

**MINUTES OF MEETING
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA
AUGUST 11, 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.

Notice of a special meeting of the Board of County Commissioners of St. Johns County, Florida, was communicated on August 6, 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
 Henry Dean, District 5
 Hunter S. Conrad, County Administrator
 Patrick McCormack, County Attorney
 Crystal Smith, Deputy Clerk

Also present: Brad Bradley, Deputy County Administrator Chief of Staff; Joy Andrews, Deputy County Administrator of Strategic Affairs

Absent: Paul M. Waldron, District 3

(08/11/20 - 1 - 8:30 a.m.)
CALL TO ORDER

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

(08/11/20 - 1 - 8:32 a.m.)
ROLL CALL

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

(08/11/20 - 1 - 8:32 a.m.)
INVOCATION

Smith led the invocation.

(08/11/20 - 1 - 8:33 a.m.)
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Johns led the Pledge of Allegiance.

(08/11/20 - 1 - 8:33 a.m.)
1. EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT UPDATE

Brad Bradley, Deputy County Administrator, provided an update on St. Johns County's response to COVID-19, and reviewed testing statistics.

(8:35 a.m.) Nangela Pulsfus, Chief Clinical Officer, Flagler Health Plus, provided an update on Flagler Hospital's current hospitalizations, and available personal protective equipment.

(8:36 a.m.) Joseph Giammanco, Emergency Management Interim Director, provided an update on the Emergency Operations Center's (EOC) response to COVID-19. He reported on the average weekly cases; the number of businesses that had applied for the *Pledge St. Johns* program; and Intensive Care Unit (ICU) availability at Flagler Hospital, Baptist South, and Baptist Beaches.

(8:37 a.m.) Jacob Quigley, Business Manager and Chief Deputy Registrar, St. Johns County Health Department, provided a COVID-19 update. He reviewed testing statistics, including a 10.6 percent positivity rate.

(8:38 a.m.) Dean asked for a status update on contact tracing. Andrews explained the St. Johns County Health Department had decided to use CARES Act funding, to hire American's with Disabilities Act (ADA) contact tracers. Additionally, she noted once ADA contact tracers were hired, the Health Department would explore hiring additional contact tracers, if needed.

(8:43 a.m.) McCormack referenced Emergency Proclamation No. 2020-26, regarding Tropical Storm Isaias and explained if it was not extended, it would expire at 5:00 p.m. He submitted an emergency proclamation, for the Board to consider, *Exhibit A*.

(8:45 a.m.) Tom Reynolds, 50 Brigantine Court, spoke on his concerns with St. Johns County Health Department's not meeting certain standards; and spoke on adding hazmat pay for first responders.

(8:55 a.m.) Antonio Goncalves, 455 Heron Landing Road, spoke in support of a mask mandate in all indoor locations, including schools.

(8:56 a.m.) Ed Slavin, P.O. Box 3084, spoke on his concerns with statistics regarding the total number of county employees who had been sickened with COVID-19; and urged the Board to pass a resolution regarding whistle blower protection for all employees.

(8:59 a.m.) Wendy Seth, 2714 Las Calinas Blvd., spoke in support of an indoor mask mandate in St. Johns County, for the safety of others.

(9:02 a.m.) Sherry Badger, 2772 S. Collins Avenue, spoke in opposition of a mask mandate due to the lack of effectiveness of masks.

(08/11/20 - 2 - 9:04 a.m.)

2. 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.

(9:06 a.m.) Motion by Johns, seconded by Dean, carried 4/0, via roll call vote, with Waldron absent and Blocker participating remotely, to adopt St. Johns County Emergency Proclamation No. 2020-29, extending the local state of emergency for an additional seven-day period.

EMERGENCY PROCLAMATION NO. 2020-29

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

(08/11/20 - 3 - 9:06 a.m.)

3. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Dean explained he would no longer make a motion asking for a mask mandate, due to the lack of support from the Board. He stated he would second a motion made in support of a mask mandate.

(9:08 a.m.) Marco Klovanish, St. Johns County, spoke in opposition of contact tracing with concerns on constitutional rights and privacy of citizens.

(9:13 a.m.) Tom Reynolds, 50 Brigantine Court, spoke in support of extending the local state of emergency, and on contact tracing.

(08/11/20 - 3 - 9:15 a.m.)

ADJOURN

With there being no further business to come before the Board, Smith adjourned the meeting at 9:15 a.m.

Approved _____ September 1_____, 2020

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA

By:  _____
Jeb S. Smith, Chair

ATTEST: BRANDON J. PATTY
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT & COMPTROLLER

By:  _____
Deputy Clerk

