

**MINUTES OF MEETING
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA
JUNE 30, 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 25, 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
 Natasha McGee, Deputy Clerk

Also present: Brad Bradley, Deputy County Administrator

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

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

(06/30/20 - 1 - 8:32 a.m.)
ROLL CALL

The clerk called the roll. Commissioners Smith and Johns were in attendance, with Blocker, Waldron, and Dean participating remotely.

(06/30/20 - 1 - 8:32 a.m.)
INVOCATION

Conrad led the invocation.

(06/30/20 - 1 - 8:33 a.m.)
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Smith led the Pledge of Allegiance.

(06/30/20 - 1 - 8:34 a.m.)
1. EXTENSION OF LOCAL STATE OF EMERGENCY

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

(8:35 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 supply and distribution of personal protective equipment, including the mask component of the Pledge St. Johns County Program. Additionally, she reviewed the continued EOC actions: 1) sending out situation reports; 2) three calls a week with the State EOC; 3) continued communication with VOAD's (National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster); and 4) fielding calls from residents. Discussion ensued on the supply of face masks.

(8:41 a.m.) Dr. Dawn Allicock, Medical Director of the St. Johns County Health Department, provided a COVID-19 update. She reviewed State and local COVID-19 data, including testing statistics, the local COVID-19 positivity rate, the hospitalization rate, the mortality rate, mitigation strategies, monitoring and contact tracing procedures, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) mask recommendations, and the following risk related considerations for the persons being exposed and those around them: 1) duration of immunity; 2) long term consequences of infection; 3) asymptomatic transmission; 4) severity of secondary cases; and 5) limited healthcare resources.

(8:58 a.m.) Dean requested a discussion on a mandatory countywide face mask ordinance.

(9:00 a.m.) Jason Barrett, Fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives, (FACHE) President, Chief Executive Officer for Flagler Hospital, provided a COVID-19 update, via PowerPoint. He reviewed COVID-19 hospitalizations: Historical Overview; a COVID-19 inpatient admissions and ventilator utilization summary by month; a COVID-19 status report; testing, treatment, and community care; Flagler inventory and testing; and provided a perspective on masking. Additionally, Nangy Pulsfus, Executive Vice President (EVP), Patient Care Services and Chief Clinical Officer, Flagler Hospital, provided additional details on COVID-19 inpatient admissions and ventilator utilization and hospitalizations. Discussion ensued on COVID-19 versus other viruses and illnesses.

(9:12 a.m.) Hunter S. Conrad, County Administrator, requested expanding COVID-19 testing with CARES Act funding.

(9:13 a.m.) Smith listed the public comment topics: 1) local state of emergency; 2) request for a discussion on mandatory face masks; and 3) expanding COVID-19 testing with CARES Act funding.

(9:14 a.m.) The following members of the public spoke in support of a mandatory face mask ordinance:

- Traci Wittstein, 135 Tree Side Lane
- Janine Rainville, 10 Coquina Boulevard, additionally, she spoke in support of St. Johns County beach closures for the July 4, 2020, weekend.
- Wendy Seth, 2714 Las Calinas Boulevard
- Ulrica Christopher, 605 Fairway Drive, Unit 205
- John Grexa, 548 Domenico Circle, additionally, he spoke on COVID-19 data
- Jane Rollinson, 543 Granada Terrace, additionally she stated that she was in support of face coverings not face masks.
- Kristin Thomas, 5418 2nd Street
- Renee Morledge, 420 Central Street
- Paul Brinkerhoff, Fairway Drive, additionally, he spoke in support of St. Johns County beach closures.
- Janice Stevens, 1062 Dorado Drive
- Timothy and Sherry Pompos, 36 Olivine Court
- Christina Debow, unknown address in the Lincolnville community
- Geraldine Caron, 2516 Saint Michael Court

- Carolyn Velkovich, 1225 South Winterhawk Drive
- Erik Peterson, 26 Glenwood Street
- Linda Ortagus, 6638 Nassau Street
- Charlyn Rainville, 108 C Street
- Elizabeth Jennings, 120 Hurst Street
- Alicia Nordman, 1111 Ardmore Street
- Diane Tatum, 85 South Roscoe Boulevard
- Maggie Kostka, 570 A1A Beach Boulevard, stated that wearing masks were an individual and personal responsibility, and adherence to the current guidelines should be encouraged. Additionally, she spoke on enforcement concerns regarding face masks.
- Rick Rumrell, 3736 Harbor Drive
- Aubrey Skillman, 6989 Middleton Avenue, additionally, he spoke on reconsideration of the closure of beaches and vacation rentals.
- Tommy Bledsoe, 3161 Country Creek Lane
- Dr. Michael Dagostino, 1400 US-1 South
- Tim Anderson, 145 Marshside Drive
- Mary Desanto, 237 Carolina Jasmine Lane
- Howard McGaffney, 162 South Prairie Lakes Drive, stated that whether in support of or opposed to a mandatory face mask ordinance, the government has the power and responsibility to protect the public.
- Ken Roggen, 1804 South Cappero Drive
- Carole Mays, 2740 St. Louis Court
- Amber Ordaz, 220 Whispering Woods Lane
- Owen Cook, 1405 Masters Drive
- Clarissa Jones, 46 Lee Drive
- Rene Dean, 438 Gloria Street
- Katherine Hill, 290 Whisper Rock Drive
- Ashley Hubbard, 1221 Ribbon Road
- Annie Cuneo, 44 Players Club Villas Road

(9:14 a.m.) The following members of the public spoke in opposition of a mandatory face mask ordinance:

