

**MINUTES OF MEETING
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA
DECEMBER 22, 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 December 21, 2020, via media, website, and social media postings.

Present: Jeremiah R. Blocker, District 4, Chair
Henry Dean, District 5, Vice Chair
Christian Whitehurst, District 1
Jeb S. Smith, District 2
Paul M. Waldron, District 3
Hunter S. Conrad, County Administrator
Crystal Smith, Deputy Clerk

Also present: Brad Bradley, Deputy County Administrator Chief of Staff; and Regina Ross, Deputy County Attorney

Absent: Patrick McCormack, County Attorney

(12/22/20 - 1 - 8:30 a.m.)
CALL TO ORDER

Blocker called the meeting to order.

(12/22/20 - 1 - 8:30 a.m.)
ROLL CALL

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

(12/22/20 - 1 - 8:32 a.m.)
INVOCATION

Smith led the invocation.

(12/22/20 - 1 - 8:33 a.m.)
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Conrad led the Pledge of Allegiance.

(12/22/20 - 1 - 8:33 a.m.)
1. EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT UPDATE

Joseph Giammanco, St. Johns County Emergency Management Interim Director, reported on Flagler Hospital's testing statistics in the county; Intensive Care Unit (ICU) availability in St. Johns County; and COVID-19 vaccinations.

(8:35 a.m.) Waldron questioned the number of vaccines that would be supplied to the county. Giammanco explained there was not a specific number at the time.

(8:36 a.m.) Tom Reynolds, 50 Brigantine Court, spoke on his concerns with misinformation that was coming from the State, and Dr. Dawn Allicock not attending meetings.

(8:39 a.m.) Larry Farnsworth, 157 Moses Creek Blvd., spoke on his concerns with the lack of conversation on COVID-19 from the Board. He urged the commissioners to listen to the medical directors and encouraged a mask mandate.

(8:41 a.m.) BJ Kalaidi, 8 Newcomb Street, questioned the number of county employees who had tested positive for COVID-19, and requested that the number be provided to the public. Additionally, she spoke on her concerns with vandalism to her property.

(12/22/20 - 2 - 8:45 a.m.)

2. EXTENSION OF LOCAL STATE OF EMERGENCY

Regina Ross, Deputy County Attorney, presented the details of the extension. She recommended an extension for a seven-day period.

(8:46 a.m.) BJ Kalaidi, 8 Newcomb Street, spoke on rescinding mask mandates in County buildings.

(8:48 a.m.) Motion by Waldron, seconded by Whitehurst, carried 5/0, via roll call vote, to adopt St. Johns County Emergency Proclamation No. 2020-48, extending the local state of emergency for an additional seven-day period.

(8:49 a.m.) Whitehurst questioned if the emergency proclamation could be extended to two weeks. Ross explained that, by statute, the extension was for seven days and that there had been a push for the legislature to extend it. Additionally, she explained the provisions in the County's ordinance.

Yea: Blocker, Smith, Waldron, Whitehurst, and Dean

Nay: None

EMERGENCY PROCLAMATION NO. 2020-48

**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**

(12/22/20 - 2 - 8:51 a.m.)

3. DEBT REFUNDING OPPORTUNITY

Jesse Dunn, Office of Management & Budgeting Director, provided details of the item, including closing costs.

(8:57 a.m.) Tom Reynolds, 50 Brigantine Court, questioned if Finance Committee meetings were open to the public and the makeup of the members; if the closing costs were negotiable; and how Public Financial Management (PFM), Inc., was paid for its services: annually or on percentage.

(8:59 a.m.) Dunn explained the County's relationship with PFM and stated additional information would be brought back at a later scheduled Board of County Commission meeting.

(9:01 a.m.) Motion by Smith, seconded by Waldron, carried 5/0, via roll call vote, authorizing the county administrator, or designee, to assemble a financing team to prepare refinancing documents to achieve annual debt service savings for the Water & Sewer Revenue Bonds, Series 2013A, and Water & Sewer Revenue Refunding Bonds, Series 2014, and to present at a future St. Johns County Board of County Commission meeting for consideration.

Yea: Dean, Smith, Waldron, Whitehurst, and Blocker
Nay: None

(12/22/20 - 3 - 9:02 a.m.)

4. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was none.

(12/22/20 - 3 - 9:02 a.m.)

5. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Smith

No report.

Commissioner Waldron

(9:04 a.m.) Waldron recommended offering economic benefits to manufacturers, from other parts of the country, who have been closed, to come to St. Johns County. He wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Commissioner Whitehurst

(9:05 a.m.) Whitehurst spoke on a concern, raised by a resident, regarding a smoke shop that opened near an elementary school off Racetrack Road. Ross explained she would get with Administration to address the concern.

Commissioner Blocker

(9:06 a.m.) Blocker wished all a Merry Christmas and expressed his condolences to Commissioner Waldron for the loss of his mother.

Commissioner Dean

(9:07 a.m.) Dean spoke on purchasing JEA assets. Discussion ensued on discussing the topic at a later scheduled meeting.

County Administration

No report.

County Attorney

No report.

(12/22/20 - 4 - 9:11 a.m.)
ADJOURN

With there being no further business to come before the Board, Blocker adjourned the meeting at 9:11 a.m.

Approved _____ January 19 _____, 2021

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA

By: *Henry Dean*
Henry Dean, Vice Chairman

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

By: *Sam Waltermar*
Deputy Clerk

