

ST. AUGUSTINE PORT, WATERWAY & BEACH DISTRICT
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
Tuesday, July 19, 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, July 19, 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

No Invocation was given.

4. ROLL CALL

Chairman Matt Brown, Vice-Chairman Chris Way, and Commissioner Sandy Flowers were present at the start of the meeting. 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. Commissioner Rivers arrived after the start of the meeting as set forth below.

5. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

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

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

7. GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVE COMMENTS

Jim Piggott, Director of the General Services Department of the City of St. Augustine, indicated that the City would be making a request for a slow-speed wake zone for an area within the District to FWC if and when it had successfully completed its second reading at the City. Chairman Brown asked and suggested that a letter of support from the District might help and Mr. Piggott indicated the

City would be happy for any support. It was agreed that a draft letter would be prepared by Chairman Brown for consideration and discussion by the Commission as a whole at the next meeting.

Mr. Piggott next made a derelict boat removal reimbursement request for \$1,150 from the District with the total estimated removal cost being \$3,450. **A Motion to approve the request was made by, Chairman Brown, seconded Vice-Chairman Way, and passed by a 3-0 vote.**

Carl Blow of the Florida Inland Navigation District ("FIND") began by indicating that a letter of support for a proposed slow-speed wake zone proposed by the City of St. Augustine would be a good idea.

Mr. Blow next provided a handout regarding 2021-2022 FIND Assistance Program Application Rankings and discussed the applications. The Salt Run dredging project ranked highly, along with an application from St. Johns County for the Riverdale Boat Ramp Parking, Phase 1.

Mr. Blow also encouraged the Commission to not use the roll-back rate when discussing the upcoming year's tax rate due to anticipated negative effects of inflation. Projects previously planned and budgeted will likely end up being significantly over the budgeted amounts when they go out to bid.

The first phase of Palm Valley dredging with the Army Corps of Engineers was going well. It was expected to be close to completion in August.

Mr. Piggott then came back to share a just received communication from the harbor master indicating that there were Salt Run pilings needing maintenance or gone. Green one (1) was gone and Green seven (7) was leaning. Vice-Chairman Way offered to contact Yelton, but Commissioner Flowers objected and suggested that it be done by Taylor Engineering. Commissioner Flowers suggested that someone she had spoken with should do the piling replacement. Ultimately, it was agreed that Taylor, Commissioner Flowers, Vice-Chairman Way, and any other Commissioner who wished would all attempt to secure proposals to present and consider at the next meeting.

8. SECRETARY-TREASURER'S REPORT

Secretary-Treasurer Kemper delivered the financial report. As of June 30, 2022, the District spent: \$2,460 for overtime hours of police officers of the City of St. Augustine; \$15,104 for overtime hours of deputies of the St. John's County Sheriff's Department; and, \$12,439 for derelict boats. The State Board of Administration account had a balance of \$23,234. The Operating Account had \$434,386 as of June 30, 2022. The money market account had \$1,500,000 in the reserve for projects and \$1,112,305 in addition. Taxes received as of June 30, 2022, were \$623,233.

9. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Meek noted that Chairman Brown had noticed one change to be made to the draft June minutes: changing the spelling of "budge" to "budget" on the first line of page 2. **A Motion to approve the June minutes with the noted change was made by Chairman Brown, seconded by Vice-Chairman Way, and carried by a 2-0 vote, with Commissioner Flowers abstaining.**

10. ENGINEERING REPORT

Ken Craig advised that he had followed up as directed regarding a shoaling concern raised in the last meeting. The Army Corps of Engineers was aware of the shoaling in the Federal Channel in the inlet, a survey had been done, and they were monitoring it.

11. OLD BUSINESS

A. Sunshine Law Presentation

At that point in the meeting, only three (3) of five (5) commissioners were present. Further, some of the presentation bore upon information that could be pertinent to the website redesign being reviewed by Commissioner West. Accordingly, the Sunshine Law presentation was tabled for the following meeting when all Commissioners could be present for it.

12. NEW BUSINESS

A. Establish Proposed Millage Rate

Shortly after moving to this item, Commissioner Rivers arrived and participated in the substantive discussions of and voting upon this agenda item. Chairman Brown started the discussion by agreeing with the considerations voiced by Mr. Blow. He further

noted that the recent grant of over \$300,000 to the City of St. Augustine Beach for walkovers was likely to increase the number of grant and funding requests going forward. All Commissioners other than Commissioner Flowers were in accord with those thoughts. **A Motion to proceed with last year's tax rate and not the roll-back rate was made by Vice-Chairman Way, seconded by Commissioner Rivers, and carried by a 3-1 vote, with Commissioner Flowers opposed.**

13. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

14. COMMENTS BY COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Flowers asked what "district assessment" was on the financial records and all explained that it was the charge assessed by the Tax Collector in gathering and depositing the tax revenue into the District's account. Vice-Chairman Way indicated the residents of Villages of Vilano had expressed their thanks for quickly dealing with the emergency hazard floating dock issue, which was resolved for 30% of the anticipated maximum cost appropriately approved at the June, 2022, District Commission meeting.

15. NEXT MEETING

August 9, 2022, was announced as the next regular meeting date. As such, the **next regular meeting will be at 3:00, p.m., on August 9, 2022**, 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 4:47, p.m.

Secretary-Treasurer

Commission Chairman Brown