



**MINUTES
CITY COMMISSION MEETING
CITY OF ST. AUGUSTINE BEACH
March 2, 2015**

City Hall
2200 A1A South
St. Augustine Beach, FL 32080

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Samuels called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. ROLL CALL

Present: Mayor Samuels, Vice Mayor O'Brien, Commissioner George, Commissioner Snodgrass, Commissioner England

Also Present: City Manager Royle, City Attorney Burnett, Police Chief Hardwick, Deputy City Clerk Benson, Chief Financial Officer Burns, Building Official Larson, and Public Works Director Howell

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE REGULAR CITY COMMISSION MEETING OF FEBRUARY 2, 2015

Motion: to approve the minutes of the February 2, 2015 meeting, **Moved by** Commissioner Snodgrass, **Seconded by** Vice Mayor O'Brien.

Motion passed unanimously.

V. ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS OF THE AGENDA

City Manager Royle said that Presentation item B, by Mr. Ramming, had requested to be moved to the April Commission meeting. Mr. Royle asked to add a Presentation of a plaque to Chief Hardwick by Florida Representative DeSantis.

Motion: to approve the changes to the agenda, **Moved by** Commissioner Snodgrass, **Seconded by** Vice Mayor O'Brien.

Motion passed unanimously.

VI. CHANGES TO ORDER OF TOPICS ON THE AGENDA - None

VII. PRESENTATIONS

- A. Presentation of a Plaque to the City Commission in Appreciation of its Approval of Resolution 15-02 Opposing the Sale of Flavored Tobacco Products

A plaque was presented to the City Commission in appreciation for adoption of a resolution opposing the sale of flavored tobacco.

- B. Introduction of Mr. R. Phillip Ramming, Asset Manager for Sabal Financial, Owner of the Remaining 4.5 Acres of the Maratea Subdivision - Moved to April agenda

Mayor Samuels announced the St. Augustine Beach Police Department received its accreditation. She presented a certificate of recognition from Congressman DeSantis.

- C. Beach Matters: Update Report by Mr. Billy Zeits, St. Johns County Assistant Parks and Recreation Director

Billy Zeits reviewed staffing and changes to the beach area. He discussed estimated beach attendance last year, off beach parking and tolls collected county-wide. The #9 ranking from Trip Adviser in their top 10 beaches list was likely to create an increase in beach visitors. He recommended asking the community what they want from the City and determining the impact of visitors on the local residents. Commissioner George asked for copies of his presentation.

Vice Mayor O'Brien asked if the County would have a bar code scan of season pass holders to see how much they use it. Mr. Zeits said they would look into that technology. Commissioner England asked about vehicular access to the beach. Mr. Zeits said tide, sand and weather conditions were which type of vehicle could have access on a given day. She asked how to get access to current beach information. Mr. Zeits said there was a "Reach the Beach" phone app that provided current information. Mayor Samuels asked about shuttle services from remote parking to the beach. Mr. Zeits said shuttles would run every holiday weekend during the summer.

Tom Reynolds, 880 A1A Beach Blvd., said the income from beach tolls were not sufficient to pay for the beach services. The City and/or County should consider charging for parking at the beach.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Richard Backlund, 17 Lee Drive, complimented Chief Hardwick on the accreditation.

Robert Kahler, 29 Sunfish Drive, praised Commissioner George for her stance regarding the \$560,000 payment from the developers of the Marriott.

Brendan O'Connell thanked the City Commission for their support of the computer filters in the library to block pornography.

Larry Bishop, 2 E Street, asked about road repairs for the easterly section of the street. Mayor Samuels said it would be discussed later in the meeting.

Ann Palmquist, 213 10th St., asked that information projected at the meeting be legible instead of blurry.

Steve Mitherz, 17 Sea Oaks Drive, asked if Ocean Hammock Park would be improved soon. Ms. Burns explained that timetable had been adjusted and staff was trying to find grant funding for the projects.

