

**MINUTES OF MEETING
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA
MAY 1, 2017
9:00 A.M.**

Proceedings of a joint meeting of the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) of St. Johns County, Florida, and the St. Augustine Beach City Commission (City) of St. Johns County, Florida, held in the auditorium at the County Administration Building, 500 San Sebastian View, St. Augustine, Florida.

Proof of publication of the joint meeting was received, having been published in *The St. Augustine Record* on April 20, 2017.

Present: James K. Johns, District 1, Chair
Henry Dean, District 5, Vice Chair
Jeb S. Smith, District 2
Paul M. Waldron, District 3
Michael Wanchick, County Administrator
Patrick McCormack, County Attorney
Natasha McGee, Deputy Clerk

City Commission: Rich O'Brien, Mayor
Undine George, Vice Mayor
Maggie Kostka, City Commissioner
Margaret England, City Commissioner
S. Gary Snodgrass, City Commissioner
Jim Wilson, City Attorney for St. Augustine Beach

Also present: Darrell Locklear, Assistant County Administrator; and Joy Andrews, Assistant County Administrator

Absent: Jay Morris, District 4

(05/01/17 - 1 - 9:00 a.m.)
CALL TO ORDER

Johns called the meeting to order.

(05/01/17 - 1 - 9:00 a.m.)
ROLL CALL

The clerk called the roll: All Board and St. Augustine Beach City Commission members were present, with Morris absent.

(11:20 a.m.) Subsequently, McCormack stated that Morris was not in attendance, due to a long-standing appointment.

(05/01/17 - 1 - 9:01 a.m.)
INVOCATION

Commissioner Smith gave the invocation.

(05/01/17 - 1 - 9:02 a.m.)
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Johns led the Pledge of Allegiance.

(05/01/17 - 2 - 9:02 a.m.)
PUBLIC COMMENT

Ed Slavin, P.O. Box 3084, spoke on joint meetings and growth in St. Johns County.

(9:06 a.m.) Tom Reynolds, 880 A1A Beach Boulevard, spoke on the remodeling of Ron Parker Memorial Recreational Park. He stated he was in opposition to a proposed skate park.

(9:08 a.m.) Merrill Roland, 6281 Old Dixie Drive, spoke on public health and safety concerns regarding the St. Augustine Beach Civic Association's Music by the Sea concert series.

(05/01/17 - 2 - 9:11 a.m.)
ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO REGULAR AGENDA

There were none.

(05/01/17 - 2 - 9:11 a.m.)
APPROVAL OF REGULAR AGENDA

Consensus was given, by both Boards, to approve the Regular Agenda.

Motion by Smith, seconded by Waldron, carried 5/0, to approve the Regular Agenda, as submitted.

(05/01/17 - 2 - 9:11 a.m.)
1. DISCUSSION OF BEACH RESTORATION

O'Brien introduced the discussion item and thanked the County for its involvement with beach renourishment efforts.

(9:12 a.m.) Snodgrass questioned the long-term beach renourishment plan. Neal Shinkre, Public Works Director, gave a summary of the short-term and long-term beach renourishment plans specific to St. Augustine Beach (SAB). Shinkre noted that a 50-year Federal Shore Protection Project (SSP) plan was established, approximately in 2000, and beach renourishments would occur every five years. He also noted that a fourth beach renourishment was anticipated in 2017. He stated Congressional funds for the nourishment were expected in mid-June, the commence date would be late October or early December, the project time span would be 3 to 6 months, the nourishment area would be 7,000 feet, and had an estimated cost of \$12.6 million.

(9:17 a.m.) Discussion ensued on optimization of the SSP and dune restoration. Billy Zeits, Beach Services, Parks and Recreation Assistant Director, provided additional information on beach driving and vehicle beach access.

(9:22 a.m.) Tom Reynold, 880 A1A Beach Boulevard, spoke on berm and dune restoration and safety concerns regarding beach driving.