- BJ Kalaidi, 8 Newcomb Street, additionally, she spoke on local COVID-19 data; and in support of library donations.
- Sherry Badger, 2772 South Collins Avenue. She also presented photos, *Exhibit A*, and spoke on code enforcement violations. Additionally, she spoke on suppressing St. Augustine history.
- Casey Heaton, (unknown address), additionally, he spoke on COVID-19 data.
- Dana Taylor, 1955 A1A South
- Aubrey Cannata, 915 Saltwater Circle, additionally, she spoke on Flu data.
- Christine Rementer, 476 Sparrow Branch Circle
- Tom Reynolds, 50 Brigantine Court, additionally, he spoke in opposition of holding the Republican National Convention in Jacksonville, Florida; in support of opened beaches; and in support of hazard pay.
- Kimberly Grimaldo, 577 Drysdale Drive, Orange Park, Florida
- Kenneth Sedlak, 383 Lakeshore Drive
- Rita Baldwin, 66 Phoenetia Drive
- Luis Miguel, 813 West 12th Street
- Debra Farwell, 479 North Durbin Parkway
- Rebekah Behrens, 857 Peppervine Avenue
- Laura Devlin, 524 Vaill Point Road
- Ellaina Parham, 1124 Overdale
- Diana Dennis, unknown address in the St. Augustine South community

- Sivam Ramasamy, 1701 Crystal Court
- Elizabeth Chattem, 651 Scrub Jay Drive
- Amber Edinger, 214 Rain Tree Trail
- Branden Belloni, 608 South Tree Garden Drive
- Crystal McInnis, 4548 Golf Ridge Drive
- Jenny Smith, 24778 Deer Trace Drive
- George Ruotolo, 136 Belvedere Place
- Phillip Smith, 9715 Kirchherr Avenue
- Helene Belloni, 679 Sandstone Drive
- Grace Shook, 207 E Street, additionally, she suggested, if approved, to add the minimum requirement of wearing surgical mask in public.
- Kali Devlin, 524 Vaill Point Road
- Sara Adams, 4813 Devonshire Drive, additionally, she stated that cloth face masks were not effective in the spread of COVID-19.
- Jennifer Williams, 184 Parkbluff Circle
- Brandon Murawski, 2200 Whippoorwill Drive
- Ed Johnson, 219 Oxford Estates Way
- Chad Schwaninger, 4420 Olga Street
- Robert Hrifko, 221 North Churchill

(11:07 a.m.) Under public comment, and due to technical difficulties, with the phone system, for remote public participation, the Board recessed the meeting at 11:07 a.m. and reconvened at 11:13 a.m.; recessed at 11:15 a.m. and reconvened at 11:20 a.m.; and recessed at 11:35 a.m. and reconvened at 11:40 a.m.

Local State of Emergency

(12:04 p.m.) **Motion by Johns, seconded by Dean, carried 5/0, via roll call vote, to approve Emergency Proclamation No. 2020-21, to extend the local state of emergency.**

EMERGENCY PROCLAMATION NO. 2020-21

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

Mandatory Face Mask Ordinance

(12:05 p.m.) **Motion by Dean, to move forward with a mandatory face mask ordinance, with specifics to be determined. Failed for lack of a second.**

(12:08 p.m.) **Motion by Blocker, seconded by Dean, failed 2/3, via roll call vote, with Smith, Waldron, and Johns dissenting, to direct the county administrator to provide an emergency order mandating face masks for St. Johns County employees, when interacting with the public or unable to maintain social distance, at government-controlled buildings; and to provide masks to members of the public upon entering government-controlled building.**

(12:10 p.m.) Discussion ensued on the following before the roll call vote: enforcement, motion clarity, and the difference between an emergency ordinance and emergency order. Additionally, Board members expressed their positions on moving forward with a mandatory face mask requirement.

Expanding Testing with CARES Act Funding

(12:29 p.m.) Conrad stated that the CARES Act Funding Agreement had been signed and that a plan to appropriate the funds would be presented to the Board on July 7, 2020, or July 21, 2020. *Conrad requested that the Board allocate a portion of the funds, in an amount uncertain, to expand COVID-19 testing.*

(12:30 p.m.) **Motion by Johns, seconded by Waldron, carried 5/0, via roll call vote, to approve the funds, as requested by the County Administrator Hunter Conrad.**

(06/30/20 - 5 - 12:32 p.m.)

2. FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY (DEO) GRANT

Joseph Giammanco, Disaster Recovery and Grant Director, presented the details of the grant funding opportunity. He noted the following requested items for funding: seven emergency power generators for St. Johns County Fire Rescue. Discussion ensued on the associated costs and sheltering of the generators.

(12:34 p.m.) McCormack requested to display the proposed resolution, *Exhibit A*.

(12:36 a.m.) **Motion by Smith, seconded by Johns, carried 5/0, via roll call vote, to adopt Resolution No. 2020-230, approving and authorizing the county administrator, or his designee, to submit a completed application through the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity's Rebuild Florida Critical Facility Hardening Program.**

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-230

A RESOLUTION BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA, AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR, OR DESIGNEE, TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION SEEKING FUNDING ASSISTANCE THROUGH THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY'S REBUILD FLORIDA CRITICAL FACILITY HARDENING PROGRAM FOR THE PURCHASE AND INSTALLATION OF EMERGENCY GENERATORS FOR SEVEN FIRE RESCUE STATIONS

(06/30/20 - 5 - 12:37 p.m.)

3. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

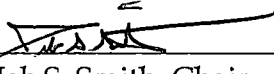
There was none.

(06/30/20 - 6 - 12:37 p.m.)
ADJOURN

With there being no further business to come before the Board, Smith adjourned the meeting at 12:37 p.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

