

**MINUTES OF MEETING
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA
FEBRUARY 9, 2021
8:00 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 February 5, 2021, 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
Patrick McCormack, County Attorney
Sindy Wiseman, Deputy Clerk

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

(02/09/21 - 1 - 8:00 a.m.)
CALL TO ORDER

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

(02/09/21 - 1 - 8:01 a.m.)
ROLL CALL

The clerk called the roll, and all Board members were present.

(02/09/21 - 1 - 8:01 a.m.)
INVOCATION

Pastor Jeff Gatlin, Freedom Church, led the invocation.

(02/09/21 - 1 - 8:02 a.m.)
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chief Jerry Dedge, St. Johns County Sheriff's Office, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

(02/09/21 - 1 - 8:05 a.m.)
1. EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT UPDATE

Joseph Giammanco, Emergency Management Director, provided a COVID-19 update on the number of current cases in St. Johns County and vaccine distribution for the first and second doses.

(8:07 a.m.) Dean estimated that the number of residents 65 years and older should be vaccinated by April, providing the vaccine supply didn't change. He also asked whether

vaccines were being given to people who were under 65 who had underlying conditions. Giammanco responded that Flagler Hospital was administering vaccines for people under 65 with underlying conditions. Additionally, he provided an update on COVID-19 testing and commented on reaching out to the State for direction on the continued number of future vaccine distributions.

(8:12 a.m.) Blocker questioned whether residents were being tested for antibodies after given the vaccine. Paige Hartwell, St. Johns County Health Department, stated that she was unaware of any testing for antibodies being done.

(8:16 a.m.) Tom Reynolds, 50 Brigantine Court, spoke on essential workers, other than first responders, who need to be vaccinated. Additionally, he spoke on hazmat pay for first responders.

(8:19 a.m.) BJ Kalaidi, 8 Newcomb Street, reminded that CVS offered free COVID-19 testing for uninsured residents; requested that staff provide regular updates on the number of County employees who test positive for COVID-19; commented on the smooth operation for COVID-19 vaccines at the Solomon Calhoun Center; requested that the mandatory mask requirement in County buildings be rescinded, placing general public comment at the beginning of meetings; and suggested allowing pets at the vaccination locations to help relieve stressed individuals.

(02/09/21 - 2 - 8:22 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.

(8:23 a.m.) **Motion by Dean, seconded by Whitehurst, carried 5/0, to adopt St. Johns County Emergency Proclamation No. 2021-6, extending the local state of emergency for an additional seven-day period.**

Yea: Blocker, Dean, Smith, Waldron, Whitehurst

Nay: None

EMERGENCY PROCLAMATION NO. 2021-6

**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. 2021-4**

(8:23 a.m.) Tom Reynolds, 50 Brigantine Court, spoke in support of extending the emergency proclamation and requested vaccinating essential workers, other than first responders.

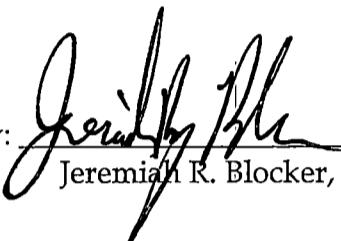
(8:25 a.m.) BJ Kalaidi, 8 Newcomb Street, questioned whether the extension was to allow the County to continue to receive CARES Act funding and whether it would be extended until everyone was vaccinated. Conrad responded that the local state of emergency did make available current and future CARES Act funding. McCormack noted the conditions for extending the emergency proclamation.

(02/09/21 - 3 - 8:31 a.m.)
ADJOURN

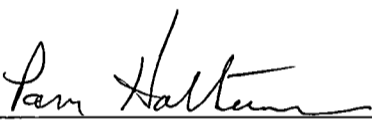
With there being no further business to come before the Board, Blocker adjourned the meeting at 8:31 a.m.

Approved _____ March 2 _____, 2021

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA

By: 
Jeremiah R. Blocker, Chair

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

By: 
Deputy Clerk

