurer Kemper delivered the financial report. As of May 31, 2022, the District spent: \$2,460 for overtime hours of police officers of the City of St. Augustine; \$10,922 for overtime hours of deputies of the St. John's County Sheriff's Department; and, \$11,124 for derelict boats. The State Board of Administration account had a balance of \$23,210. The Operating Account had \$428,238 as of May 31, 2022. The money market account had \$1,500,000 in the reserve for projects and \$1,112,197 in addition. Taxes received as of May 31, 2022, were \$600,602.

A call had been placed to Tallahassee for guidance for remote meetings and Ms. Kemper was awaiting a call back and would follow-up.

9. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Meek noted that two changes were to be made to the draft May minutes: changing the spelling of "Crowder" to "Krauter" on page 2, and changing "steam" to "stream" on page 3. **A Motion to approve the May minutes with the noted changes was made by Commissioner Rivers, seconded by Vice-Chairman Way, and carried by a 4-0 vote.**

10. ENGINEERING REPORT

Ken Craig advised that the County had issued a Request for Proposals to the five (5) consultants previously selected to submit proposals for a Summer Haven study.

11. OLD BUSINESS

A. Grant Application for Dredge at Dolphin Drive Basin

Corey Sakryd, Grants Administrator for the City of St. Augustine, made a presentation for a dredging grant proposal to dredge the mouth of the Dolphin Drive Boat Basin in accord with the direction given at the May 17, 2022, meeting. After discussion of the public/private considerations of the benefits of the dredging, **a Motion to approve the application was made by Commissioner Flowers, seconded by Vice-Chairman Way, and passed by a 3-1 vote, with Chairman Brown opposed.**

Immediately following that vote, Commissioner Flowers left the meeting.

12. NEW BUSINESS

A. Sunshine Law Presentation

As Commissioner Flowers left after voting on item 11A, only three (3) of five (5) commissioners remained present. Accordingly, the Sunshine Law presentation was tabled for the following meeting when all Commissioners could be present for it.

13. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

14. COMMENTS BY COMMISSIONERS

Vice-Chairman Way raised an issue regarding an emergency water hazard. Vice-Chairman Way and Jim Piggott then discussed the floating hazard of a five (5) by ten (10) foot section of floating dock that had been discovered floating free in the waterway near the Villages of Vilano. The floating dock was an urgent hazard to navigation. The cost to have Sea Tow move the emergent hazard from the waterway to the marina to then be removed was estimated at \$5,000.00 to \$6,000.00. The towing charge alone was estimated at up to \$4,000.00. **A Motion to approve expenditure of up to \$5,000.00 to address the hazard was made by Chairman Brown, seconded by Commissioner Rivers, and passed by a 3-0 vote.**

Commissioner Rivers wished all a happy 4th of July.

15. NEXT MEETING

July 19, 2022, was announced as the next regular meeting date. As such, the **next regular meeting will be at 3:00, p.m., on July 19, 2022,** at the St. Augustine Beach City Commission Meeting Room, 2200 A1A South, St. Augustine Beach, Florida. The August meeting was discussed and announced as being at 3:00, p.m., on August 9, 2022.

16. ADJOURN

There being no further business, Chairman Matt Brown adjourned the meeting at 4:00, p.m.

Secretary-Treasurer

Commission Chairman Brown