

**MINUTES OF MEETING
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA
APRIL 14, 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 Thursday, April 9, 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
 Natasha McGee, Deputy Clerk

Also present: Joy Andrews, Assistant County Administrator

(04/14/20 - 1 - 9:00 a.m.)
CALL TO ORDER

Smith called the meeting to order. He made opening comments regarding remote public participation.

(04/14/20 - 1 - 9:01 a.m.)
ROLL CALL

The clerk called the roll, and all Board members were present, with Blocker and Dean participating remotely.

(04/14/20 - 1 - 9:01 a.m.)
INVOCATION

Commissioner Smith gave the invocation.

(04/14/20 - 1 - 9:03 a.m.)
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Smith led the Pledge of Allegiance.

(04/14/20 - 1 - 9:03 a.m.)
1. EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT UPDATE

Hunter S. Conrad, County Administrator, provided an update on St. Johns County's response to COVID-19. He reviewed St. Johns County COVID-19 statistics, including testing statistics and the projected peak; hospital capacity; and accessible COVID-19 test collection sites. Additionally, he provided an update on the post-COVID-19 response teams, and resident and business assistance hotlines.

(9:07 a.m.) Dr. Dawn Allicock, Medical Director of the St. Johns County Health Department, provided a COVID-19 update. She reviewed testing statistics; the Florida COVID-19 Data and Surveillance Dashboard; hospitalization rates; mortality rates; transmission statistics, including the Centers for Disease Control's (CDC) mask recommendations; mitigation strategies (social distancing); the projected peak; and St. Johns County monitoring and contact tracing procedures.

(9:13 a.m.) Linda Stoughton, Emergency Management Director, provided an update on the Emergency Operations Center's (EOC) response to COVID-19. She reported on the distribution of personal protective equipment; the distribution and need for shelf stable meals; and the EOC's response planning, including the daily COVID-19 Situation Report, Flagler Hospital's modeling information, social media messaging, and distributing Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) declaration information.

(9:18 a.m.) Tom Reynolds, 50 Brigantine Court, referenced a list of questions regarding COVID-19, *Exhibit A*, and spoke on his concerns with the following St. Johns County agencies and State Representatives not providing COVID-19 updates: the Sheriff's Department, Fire Rescue, Council on Aging, Legal Aid, the Chamber of Commerce, and Florida Representatives Stevenson, Renner, and Hutson. Additionally, he questioned if the County had issued furlough days; and spoke on his concerns regarding testing statistics, including testing of the homeless population.

(9:23 a.m.) Howard McGaffney, 162 South Prairie Lakes Drive, District Manager for Julington Creek Plantation Community Development District (CDD), expressed his appreciation to County staff regarding the distribution of information and management of the COVID-19 crisis.

(9:25 a.m.) The following members of the public spoke in support of limited beach access:

- Marc Galassini, 305 Premiere Vista Way
- Eric Hires, 9 Eugene Place
- Meghan Johnson, 3 Atlantic Avenue

(9:34 a.m.) The following members of the public spoke in support of limited beach access, via remote participation:

- Jack Tarpley, 600 Ponte Vedra Beach Boulevard
- Gary White, 504 Belen Lane
- Patricia Brianc, Ocean Grove RV Park, 4225 A1A South
- Donald Jackson, Ocean Grove RV Park, 4225 A1A South
- Brennan Yangyen, 192 King Arthur Court
- Barbara Beyer, Ocean Grove RV Park, 4225 A1A South
- Sandra Marvin, 5024 Medoras Avenue
- Carl Gill, 58 Village Del Lago Circle
- Maria Mancecillo, 650 West Pope Road
- Christopher Tincher, 548 Moultrie Wells Road
- Jeff Sturtevant, 506 B Street
- Carol Mancuso, 206 Amistad Drive
- Ian Craw, 850 A1A Beach Boulevard
- Jonathan Beck, 26 Linda Mar Drive
- Caleb Cooper, 697 16th Street
- Valerie Bartol, 7 9th Street
- Dana Wendall, 1000 South Winterhawk Drive
- Darby Moore, 5238 Medoras Avenue
- Adam Morley, 1205 East State Road 206
- Greg Bland, 5225 Atlantic View

(9:45 a.m.) Susan Riley, 826 A1A Beach Boulevard, via remote participation, spoke in support of the beach closures, and the suspension of vacation rentals regarding the enforcement of violations.

(9:57 a.m.) Mike Riley, 826 A1A, via remote participation, spoke in favor of the beach closures.

(10:04 a.m.) Shannon Connelly, 816 Ocean Forest Drive, via remote participation, spoke in favor of the beach closures.

(10:15 a.m.) Leslie Shapiro, 4942 Atlantic View, via remote participation, spoke on limiting beach access regarding vacation rentals.

(10:20 a.m.) Frank Gassmann, 54 Anderson Street, via remote participation, spoke in favor of the beach closures.

(10:25 a.m.) Discussion ensued on the plans and preparations regarding the opening of the beaches, including discussion on the lawfulness of opening the beaches to residents only. Additionally, Conrad provided the following contact information regarding submitting vacation rental violations: Code Enforcement at 904-209-0734 and the Department of Business and Professional Regulation at 850-487-1395. Johns provided the St. Johns County Sheriff's Office non-emergency number to report social distancing concerns: 904-824-8304.

(04/14/20 - 3 - 10:30 a.m.)

2. EXTENSION OF LOCAL STATE OF EMERGENCY

Patrick McCormack, County Attorney, referenced the emergency proclamation, *Exhibit A*; and presented the details of the extension. He recommended an extension for a seven-day period.

(10:31 a.m.) **Motion by Johns, seconded by Waldron, carried 5/0, via roll call vote, to approve Emergency Proclamation 2020-8, to extend the local state of emergency.**

EMERGENCY PROCLAMATION NO. 2020-8

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

(04/14/20 - 3 - 10:32 a.m.)

3. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

McCormack informed the Board of a change to the maps and description, *Exhibit A*, for Regular Agenda Item 2: ordinance establishing slow speed/minimum wake zones in Matanzas Inlet, on the April 21, 2020, BCC meeting agenda. Discussion ensued on the proposed changes.

(10:33 a.m.) Johns spoke on small business assistance. Discussion ensued.

(10:37 a.m.) Dean expressed his appreciation to the municipalities, County departments, and the healthcare workers' response efforts to COVID-19. Additionally, he expressed his position on the beach closures, stating that he supported the continued closure efforts.

(10:38 a.m.) Blocker expressed his appreciation to Conrad and his staff for their response efforts to COVID-19, including the economic recovery efforts.

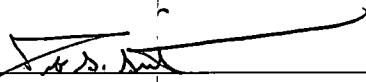
(10:39 a.m.) Smith expressed his appreciation to the response efforts of staff and commissioners. Additionally, he stated that there would be no ex parte items on the April 21, 2020, BCC Regular meeting Agenda.

(04/14/20 - 4 - 10:40 a.m.)
ADJOURN

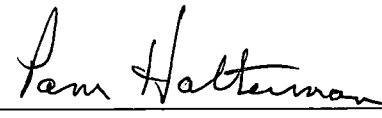
With there being no further business to come before the Board, Smith adjourned the meeting at 10:40 a.m.

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

