

**MINUTES OF MEETING
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA
MARCH 24 , 2020
9:00 A.M.**

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

Proof of notice of a special meeting of the Board of County Commissioners of St. Johns County, Florida, communicated on Monday, March 23, 2020, via media, website, and social media postings.

Present: Jeb S. Smith, District 2, District 2, Chair
 Jeremiah R. Blocker, District 4, Vice Chair
 James K. Johns, District 1
 Paul M. Waldron, District 3
 Henry Dean, District 5
 Hunter S. Conrad, County Administrator
 Patrick McCormack, County Attorney
 Sindy Wiseman, Deputy Clerk

(03/24/20 - 1 - 9:00 a.m.)
CALL TO ORDER

Smith called the meeting to order.

(03/24/20 - 1 - 9:00 a.m.)
ROLL CALL

The clerk called the roll, and all Board members were present.

(03/24/20 - 1 - 9:00 a.m.)
INVOCATION

Johns gave the invocation.

(03/24/20 - 1 - 9:01 a.m.)
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Smith led the pledge of allegiance.

(03/24/20 - 1 - 9:01 a.m.)
PUBLIC COMMENT

Tom Reynolds, 50 Brigantine Court, expressed appreciation to Chief Hardwick, Chief of Police, City St. Augustine Beach, and Chief Fox, Chief of Police, City of St. Augustine, for their great work. Additionally, he expressed appreciation to Maggie Kostka, Vice Mayor of the City of St. Augustine Beach, for attending the meeting.

(9:03 a.m.) Ed Dwyer, 5477 Pelican Way, voiced his concerns with out-of-county residents traveling to St. Johns County to avoid lockdown.

(9:06 a.m.) Congressmen John Rutherford, House of Representatives, Florida's 4th District, provided information regarding the Family First Coronavirus Response Act,

employee/employer reimbursement, and on the Florida Department of Health dashboard.

(03/24/20 - 2 - 9:12 a.m.)

1. EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT UPDATE

Hunter S. Conrad, County Administrator, provided an emergency management update. He noted that there would be daily updates, provided location testing sites, and information on the Department of Health dashboard. Additionally, he spoke on limited access to the Health and Human Services Department, Permit Center, Public Works, Utilities, and Administration; and compliance and concerns regarding beach access.

(9:24 a.m.) Linda Stoughton, Director of Emergency Management Operation (EOC), provided an update on the response from the EOC. She spoke on the personal protection equipment for first responders, expressing thanks to Nassau County for lending a needed piece of equipment. Additionally, she spoke on contingency planning.

(9:30 a.m.) Blocker questioned whether there would be additional testing sites opened in the County or the Region. Stoughton responded not at this time. Conrad noted the difficulty for staffing testing sites. Stoughton stated the difference in the testing sites and the process for first responder testing. Dean thanked Stoughton for clarifying that TIAA Bank Field was open regionally for testing.

(9:36 a.m.) Waldron asked Stoughton to provide phone numbers for the public. Stoughton stated that for general questions to call the EOC at 904-824-5550 from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., and for specific health questions or medical assistance to call 904-209-3250 from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

(9:37 a.m.) Rob Hardwick, Chief of Police, City St. Augustine Beach Police Department, spoke on beach issues and concerns, and commended the citizens for following Centers for Disease Control guidelines on the beach. Blocker asked whether there was anything the Board could do to support the agencies. Hardwick spoke on the increase in suicide threats and noted that they were working on a hotline. Commander Scott Beaver, St. Johns County Sheriff's Office, spoke on the challenges throughout the County over the weekend and the collaboration between the law enforcement agencies. Chief Berry Fox, City of St. Augustine, concurred with Beaver and Hardwick.

(9:45 a.m.) Hardwick mentioned hotels operating at 30 percent and estimated that half of the restaurants were open.

(9:49 a.m.) Blocker requested that Conrad provide recommendations to aid small businesses. Conrad responded.

(9:51 a.m.) Tom Reynolds, 50 Brigantine Court, spoke on the need for a representative from the Health Department to attend meetings regarding COVID-19.

(9:54 a.m.) Maggie Kostka, 570 A1A Beach Boulevard, voiced her concerns with the mental health aspect of the virus and supporting local businesses.

(03/24/20 - 2 - 9:58 a.m.)

2. EXTENSION OF LOCAL STATE OF EMERGENCY

Patrick McCormack, County Attorney, presented the details of the extension. He provided a copy of Emergency Proclamation No. 2020-2, on the overhead, *Exhibit A*. He recommended an extension for a seven-day period. Additionally, he requested that the Board consider a second Emergency Proclamation to hold virtual meetings.

(10:03 a.m.) Paolo Soria, Senior County Attorney, presented the details of the request for an Emergency Proclamation to implement the use of Communications Media Technology (CMT).

(10:05 a.m.) Motion by Johns, seconded by Waldron, carried 5/0, to extend the Emergency Proclamation No. 2020-2.

(10:05 a.m.) Motion by Blocker, seconded by Waldron, carried 5/0, to adopt Emergency Proclamation No. 2020-3, promulgating emergency rules for local government public meetings conducted through communications media technology.

(03/24/20 - 3 - 10:09 a.m.)
COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

(10:09 a.m.) Dean spoke in support of keeping the beaches open.

(10:13 a.m.) Waldron expressed his appreciation to the first responders and health care workers for their assistance in the community. He urged everyone to have patience and to practice self-regulating.

(10:14 a.m.) Johns spoke on keeping the public informed and safe.

(10:17 a.m.) Smith noted that he had requested a representative from the Department of Health to attend the meeting.

(10:18 a.m.) Blocker read a passage from Joshua, Chapter 1, Verse 9.

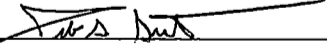
(10:19 a.m.) McCormack set the next extension meeting for March 31, 2020, at 9:00 a.m. in the auditorium. Additionally, he spoke on working through the practical procedures for the April 7, 2020, BCC meeting.

(03/24/20 - 3 - 10:21 a.m.)
ADJOURN

With there being no further business to come before the Board, Smith adjourned the meeting at 10:21 a.m.

Approved _____ April 21 _____, 2020

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA

By: 
Jeb S. Smith, Chair

ATTEST: BRANDON PATTY, CLERK

By: 
Deputy Clerk