(9:26 a.m.) Walter Kelly, 214 7th Street, spoke on sea oats restoration/vegetative erosion control.

(9:28 a.m.) Ed Slavin, P.O. Box 3084, spoke on mangroves, global ocean level rise, beach driving, off-beach parking, and enacting a St. Augustine National Historical Park and National Seashore.

(9:32 a.m.) Stuart Dornblaser, 1050 Cedar Cove Drive, representative of the South Ponte Vedra - Vilano Beach Preservation Association, spoke on the Vilano Beach restoration project. He stated that 40,000 to 50,000 feet of beach was still in need of sand.

(9:32 a.m.) Discussion ensued on permitting for vegetative erosion control.

(05/01/17 - 3 - 9:35 a.m.)

2. DISCUSSION OF OFF-BEACH PARKING

O'Brien introduced the discussion item. He noted that the City was not in a financial position to purchase and develop parking areas for visitors, and that the City wanted to maximize available parking and maintain the balance in the community regarding neighborhoods and visitors.

(9:37 a.m.) Merrill Roland, 6281 Old Dixie Drive, spoke on the reduction of parking spaces at Salt Life and Pier Park parking fees for the St. Augustine Beach Civic Association's Farmers Market.

(9:41 a.m.) Bob Samuels, 110 Mickler Boulevard, responded to public comment regarding Pier Park parking lot fees for the St. Augustine Beach Civic Association's Farmers Market.

(9:44 a.m.) Ed Slavin, P.O. Box 3084, spoke in favor of free parking.

(9:47 a.m.) Tom Reynolds, 880 A1A Beach Boulevard, spoke on establishing a parking plan and off-beach parking safety concerns.

(9:51 a.m.) Wanchick spoke on the future of the Pier Park parking lot. He noted that the County's long-term plan was to redirect parking to Vilano Beach and areas north, which would help develop Vilano Beach and increase federal funding for beach renourishment; and that off-beach parking fees would be considered in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2018 budget process.

(9:54 a.m.) Discussion ensued on off-beach parking fees; providing a discount to City residents; each Commission establishing an off-beach parking action item; shortage of available parking; community safety and security concerns; reduction of parking spaces at Salt Life; and alternative paid parking options.

(10:12 a.m.) *George requested a consensus, from both Commissions, to direct staff to provide quarterly off-beach parking updates, and to have both Commissions target off-beach parking as an action item. Consensus was given.*

(10:13 a.m.) Waldron supported having staff provide information to the Board of County Commissioners, before the commencement of FY 2018 budget hearings, regarding the City's accepted alternative paid parking options.

(05/01/17 - 3 - 10:14 a.m.)

3. DISCUSSION OF ROAD REPAIRS WITHIN THE CITY OF ST. AUGUSTINE BEACH

O'Brien introduced the discussion item. He identified the roads that required repair: 1) Pope Road, 2) 16th Street, 3) 11th Street, and 4) A1A Beach Boulevard. He noted that Pope Road, 16th Street, and 11th Street were in a state of disrepair and questioned the County's repair plan.

(10:14 a.m.) Neal Shinkre, Public Works Director, gave an update on the County's Pavement Management Program regarding the road repairs within the City.

(10:13 a.m.) Discussion ensued on A1A Beach Boulevard pedestrian and bicyclist safety; addition of dedicated bike lanes and traffic calming safety solutions; the City's development review process regarding pedestrian and bicyclist traffic and pedestrian safety; pedestrian roadway improvements; pedestrian safety awareness and education; monitoring and controlling pedestrian, bicycle, and vehicular traffic on A1A Beach Boulevard; and implementing an additional County bed tax to be used for infrastructure improvements. Additionally, Shinkre noted that the limited right-of-way restricted the addition of dedicated bike lanes.

(10:28 a.m.) Tom Reynolds, 880 A1A Beach Boulevard, spoke on pedestrian safety, with regard to the high visibility of the City of St. Augustine Beach Police Department, crosswalk safety lights, and speed limit reduction.

