

ST. AUGUSTINE PORT, WATERWAY & BEACH DISTRICT
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
Tuesday, August 9, 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, August 9, 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. 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

It was suggested that the agenda be amended with agenda item 11A be moved to a future meeting when all Commissioners could be present. In its place consideration of piling replacement as discussed at the July 19, 2022, meeting would be had. **A Motion to approve the agenda with that amendment was made by Chairman Brown, seconded by Vice-Chairman Way, 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, spoke to indicate indicated that the City was aware of and supported the Genovar land purchase for a boat ramp proposed by the County. Further, to assist, the City was not

going to apply for a FIND grant for Salt Run dredging in the coming year in light of the limited FIND funds that can be given per geographic county, per year.

8. SECRETARY-TREASURER'S REPORT

Secretary-Treasurer Kemper delivered the financial report. As of July 31, 2022, the District spent: \$3,860 for overtime hours of police officers of the City of St. Augustine; \$15,134 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 \$426,894 as of July 31, 2022. The money market account had \$1,500,000 in the reserve for projects and \$1,112,305 in addition. Taxes received as of July 31, 2022, were \$623,906.

9. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Meek noted that a second draft set of minutes had been prepared and distributed to all Commissioners after the first set was done. Each set was factually accurate, but the second set more clearly reflected the attendance at the July 19, 2022, meeting. **A Motion to approve the second draft of the minutes was made by Chairman Brown, seconded by Vice-Chairman Way, and carried by a 2-1 vote with Commissioner Flowers opposed.**

10. ENGINEERING REPORT

As described in item 11(A) below, Ken Craig delivered the engineering report, which consisted of obtaining bids for piling replacement as directed at the prior meeting.

11. OLD BUSINESS

A. Piling Replacement

Ken Craig advised that Taylor Engineering had followed up as directed regarding the pilings, had prepared appropriate and detailed scope of services to be performed, and had solicited bids from five appropriate businesses. One bid was received back from Hayward Construction Group in the amount of \$9,470.00. After questioning and discussion, **a Motion to accept the bid and direct the work to proceed in the scope and manner originally proposed was made by Chairman Brown, seconded by Vice-Chairman Way, and carried by a 2-1 vote, with Commissioner Flowers opposed.**

12. NEW BUSINESS

A. Letter of Support No Wake Zone

Carl Blow of the Florida Inland Navigation District ("FIND") indicated that FWC was generally opposed to no wake zones that were primarily for the benefit of private waterfront property. He suggested that the request not be related to private waterfront property and instead focus on public benefit as much as possible.

As this was the City of St. Augustine's application, it would be the City's purview on what was emphasized, but the District supported the goal. A draft letter in support had been prepared by Chairman Brown. **A Motion to approve and send the letter as drafted was made by Vice-Chairman Way, seconded by Commissioner Flowers, and carried by a 3-0 vote.**

B. Port Contribution to Genovar Boat Ramp Purchase

Gail Oliver, Director of Land management for St. Johns County, indicated that a parcel of land of approximately 31 acres had been located that appeared to be appropriate for a regional size boat ramp. The parcel had a purchase price of \$17,500,000.00. St. Johns County Commissioner Henry Dean joined Ms. Oliver and it was described that various sources of County funding were to be used, including some that had been designated for purchase of a parcel of land such as this, but that \$8,000,000.00 was going to have to come from the County's general fund unless other non-County funding was found. It was expressed that the opportunity to purchase this parcel was viewed as rare and getting rarer with development and that the County did not want to miss the opportunity and the County was asking for as much financial assistance as the District was able and willing to give. It was made clear that a use of the parcel was intended to be construction of a boat ramp. It was further noted that all that was being discussed was and the request for funding assistance from the District at this time was for the purchase of the parcel. The desire was to ensure that the parcel could be obtained while the opportunity was present. After discussion and questioning, **a Motion to contribute \$1,500,000.00 to the purchase of the parcel was made by Chairman Brown, seconded by Vice-Chairman Way, and carried by a 3-0 vote.**

C. Engineering Contract

The contract with Taylor Engineering was to end on August 25, 2022, but had a provision in it to extend the contract under the terms set forth within the contract. The contract also contained provision to allow early termination of the contract upon written notice. Mr. Meek noted that many continuing service contracts that are now being renewed that were entered into a year or more ago are having to be renegotiated for higher amounts to account for the current inflation trends as opposed to the assumed inflation trends. Taylor was currently willing to renew the contract on the terms previously contracted. **A Motion to approve renewal of the contract was made by Chairman Brown, seconded by Vice-Chairman Way, and carried by a 2-1 vote.**

D. Discussion of Protocol for Disposal of Floating Docks

Commissioner Flowers expressed a desire that there be a requirement that a report be made with law enforcement and that a copy of the complaint be obtained from law enforcement before undertaking any public effort or expense to remove damaged, break-away, or otherwise unsecured floating docks or floating dock pieces in the waterways. Mr. Meek noted that the removals of hazards in the waterways can be urgent and adding steps to the process of removing hazards would increase the time the hazards existed in the waterways and the chances that the public's health, safety, and welfare were negatively impacted. After some discussion, Commissioner Flowers made a **Motion to have a requirement that a report be made with law enforcement and that a copy of the complaint be obtained from law enforcement before undertaking any public effort or expense to remove damaged, break-away, or otherwise unsecured floating docks or floating dock pieces in the waterways, which Motion died for lack of a second.**

13. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Carl Blow indicated he was excited about the Genovar boat ramp prospect and anticipated that FIND would be receptive to a grant application. Mr. Blow shared information on FIND's budget and potential money available for projects. Mr. Blow also encouraged the Commission to not use the roll-back tax rate due to anticipated negative effects of inflation. Mr. Blow commented that the boat ramp design for the Genovar boat ramp should include provision to accommodate a dredging barge to be unloaded.

14. COMMENTS BY COMMISSIONERS

None.

15. NEXT MEETING

September 15, 2022, was announced as the next regular meeting date with the first 2022-2023 TRIM hearing meeting to occur at 5:05 thereafter. As such, the **next regular meeting will be at 3:00, p.m., on September 15, 2022**, at the St. Augustine Beach City Commission Meeting Room, 2200 AlA South, St. Augustine Beach, Florida, with the first 2022-2023 TRIM hearing meeting to occur at 5:05, p.m., on the same date at the same location.

16. ADJOURN

There being no further business, Chairman Matt Brown adjourned the meeting at 4:08, p.m.

Secretary-Treasurer

Commission Chairman Brown