

**MINUTES OF MEETING
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA
JUNE 23, 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 June 18, 2020, via media, website, and social media postings.

Present: Jeb S. Smith, 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: Brad Bradley, Assistant County Administrator; Joy Andrews, Assistant County Administrator; Regina Ross, Deputy County Attorney; and Rebecca Lavie, Senior Assistant County Attorney

(06/23/20 - 1 - 8:30 a.m.)
CALL TO ORDER

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

(06/23/20 - 1 - 8:30 a.m.)
ROLL CALL

The clerk called the roll. Commissioners Smith, Dean, Waldron, and Johns were present. Commissioner Blocker participated remotely.

(06/23/20 - 1 - 8:32 a.m.)
INVOCATION

Johns led the invocation.

(06/23/20 - 1 - 8:32 a.m.)
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Dean led the Pledge of Allegiance.

(06/23/20 - 1 - 8:33 a.m.)
1. EXTENSION OF LOCAL STATE OF EMERGENCY

Patrick McCormack, County Attorney, presented the details of the proposed extension. He recommended an extension for a seven-day period.

(8:35 a.m.) Tom Reynolds, 50 Brigantine Court, voiced his concerns regarding the spread of coronavirus through air conditioning. He requested a ruling on cancelling the Music by the Sea concert series.

(8:38 a.m.) **Motion by Johns, seconded by Dean, carried 5/0, via roll call vote, with Blocker participating remotely, to approve Emergency Proclamation No. 2020-19, to extend the local state of emergency.**

EMERGENCY PROCLAMATION NO. 2020-19

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

(06/23/20 - 2 - 8:39 a.m.)

2. CARES ACT FUNDING AGREEMENT

Regina Ross, Deputy County Attorney, presented the details of the agreement. She clarified that the 25 percent, \$11,545,806, was the first disbursement of the total \$46,186,224 allocated to St. Johns County. She said the remainder would be paid on a reimbursement basis and clarified that unused funding could be reallocated by the Governor or returned to the U.S. Department of the Treasury.

(8:40 a.m.) Johns questioned how much had been spent to date that would qualify for the funds. Ross spoke on eligible expenditures. Conrad stated that there had been approximately \$2.2 million in expenditures allocated to COVID-19 related expenses.

(8:42 a.m.) Waldron questioned whether the \$2.2 million included what the constitutional officers had spent. Conrad responded that was strictly BCC related expenses and that it did not include the constitutional officers or the municipalities.

(8:43 a.m.) Tom Reynolds, 50 Brigantine Court, questioned whether there was hazmat pay for employees and urged the Board to use all of the allocated funds.

(8:45 a.m.) Mark Resko, 265 Kingston Drive, spoke in opposition of the removal of the Confederate monument, located in St. Augustine.

(8:47 a.m.) William Porter, 265 Kingston Drive, spoke in opposition of the removal of the Confederate monument, located in St. Augustine.

(8:43 a.m.) **Motion by Waldron, seconded by Johns, carried 5/0, via roll call vote, with Blocker participating remotely, to authorize the chair to execute the agreement on behalf of the County.**

Ross left the meeting at 8:51 a.m.

(06/23/20 - 2 - 8:51 a.m.)

3. OTHER

Artificial Reef Material

Patrick McCormack, County Attorney, spoke on the plans to remove the concrete, for the Artificial Reef Program, located off Big Oak Road.

(8:53 a.m.) Rebecca Lavie, Senior Assistant County Attorney, provided a brief description of her findings regarding the County's concrete material. She spoke on a proposed letter to be sent to the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) and United Brothers Development Corporation, to cease and desist the demolition of the concrete material.

(8:55 a.m.) McCormack spoke on his intent to send the letter to cease and desist the demolition of the County's concrete material; and if not complied with, would commence with litigation protecting the County's interest. He requested authorization to protect the County's property through litigation, if necessary. Smith asked how much of the material had been altered or removed from the property. Andrews responded that she could not estimate the quantity; however, the process had accelerated.

(9:02 a.m.) Dean suggested communication action steps prior to sending a letter. Discussion ensued on the demolition, the value, and the contractual obligation of the material.

(9:18 a.m.) Tom Reynolds, 50 Brigantine Court, voiced his concern regarding the absence of a contract and the expired permit for the concrete material.

(9:22 a.m.) Waldron requested to direct staff to reach out to Kevin J. Thibault, Secretary of the Florida Department of Transportation, for assistance.

(9:22 a.m.) Motion by Waldron, seconded by Johns, carried 4/1, with Blocker, who was participating remotely, dissenting, via roll call vote, to authorize the county attorney, to send a letter, with caution, to FDOT and United Brothers, to cease and desist the crushing of the concrete, with further discussion at the June 30, 2020, BCC meeting, if needed.