(10:30 a.m.) Ed Slavin, P.O. Box 3084, spoke on funding sources for road repairs.

(05/01/17 - 4 - 10:34 a.m.)

4. DISCUSSION OF PIER REPAIRS AND RENOVATIONS OF PIER PARK

O'Brien introduced the discussion item. He reviewed necessary renovations to Pier Park and noted that the City was not in a financial position to repair or replace the pier.

(10:36 a.m.) Wanchick recognized the importance of the repairs and renovations to the City; communicated the County's limited financial resources; stated a letter was sent to St. Augustine Beach City Manager Max Royle regarding the transfer of title for Pier Park property, including the parking lot, from the County to the City. He noted the following transfer of title conditions: 1) the parking lot would remain a parking lot and 2) the County would maintain responsibility of the pier. Additionally, he stated that the estimated cost to rebuild the pier would be between \$10 and \$14 million and that the County had no significant improvements planned other than routine maintenance.

(10:40 a.m.) Discussion ensued on the proposed title transfer of Pier Park; funding sources for pier repairs; and generated revenue from the St. Augustine Beach Civic Association's Farmers Market.

(10:46 a.m.) Ed Slavin, P.O. Box 3084, spoke on the future of the pier and suggested that the County use bonds, by pledging bed tax dollars, for revenue to restore the pier.

(10:50 a.m.) Merrill Roland, 6281 Old Dixie Drive, spoke on the pier deficit, with regard to the St. Augustine Beach Civic Association's Farmers Market.

(10:53 a.m.) Bob Samuels, 110 Mickler Boulevard, responded to public comment on the pier deficit, with regard to the St. Augustine Beach Civic Association's Farmers Market.

(10:56 a.m.) Tom Reynolds, 880 A1A Beach Boulevard, spoke on the proposed title transfer of Pier Park, redirecting the bed tax, and Pier Park parking fees.

(10:59 a.m.) George commented on the St. Augustine Beach Civic Association's Farmers Market. *She also requested a consensus to direct staff to provide an update, in six months, regarding alternative funding sources to preserve the pier. Consensus was given.*

(05/01/17 - 4 - 11:05 a.m.)

5. UPDATE ON PLANS FOR THE FORMER MOSQUITO CONTROL PROPERTY

O'Brien introduced the discussion item.

(11:06 a.m.) Wanchick described the potential County uses of the property: relocation of St. Johns County Fire Rescue Station No. 7; relocation of the Parks and Recreation offices on Mizell Road for the expansion of the Anastasia Island Wastewater Treatment

Plant; and the expansion of Ron Parker Memorial Recreational Park (Park). Discussion ensued on the expansion of the Park.

(11:09 a.m.) Walter Kelly, 214 7th Street, spoke on Park improvements.

(11:12 a.m.) Tom Reynolds, 880 A1A Beach Boulevard, spoke on Park improvements.

(11:16 a.m.) Ed Slavin, P.O. Box 3084, spoke on Park improvements.

(11:20 a.m.) George summarized the two consensuses stated under Agenda Items 2 and 4.

(05/01/17 - 5 - 11:21 a.m.)
COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

No reports.

(05/01/17 - 5 - 11:21 a.m.)
COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

No report.

(05/01/17 - 5 - 11:21 a.m.)
COUNTY ATTORNEY'S REPORT

No report.

(05/01/17 - 5 - 11:21 a.m.)
CLERK OF COURT'S REPORT

No report.

(05/01/17 - 5 - 11:21 a.m.)
ADJOURN

With there being no further business to come before the Boards, Johns adjourned the meeting at 11:21 a.m.

Approved _____ June 6 _____, 2017

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA

By: _____
James K. Johns, Chair

ATTEST: HUNTER S. CONRAD, CLERK

By: Pam Halterman
Deputy Clerk