Tom Reynolds, 880 A1A Beach Blvd., said R.B. Hunt Elementary School should have a police presence at the school continuously from 30 minutes before to 30 minutes after school hours. Also, in the recent newspaper article about the 450th celebration, it mentioned logistics but said nothing about security.

Chief Hardwick said the City Police Department would help with security at the school if requested by St. Augustine Police. He will talk with Chief Luders.

IX. PUBLIC HEARINGS

1. Ordinance 15-02: Public Hearing and Second Reading, to Reorganize the Sections of the City Charter

Ordinance 15-02 was read by title only by City Attorney Burnett.

ORDINANCE NO: 15-02

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ST. AUGUSTINE BEACH, CODIFYING, REORGANIZING, AND RESTATING THE CHARTER LAWS OF THE CITY OF ST. AUGUSTINE BEACH; AMENDING THE CHARTER LAWS, ARTICLE I, IN GENERAL, ARTICLE II, ELECTIONS, AND ARTICLE III, CHARTER AMENDMENT; ADDING ARTICLE IV, DEPARTMENTS, OFFICES, AND AGENCIES, ARTICLE V, ELECTIONS, AND ARTICLE VI, GENERAL PROVISIONS; TO REFLECT THE REFERENDUM OF THE ELECTORATE AND REORGANIZE AND RESTATE THE CHARTER LAWS OF THE CITY OF ST. AUGUSTINE BEACH, FLORIDA; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Motion: to approve Ordinance 15-02 to Reorganize the Sections of the City Charter, **Moved by** Commissioner Snodgrass, **Seconded by** Vice Mayor O'Brien.
Motion passed unanimously.

X. CONSENT

2. Proclamation: Declaring March 2015 as Irish American Heritage Month

Motion: to approve the Proclamation Declaring March 2015 as Irish American Heritage Month, **Moved by** Commissioner Snodgrass, **Seconded by** Commissioner George.
Motion passed unanimously.

3. Approval of Permit for the Fradley Wedding on Thursday, July 9, 2015 at the Pier Pavilion

Motion: to approve the permit for the Fradley Wedding on Thursday, July 9, 2015, **Moved by** Commissioner George, **Seconded by** Commissioner George.

Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Burnett noted the hold harmless agreement was not signed.

4. Resolution 15-04, to Declare as Surplus a 1989 John Deere 210 Backhoe/Loader and Authorize Its Disposal

Motion: to approve Resolution 15-04, to Declare as Surplus a 1989 John Deere 210 Backhoe/Loader and Authorize Its Disposal, **Moved by** Commissioner Snodgrass, **Seconded by** Vice Mayor O'Brien.

Motion passed unanimously.

5. Budget Resolution 15-01, to Amend the FY 15 General Fund Budget to Recognize and Appropriate Grant Money for the Police Department

Motion: to approve Budget Resolution 15-01, to Amend the FY 15 General Fund Budget to Recognize and Appropriate Grant Money for the Police Department, **Moved by** Commissioner Snodgrass, **Seconded by** Vice Mayor O'Brien.

Motion passed unanimously.

XI. OLD BUSINESS

6. Speed Control Devices:

- A. Review of Responses from Residents of the Ocean Walk Subdivision re: Speed Control Devices for Lee Drive

City Manager Royle explained that the City received 16 responses to a letter explaining the request, and eleven of those were opposed to speed bumps or humps. He provided the Commission with additional responses received from the residents which showed one additional response in favor of speed humps and four responses opposed. Mr. Backlund also presented a petition which showed an additional four homes supported unspecified speed calming measures.

Clint Stoevers, 43 Lee Drive; Richard Backlund, 17 Lee Drive; and Hunter Camp, 53 Lee Drive; spoke in support of speed bumps or humps. Brian DelRey, 22 Lee Drive; Thomas Curry, 36 Lee Drive; Travis Tabor, 15 Lee Drive; and Robert Kahler, 29 Sunfish Drive, spoke in opposition to speed bumps or humps.