Emergency Proclamation on the Supply Chain and Construction Permit Timelines

(9:23 a.m.) McCormack spoke on the effects of COVID-19 on the supply chain and construction permit timelines. He offered a proposed emergency proclamation and an alternate proposed emergency proclamation granting extensions pertaining to the tolling of time for certain permits, for the Board's consideration, as provided by Chapter 252.363, Florida Statutes.

(9:30 a.m.) Ellen Avery-Smith, Rogers Towers, 100 Whetstone Place, spoke in support of either of the proposed proclamations.

(9:32 a.m.) Tom Reynolds, 50 Brigantine Court, spoke in support of the proclamation, provided it was reimbursable through the CARES Act Funding Agreement. He voiced his concern with important items not being advertised for full discussion.

(9:37 a.m.) Waldron stated that he supported the proposed emergency proclamation extending local government development orders for complications related to COVID-19.

(9:37 a.m.) Motion by Dean, seconded by Waldron, carried 5/0, via roll call vote, with Blocker participating remotely, to enact Emergency Proclamation No. 2020-20, extending expiration dates of certain local government development orders, due to complications caused by COVID-19, as provided by Chapter 252, Part I, Florida Statutes, and by St. Johns County Ordinance No. 2019-40.

EMERGENCY PROCLAMATION NO. 2020-20

A PROCLAMATION EXTENDING EXPIRATION DATES OF CERTAIN LOCAL GOVERNMENT DEVELOPMENT ORDERS, DUE TO COMPLICATIONS CAUSED BY

COVID-19, AS PROVIDED BY CHAPTER 252, PART I,
FLORIDA STATUTES, AND BY ST. JOHNS COUNTY
ORDINANCE NO. 2019-40

Senate Bill 1066 - Impact Fee Language

(9:39 a.m.) McCormack spoke on the language in Senate Bill 1066 regarding impact fees. He stated his intent to send a letter to existing impact fee agreement holders regarding the new language.

(9:44 a.m.) Dean suggested setting an agenda item at a future BCC meeting for full discussion and to take appropriate action at that time.

(9:47 a.m.) Ellen Avery-Smith, Rogers Towers, 100 Whetstone Place, concurred with Dean to set the item for a regular BCC meeting.

(9:48 a.m.) Tom Reynolds, 50 Brigantine Court, concurred with Dean to set the item for a regular BCC meeting.

(9:47 a.m.) Motion by Dean, seconded by Johns, carried 4/0, with Blocker absent, via roll call vote, to authorize the county attorney, to withhold any action regarding the new language in Senate Bill 1066, and to set it for a regular Board meeting for review.

(9:47 a.m.) Blocker's remote participation connection was temporarily unavailable; it was reestablished at 9:51 a.m.

Mask Requirements

(9:51 a.m.) Dean voiced his concerns with the increase in the COVID-19 numbers. He suggested a strong message be sent to local businesses to require wearing masks. Discussion ensued on the authority to require wearing masks inside facilities. Smith asked Conrad to read the memo posted on the County's website and social media platforms regarding Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines.

(10:12 a.m.) Tom Reynolds, 50 Brigantine Court, agreed with the recommendation to encourage local businesses to require staff and customers to wear masks.

(10:15 a.m.) Motion by Dean, seconded by Waldron, carried 3/2, via roll call vote, with Johns and Smith dissenting, and Blocker participating remotely, to issue a notification or press release to encourage local businesses to require customers to wear masks.

(10:19 a.m.) Motion by Blocker, seconded by Dean, carried 5/0, via roll call vote, with Blocker participating remotely, to add the following recommendation to the Pledge St. Johns County program: Local businesses can include face masks for proper personal protection equipment, as a criteria of the program, to require customers to wear masks.

(10:19 a.m.) Discussion ensued on providing masks to businesses who participated in the Pledge.

(10:23 a.m.) *Johns requested Board consensus to ask Dr. Dawn Allicock, Medical Director of the St. Johns County Health Department, to provide a presentation to the Board regarding mask concerns. Consensus was given.*

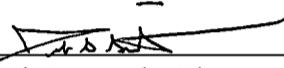
(10:24 a.m.) Waldron spoke on the Tesla marketing packet and suggested using staff for other inhouse economic projects. Additionally, he recognized the passing of Coach Nick Perpich and expressed condolences to the family.

(06/23/20 - 5 - 10:27 a.m.)
ADJOURN

With there being no further business to come before the Board, Smith adjourned the meeting at 10:27 a.m.

Approved _____ July 21 _____, 2020

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA

By:  _____
Jeb S. Smith, Chair

ATTEST: BRANDON PATTY, CLERK

By:  _____
Deputy Clerk

