

**MINUTES OF MEETING
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA
APRIL 7, 2020
8:30 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 Friday, April 3, 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

Also present: Joy Andrews, Assistant County Administrator;

(04/07/20 - 1 - 8:30 a.m.)
CALL TO ORDER

Smith called the meeting to order. He provided a summary of the proceedings.

(04/07/20 - 1 - 8:33 a.m.)
ROLL CALL

The clerk called the roll, commissioners Smith, Waldron, and Johns were present, commissioners Dean and Blocker appeared via telephone.

(04/07/20 - 1 - 8:33 a.m.)
INVOCATION

Pastor Matt McCloghry, Colonial Church, gave the invocation.

(04/07/20 - 1 - 8:34 a.m.)
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Smith led the Pledge of Allegiance.

(04/07/20 - 1 - 8:35 a.m.)
1. EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT UPDATE

Hunter S. Conrad, County Administrator, provided an update on the number of COVID-19 cases in the county.

(8:39 a.m.) Dr. Dawn Allicock, Director of Florida Department of Health, provided an update on COVID-19. She estimated that the peak of the virus would be toward the end of April, and spoke on transmission of the virus, virus activity in warmer weather, mitigation strategies, mask protection, monitoring, self-isolation, long-term care facilities,

and recovery. Additionally, for the most up-to-date information, she proved the website, www.flhealth.gov/covid19, and reiterated the actions to help prevent the spread of COVID-19.

(8:48 a.m.) Linda Stoughton, Director of Emergency Management, provided an update from the Emergency Operations Center (EOC), including services available to residents in need, distributing supplies to first responders, reporting, and contingency planning.

(8:49 a.m.) Rob Hardwick, St. Augustine Beach Police Chief, spoke in support of beach restrictions.

(8:51 a.m.) Christopher Roper, 503 Arricola Avenue, spoke in support of beach access.

(8:54 a.m.) Eric Hires, 9 Eugene Place, expressed appreciation to the Board for its service. He spoke on a petition he initiated for limited beach access.

(8:56 a.m.) Tom Reynolds, 50 Brigantine Court, spoke on the protection needs for law enforcement, and questioned whether there would be COVID-19 updates from the Chamber of Commerce, Legal Aid services, and Council on Aging. Additionally, he commented on beach access.

(8:59 a.m.) John Grexa, 548 Domenico Circle, spoke on the accuracy of reported cases.

(9:02 a.m.) Susan Riley, 826 A1A Beach Boulevard, spoke in support of the continuation of closed beach access.

(9:05 a.m.) Carl Gill, 58 Village Del Lago Circle, spoke in support of restricted beach access.

(9:07 a.m.) Darby Moore, 5238 Medoras Avenue, spoke on the importance of mental health and beach access.

(9:11 a.m.) Sherry Carmichael, 213 3rd Street, spoke in support of restricted beach access.

(9:14 a.m.) Michelle Bond, 5379 Atlantic View, spoke in support of restricted beach access and on her concerns with a continual police presence in her neighborhood, with emergency lights flashing.

(9:18 a.m.) Nicole Crosby, 1169 Neck Road, spoke on the accuracy of the circulating petition for beach access, stating that numerous signatures could be from outside of the county. She supported keeping the beaches closed.

(9:21 a.m.) Mike Riley, 826 A1A Beach Boulevard, spoke in support of the continuation of closed beach access.

(9:24 a.m.) Adam Morley, 1205 State Road 206, spoke in support of restricted beach access.

(9:26 a.m.) Matthew Foot, 114 Swallow Road, spoke in support of restricted beach access.

(9:27 a.m.) Gail Morse, 744 Marsh Cove Lane, spoke in support of the continuation of closed beach access.

(9:29 a.m.) Dennis Lacey, 6970 A1A South, spoke in support of restricted beach access.

(9:31 a.m.) John Grapsas, 7 16th St., spoke in support of restricted beach access.

(9:34 a.m.) Harold Miller, 604 Sea Grove Circle, spoke in support of the continuation of closed beach access.

(9:36 a.m.) Mark Gavastini, 305 Premier Vista Way, spoke in support of restricted beach access.

(9:39 a.m.) Daryl Price, 629 Deer Crossing Road, spoke in support of restricted beach access.

(9:42 a.m.) Bryan Ott, 107 15th St., spoke in support of restricted beach access.