Joe Howell estimated speed bumps cost around \$500 each. Commander Parker said he identified the four speeders and talked with them individually about the speeding. Officers spent 16 days patrolling the area and recommend speed enforcement only. He said no citations were issued, but warnings were given. Chief Hardwick explained that they were trying to reach the speeders kindly at first and will gradually step up the enforcement. Mr. Howell explained that speed humps or tables were not suitable for the location. He said the statistics showed that 85% of the vehicles were traveling in a safe and responsible manner, and the statistics fall woefully short of the standards established by the City of St. Augustine and by St. Johns County for speed bumps. The report showed the majority of vehicles were driving below the speed limit. Commissioner

Snodgrass wanted the police to increase enforcement and talk with the four speeders in the neighborhood about tonight's meeting. He also wanted the speed limit reduced to 15 mph, and the Commission to re-examine the matter in 60-90 days. Commissioner George asked for the police to issue appropriate citations to speeders over the next month and provide an update at the next Commission meeting. Mayor Samuels and Vice Mayor O'Brian agreed with Commissioner Snodgrass. Chief Hardwick said he would provide the Commission with a report in two weeks. Mr. Burnett will prepare an ordinance to lower the speed limit to 15 mph for review at the next meeting.

B. Consideration of Policies re: Processing of Requests for Speed Control Devices

Mr. Royle said the City of St. Augustine and St. Johns County have policies and procedures for such requests. He offered samples and said staff could formulate policies for St. Augustine Beach. Commissioner England wanted to also consider an application and processing fees. She said other traffic calming features should also be considered. Striping and narrowing helps to reduce speeds.

Commissioner Snodgrass mentioned an email received concerning the crosswalks. The City has a Crosswalk Committee and is trying to make the crosswalks uniform. He wanted to review other options to see if they are better.

7. Versaggi Drive: Request by Mr. William Schilling for Driveways to Commercial Properties

Mr. Steve Edmunds, 9309 Old Kings South, Jacksonville, said he invited the residents to a meeting and he offered a new proposal. Engineer Bill Schilling, 12740 Grand Bay East, Jacksonville, showed his revised plan for the entrances and exits of the two properties. Sid Aunsbacher, 780 N. Ponce Deleon Blvd., St. Augustine, was an attorney representing Mr. Edmunds. He said the proposal was consistent with Mr. Larson's position and the City's determination for the Walgreens store at Ocean Trace.

James Collie, 10 Versaggi Drive; Brendan O'Connell, 10 Oceanside Drive; Eric Kenney, 8 Versaggi Drive; Florence Perkolup, 3 Versaggi Drive; JoAnn Strong, 25 Linda Mar Drive; Dan Kuzio, 15 Linda Mar Drive; Fran Johnson, 33 Linda Mar Drive; Patricia Laurencelle, 23 Versaggi Drive; and Barbara Oswell, 4 Linda Mar Drive spoke in opposition to the request. They cited increased traffic in their neighborhood and increased danger at the intersection of Versaggi Drive and A1A.

Mr. Edmunds said that after his meeting with the residents he widened the plans for the front entrances on A1A and changed the entrances from Versaggi to be one way only.

Mr. Burnett said the City litigated the access for Ocean Trace that was mentioned. In that case, it was a new development and this is an existing neighborhood. He said the residents' personal knowledge of the site can be considered fact based testimony. Commissioner George said the expert testimony by the applicant's engineer indicated there no change in the level of service from existing levels on Versaggi or A1A. With no improvement shown, she would deny the

request. Commissioner England said the commercial properties and their entrances have been there for years and there was no compelling reason for the change.

Vice Mayor OBrien said the change would create a public safety hazard. Mayor Samuels said she opposed the change. Mr. Burnett said the applicant could legally challenge a denial in several ways, but he felt it was defensible.

Motion: to deny the request by Mr. William Schilling for Driveways to Commercial Properties, **Moved by** Mayor Samuels, **Seconded by** Commissioner George.
Motion passed unanimously.

