

**ST. AUGUSTINE PORT, WATERWAY & BEACH DISTRICT**  
**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING**  
**Thursday, September 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 Thursday, September 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 Tom Rivers 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.

**5. ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

A motion to approve the agenda was made by Commissioner Rivers, seconded by Commissioner West, and passed by a 5-0 vote.

**6. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Linda Ginn of the Friends of the Summer Haven River requested that the District request Taylor Engineering to seek a permit for sand fencing to allow for a cheaper cost for the project and that a letter seeking renewal of a permit for sand placement and dredging from the Army Corps of Engineers be signed off upon by the District. It was agreed that this would be discussed at the next meeting.

**7. GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVE COMMENTS**

Jim Piggott appeared on behalf of the City of St. Augustine. Mr. Piggott indicated that St. Augustine had been named a top 10 boating community. Mr. Piggott also indicated that bids for Salt

Run pilings to be handled by the City at the request of the Port Authority had been opened, two entities bid, and one was selected and would possibly be handling some pylon replacements for the City and would be available for the District, if requested. Mr. Piggott also indicated that Officer Pat Harvey was attending a marine law enforcement course.

Sergeant Josh Underwood of the St. Johns County Sheriff's Marine Unit appeared next. Sergeant Underwood briefly mentioned that a kayak had sunk and was saved by the airboat the District had helped fund. Sergeant Underwood also mentioned the need for renewal of the interlocal agreement regarding overtime hours funded by the District. **A Motion to continue operating under the interlocal agreement funding some overtime hours was made by Chairman Brown, seconded by Commissioner West, and carried by a 5-0 vote.** Sergeant Underwood then discussed a joint agency funding request for 10 (ten) Accurad PRD devices to be primarily used to detect radioactive devices. The devices are \$1,350.00 each, for a total of \$13,500.00 to be shared and used by City of St. Augustine and County fire, rescue, and law enforcement agencies. During the discussion, Sergeant Underwood was joined by Eric Helstrom and Chris Pacetti of the St. Augustine Fire Department and Aaron Braddock of the St. Johns County Sheriff's Office. All of these individuals described and explained the concern to be addressed by the requested devices and how such devices help to prevent low-level terrorist radioactive devices. It was requested that more information regarding the need for the devices, such as port security risk assessment information, be provided and the request would be further considered at the next regular District meeting.

Sydney Lindblad and Nathan Otter of St. Johns County Parks and Recreation Department briefly presented and indicated that beach season was wrapping up and that it had been a good season. Mr. Otter indicated that a representative of public works was not available for the current meeting, but would come before the Port District in a subsequent meeting to give an overview of the projects coming up.

Steve Zukowski, Patrol Supervisor Lieutenant, of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission ("FWC") spoke regarding several matters. The presentation included a history of the issue of a damaged sailboat at the seawall on Dolphin Drive. The boat had been declared derelict while in public waters, but the boat



got moved to the private property and moored to the seawall, which makes it a civil issue between the boat owner and seawall owner as it is considered trash on the private property. Greater money is going into the at-risk derelict boat program in an effort to avoid boats going into derelict status. With this, the third citation for boats nearing and/or reaching derelict status will be a criminal violation.

#### **8. SECRETARY-TREASURER'S REPORT**

Secretary-Treasurer Kemper delivered the financial report. As of August 31, 2021, the District spent: \$3,054 for overtime hours of police officers of the City of St. Augustine and \$11,166 for overtime hours of deputies of the St. John's County Sheriff's Department. The State Board of Administration account had a balance of \$23,165. The Operating Account had \$235,489 as of August 31, 2021. The money market account had \$1,500,000 in the reserve for projects and \$986,239 in addition. Taxes received as of August 31, 2021, were \$584,140, which was \$740 greater than budgeted for the fiscal year due to interest and fees.

#### **9. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**A motion to approve the minutes of the August 17, 2021, regular meeting was made by Commissioner Rivers, seconded by Vice-Chairman Way, and passed by a 5-0 vote.**

#### **10. ENGINEERING REPORT**

There was no representative of Taylor Engineering present and no Engineering Report.

#### **11. OLD BUSINESS**

##### **A. Motion and Vote on Proposed Summer Haven Study**

##### **B. May Street Kayak Launch Review Info From DEP**

There was discussion and regarding Commissioner Flowers indicating that the \$1,500.00 cost for DEP review of the May Street question would likely be waived upon submission of an exemption. After some discussion and question as to information to substantiate the assertion, a **Motion to have Secretary-Treasurer Kemper sign and send in the exemption request to DEP was made by Commissioner**

Flowers, seconded by Vice-Chairman Way, and carried by a 4-1 vote, with Commissioner Rivers opposed.

12. New Business

None.

13. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

14. COMMENTS BY COMMISSIONERS

None.

15. NEXT MEETING

October 19, 2021, was announced as the next regular meeting date. As such, the **next regular meeting will be at 3:00, p.m., on October 19, 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 4:42, p.m.

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Secretary-Treasurer

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Commission Chairman Brown