(9:43 a.m.) Javier Sanchez, St. Augustine Beach, spoke in support of the continuation of closed beach access.

(9:44 a.m.) Frank Gassmann, 54 Anderson Street, spoke in support of the continuation of closed beach access.

(9:46 a.m.) Brooke Michelle, 826 A1A Beach Boulevard, spoke in support of the continuation of closed beach access.

(9:48 a.m.) Frank O'Rourke, 101 F Street, spoke in support of restricted beach access.

(9:50 a.m.) Lynn Kaplan, 8840 Old A1A, spoke in support of restricted beach access.

(9:53 a.m.) Kim Del Rance, 240 Cervantes Avenue, spoke in support of the continuation of closed beach access.

(9:54 a.m.) Hunter Camp, 53 Lee Drive, spoke in support of restricted beach access.

(9:55 a.m.) Colleen Wood, 1540 Ansley Place, 32259, spoke in support of restricted beach access.

(9:57 a.m.) Christopher Tincher, 548 Moultrie Wells Road, spoke in support of restricted beach access.

(10:00 a.m.) Chris Stone, 6170 A1A South, spoke in support of restricted beach access.

(10:02 a.m.) Debra Alley, 3960 A1A South, spoke in support of the continuation of closed beach access.

(10:03 a.m.) Joanne Quell, 25 Franciscan Way, spoke in support of the continuation of closed beach access.

(10:05 a.m.) Bill DeFeo, 113 9th St., spoke on restricted beach access.

(10:07 a.m.) Johns spoke on the detection of, and the ability to spread, the virus, the decisions made to protect residents, and help for small businesses. He said for help with resources and questions for businesses to call 904-824-5550.

(10:19 a.m.) Dean commented on the continuation of closed beach access.

(10:22 a.m.) Blocker asked Conrad whether he had fully evaluated the beach access situation. Conrad responded that they continued to evaluate every day.

(10:24 a.m.) Waldron questioned whether limiting beach access to residents only was legal. McCormack stated that it was not. Waldron spoke on the decision-making process.

(10:28 a.m.) McCormack commented on the number of residents with property that touched the ocean.

(04/07/20 - 4 - 10:29 a.m.)

2. EXTENSION OF LOCAL STATE OF EMERGENCY

Patrick McCormack, County Attorney, presented the details of the proposed Emergency Proclamation, *Exhibit A*.

(10:31 a.m.) Debbie Flaherty, 532 Fox Hollow Lane, voiced her concerns on fact versus fear.

(10:33 a.m.) Cathy Brown, 49 Sylvan Drive, urged the Board to continue with the conservative approach.

(10:36 a.m.) **Motion by Johns, seconded by Waldron, carried 5/0, to enact Emergency Proclamation No. 2020-6, extending the Declaration of a State of Local Emergency, as provided by Chapter 252 Part 1, Florida State Statutes; and by St. Johns County Ordinance No. 2019-40.**

EMERGENCY PROCLAMATION NO. 2020-6

A PROCLAMATION EXTENDING THE DECLARATION OF A STATE OF LOCAL EMERGENCY, AS PROVIDED BY CHAPTER 252, PART 1, FLORIDA STATUTES, AND BY ST. JOHNS COUNTY ORDINANCE NO. 2019-40

(04/07/20 - 4 - 10:37 a.m.)

3. Any Other Business

McCormack spoke on notice regulations for the quasi-judicial items postponed at the March 17, 2020, meeting. He spoke on the time sensitive items and an emergency proclamation *giving the administrator the ability to move County business along while still providing reasonable notice.*

(10:39 a.m.) **Motion by Johns, seconded by Waldron, carried 5/0, to enact Emergency Proclamation No. 2020-7, as recommended by the county attorney.**

EMERGENCY PROCLAMATION NO. 2020-7

A PROCLAMATION WAIVING CERTAIN PROCEDURES AND FORMALITIES PERTAINING TO THE NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS IN SECTION 9.06.04 OF THE ST. JOHNS COUNTY LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE, ORDINANCE 99-51, AS AMENDED

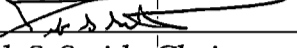
(04/07/20 - 4 - 10:41 a.m.)

ADJOURN

With there being no further business to come before the Board, Smith adjourned the meeting at 10:41 a.m.

Approved _____ May 5 _____, 2020

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA

By: 
Jeb S. Smith, Chair

ATTEST: BRANDON PATTY, CLERK

By: 
Deputy Clerk