8. Large Special Events: Discussion Whether to Approve Them Being Held in the City

Mayor Samuels said the Diva Run had already started advertising and the City needed to decide if they would be allowed to return. Commissioner George noted the police officers are paid by the event holders for the time they work at events, and they can request County assistance if necessary. Chief Hardwick said the City could handle about 4000 runners. The traffic jam was created when runners had to cross A1A. He will try to have a better route for the next run. Chief Hardwick said that some times of the year the City could not support any special events due to the influx of visitors. It was the consensus of the Commission to inform the Diva Run that they would be limited to 4,000 runners for the 2015 event. Ann Palmquist said before approving special events, the City should ask where the proceeds will go.

Commissioner George asked that staff research how other cities get a share of the profits from events.

9. \$560,000 Payment to City for Vacating 6th Street Right-of-Way:

A. Discussion Whether to Use \$100,000 of It to Repair Former Building Department Office

Nancy Willoughby, Vice President for The Art Studio, said they were committed to the building. The group offered to pay 1/2 of the cost, up to \$50,000, over 15 years. They wanted to save the building, but would pay the \$50,000 toward a new building if necessary.

George Paul, a member of The Art Studio's Board of Directors, said they also talked with Alternative Solutions, which sells containerized structures. They received an estimate of \$54,000 for a unit, but there would be an additional cost to make the exterior visually pleasing.

Robert Kahler, 29 Sunfish Drive, said the building should be torn down.

Motion: to direct staff to raze the building within 30 days and salvage any exterior coquina or historical items possible, as determined by Mr. Larson, **Moved by** Commissioner Snodgrass, **Seconded by** Commissioner England.

Yes:	Mayor Samuels, Vice Mayor O'Brien, Commissioner Snodgrass, Commissioner England
No:	Commissioner George

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B. Discussion of Other Uses of the Money

City Manager Royle provided a four-year program of paving, drainage, and other improvements in the City. Mr. Howell said he would talk with contractors immediately to determine what could be accomplished in this fiscal year. The consensus of the City Commission was to have staff proceed with obtaining cost estimates for the streets in Coquina Gables, to be discussed at the April meeting.

Larry Bishop, 2 E Street, asked that E Street east of A1A Beach be paved soon. Robert Kahler, 29 Sunfish Drive, was glad the City had the funds to spend. Ann Palmquist, 213 10th Street, opposed doing all the work at once and said it should be done in phases.

Motion: to direct staff to prepare cost estimates for paving the streets in Coquina Gables in FY 15, not to exceed \$150,000, **Moved by** Vice Mayor O'Brien, **Seconded by** Commissioner Snodgrass.

Motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Snodgrass asked for monthly updates on the work.

10. Strategic Plan: Discussion of Next Steps Concerning Its Implementation - Continued to the meeting of April 13, 2015

XII. NEW BUSINESS

11. April Meeting: Rescheduling It to Monday, April 13, 2015, Because of the Special General Election on Tuesday, April 7, 2015

Motion: to approve rescheduling the April City Commission meeting to Monday, April 13, 2015, **Moved by** Commissioner Snodgrass, **Seconded by** Vice Mayor O'Brien.

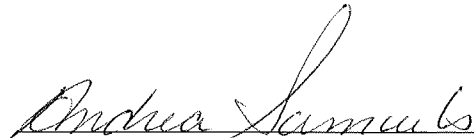
Motion passed unanimously.

XIII. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS


City Manager Royle noted the Ethics Class in St. Augustine to be held April 10. All of the Commissioners said they would attend.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

Due to the late hour, the Commission adjourned the meeting at 10:30 p.m.


Andrea Samuels, Mayor – Commissioner

ATTEST:


City Manager

(THIS MEETING HAS BEEN RECORDED IN ITS ENTIRETY. THE RECORDINGS WILL BE KEPT ON FILE FOR THE REQUIRED RETENTION PERIOD. COMPLETE VIDEO CAN BE FOUND AT WWW.STAUGBCH.COM, OR BY CONTACTING THE OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER)