

**MINUTES OF MEETING
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA
AUGUST 25, 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 21, 2020, via media, website, and social media postings.

Present: Jeb S. Smith, District 2, Chair
 James K. Johns, District 1
 Henry Dean, District 5
 Hunter S. Conrad, County Administrator
 Patrick McCormack, County Attorney
 Sindy Wiseman, Deputy Clerk

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

Absent: Paul M. Waldron, District 3; and Jeremiah R. Blocker, District 4, Vice Chair

(08/25/20 - 1 - 8:30 a.m.)
CALL TO ORDER

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

(08/25/20 - 1 - 8:31 a.m.)
ROLL CALL

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

(08/25/20 - 1 - 8:32 a.m.)
INVOCATION

Conrad led the invocation.

(08/25/20 - 1 - 8:32 a.m.)
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Smith led the Pledge of Allegiance.

(08/25/20 - 1 - 8:33 a.m.)

1. PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING AUGUST 26, 2020, AS WOMEN'S EQUALITY DAY

Jeb S. Smith, Chair, presented the proclamation, via PowerPoint. Melissa Lundquist, Assistant to the Board of County Commissioners, read the proclamation for the record.

(8:35 a.m.) Tom Reynolds, 50 Brigantine Court, expressed his appreciation to the Board for recognizing women as equals.

(8:36 a.m.) **Motion by Dean, seconded by Johns, carried 3/0, with Waldron and Blocker absent, to approve the proclamation as submitted.**

(08/25/20 - 2 - 8:37 a.m.)

2. EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT UPDATE

Hunter S. Conrad, County Administrator, presented an update on the CARES Act and St. Johns County's response to COVID-19. He also reviewed testing and hospitalization statistics.

(8:40 a.m.) Sherry Badger, 2772 South Collins Avenue, spoke on the need for a public outreach program for the public on the CARES Act program.

(8:41 a.m.) Tom Reynolds, 50 Brigantine Court, requested further details on the COVID-19 update.

(08/25/20 - 2 - 8:43 a.m.)

3. 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.

(8:44 a.m.) **Motion by Dean, seconded by Johns, carried 3/0, with Waldron and Blocker absent, to adopt St. Johns County Emergency Proclamation No. 2020-31, extending the local state of emergency for an additional seven-day period.**

EMERGENCY PROCLAMATION NO. 2020-31

**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**

(08/25/20 - 2 - 8:44 a.m.)

4. STATE REQUEST FOR COUNTY EXPANDED COVID-19 TESTING FOR AGRICULTURAL FARM WORKERS IN HASTINGS AREA

Joseph Giammanco, Emergency Management Interim Director, presented the details of the request for COVID-19 testing for the Agricultural Farm Workers.

(8:46 a.m.) Chris Barnes, Barnes Farms, State Road 206, provided additional information regarding the impact of COVID-19 on the agriculture farms in St. Johns County. He discussed his cost per acre and the cost, responsibilities, and impact of H-2A Program (Agriculture Visas for foreign temporary workers) to his farm and other farms in the area. Discussion ensued on the request for migrant testing, the willingness of the farmers to transport the workers to test sites, and the safety measures taken to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Additionally, he spoke on the competition with foreign markets that do not have the regulation restrictions and additional overhead. Dean noted that Congressman Rutherford was aware of the problem.

(9:00 a.m.) Tom Reynolds, 50 Brigantine Court, expressed his appreciation for the farming report. He stated that the farmers should qualify for hazmat pay. Additionally, he said that he was opposed to the H-2A Program and suggested using work release prisoners.

(9:03 a.m.) Giammanco spoke on the testing capacity at Flagler Hospital.

(08/25/20 - 3 - 9:04 a.m.)

5. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was none.

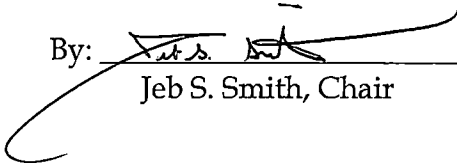
(08/25/20 - 3 - 9:04 a.m.)

ADJOURN

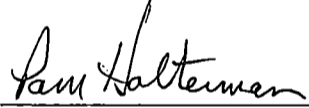
With there being no further business to come before the Board, Smith adjourned the meeting at 9:04 a.m.

Approved _____ October 6 _____, 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

