



MINUTES
CONTINUATION OF THE
REGULAR CITY COMMISSION MEETING
TUESDAY, JUNE 2, 2020 AT 5:30 P.M.
CITY OF ST. AUGUSTINE BEACH, 2200 A1A South, St. Augustine Beach, FL 32080

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor England called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor England led the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. ROLL CALL

Mayor England asked City Clerk Raddatz for roll call.

Present: Mayor England, Vice Mayor Kostka, Commissioner George (virtually), Commissioner Rumrell (virtually), and Commissioner Samora (virtually).

Also present were: City Manager Royle, Assistant City Attorney Lex Taylor, Police Chief Hardwick, City Clerk Raddatz, Finance Director Douylliez, Building Official Law, and Public Works Director Tredik (virtually).

IV. NEW BUSINESS

9. Solid Waste Collection Regulations: Ordinance 20-XX, First Reading, to Amend Section 10 of the City Code (Presenter: Bill Tredik, Public Works Director)

Mayor England introduced Item 9 and asked Assistant City Attorney Taylor to read the title of the ordinance which had been inadvertently not done at the June 1st meeting.

Assistant City Attorney Taylor read the title of the ordinance.

Motion: to approve the ordinance with the previous stated changes. **Moved by** Commissioner George, **Seconded by** Commissioner Samora.

Roll Call was as followed:

Commissioner Samora	Yes
Commissioner George	Yes
Mayor England	Yes
Vice Mayor Kostka	Yes
Commissioner Rumrell	Yes

Motion passed unanimously.

Mayor England moved on to Item 10.

10. Discussion by St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce to Use the City Seal.

Mayor England introduced Item 10 asked Richard Goldman (virtually) to speak on this item.

Richard Goldman, Visitor and Convention Bureau President, 2540 W. Executive Center Circle, Suite 200, Tallahassee, FL 32301 advised that the Chamber of Commerce due to the Coronavirus has looked for ways to demonstrate to tourists that the City of St. Augustine Beach is a safe destination to come to. One of the ways is a Pledge program like the City of Savannah's Safe Pledge. The business goes online and reads what the requirements are and signs a Pledge that he will follow the basic guidelines from the CDC. The businesses will receive posters, flyers, and window cling signs that they have taken the Pledge. St. Johns County will monitor the online service. The Pledge makes the businesses' guests feel safer. He advised that wearing masks are encouraged. The Pledge is meant to be a signal to visitors that the businesses are following the guidelines. Feedback from visitors have been positive according to the City of Savannah.

Mayor England asked if St. Johns County and the City of St. Augustine approved using their seals and how will the Chamber of Commerce disseminates this to the businesses in the City of St. Augustine Beach.

Mr. Goldman advised that they have approved their seals to be used. The Chamber of Commerce will be sending links to the website to the businesses of the program once it is up and running. He believes that the program will be up and running by the first of next week.

Vice Mayor Kostka thanked Mr. Goldman for coming and for his input. She asked if the webpage will be handled by the County.

Mr. Goldman advised yes. The County will have a link that incorporates the Pledge and the businesses would agree to the guidelines and then become part of the data base of businesses that are participating. The County will send materials once the business pledges.

Vice Mayor Kostka was concerned about encouraging the use of face coverings by employees and customers. She explained her procedure for her business. She commented that none of her employees have chosen to wear face masks and asked if that gives the perception that the business is not following the pledge.

Mr. Goldman commented that the language of the Pledge is that it is encouraged. The market will decide whether they are comfortable about doing business. There are businesses that would be more concerned about masks than others. He advised that it is a program that the businesses must decides works for them.

Vice Mayor Kostka agreed that businesses are different, and some would want mask coverings more than others. Once Florida reaches Phase 2, would the Pledge continue?

Mr. Goldman advised that if people are concerned about it, it would be useful. He advised that he would be glad to share what Phase 2 will look like to businesses according to

Governor DeSantis. Local municipalities have more strict guidelines than the state.

Vice Mayor Kostka explained Georgia's guidelines, which are very restrictive on businesses. Florida's Executive Order is not as restrictive. She explained the difference in the statistics between Florida and Georgia. She agrees with a universal approach, but she feels that wearing face masks for a work shift is challenging.

Mr. Goldman advised that the County was doing this and then the City of St. Augustine wanted to be apart of the Pledge too. He mentioned that the residents also like to know they are safe as well.

Commissioner Samora advised that this is a reminder to the visitors, employees, residents, and businesses to be a safe distance and be careful. He agreed with the program and a nice gesture for the County and the City of St. Augustine and it will help the tourists to feel comfort that there is an awareness regarding Coronavirus.

Mayor England asked if Commissioner Samora if his employees wear masks when in front of customers.

Commissioner Samora advised that we started to make employees to wear masks at first; however, one employee got heat exhaustion and so he then did not require the masks to be worn unless the employee or the guest require them to have a mask. He said it may not be suitable for his business, but it might be for others.

Commissioner Rumrell thanked Mr. Goldman for his description of the Pledge. He is glad that this is being done as a group and has the force behind everyone. He advised if the City does not do this, then the City is hurting our businesses. He commented that he believes this is a long-term situation that will continue until a vaccine is received. He agreed with the Pledge.

Commissioner George thanked Mr. Goldman and everyone on the VCB. She thought this was a great program that helps with marketing and will build confidence for tourists in our community. It will have a strong impact on all businesses, and it is imperative that our City shows a united front with the County and the City of St. Augustine. She wants to approve it and thinks it is a great program.

Mayor England advised that she is in full support of this. Disinfecting is very important for visitors and residents. She then made a motion.

Vice Mayor Kostka asked if Assistant City Attorney Taylor had any questions about the liabilities of the Pledge.

Assistant City Attorney Taylor asked if any inspections were being done or is it self-policing by each business.

Mr. Goldman said that the businesses are self-policing and no inspections will be made.

Assistant City Attorney Taylor advised since the City is not doing any policing, and the businesses are holding themselves to a certain standard, then he does not feel it would be

any liability on the City.

Motion: that the Commission allows the use of the City seal and supports the Pledge.
Moved by Mayor England, **Seconded by** Commissioner George.

Roll Call was as followed:

Commissioner Samora	Yes
Commissioner George	Yes
Mayor England	Yes
Vice Mayor Kostka	Yes
Commissioner Rumrell	Yes
Motion passed unanimously.	

Mayor England moved on to Item XIV.

XIV. STAFF COMMENTS

Mayor England asked Lt. Daniel Carswell for a report.

Lt. Carswell advised that Police Chief Hardwick requested that when Mayor England schedules a meeting with the Pyrus and Bluebird neighborhood that Building Official Law and Public Works Director Tredik attend as well. He also advised that the fireworks show for Jacksonville Beach was rescheduled for New Year's Eve and the City of St. Augustine's has been cancelled. He explained that if the City of St. Augustine has a fireworks event on New Year's Eve that the City work with them as a joint event.

Finance Director Douylliez explained that she is monitoring the finances of the City and has received some revenues which have not decreased too much but are early estimates. She has been notified that the State of Florida notified municipalities that one full month of state share revenues would be cut. She explained that there was a \$848 million deficit in the April numbers for the state.

Mayor England advised that the City might not know the full budget cuts for FY 2021 by July when the Commission sets the millage.

Finance Director Douylliez agreed with Mayor England's statement. She advised that she will be more conservative this year, especially with reserves needing to be built back up according to the auditors. She explained that hurricane season is also here and there already been three named storms.

Commissioner Rumrell asked if we received any money from the weir from the grant.

Finance Director Douylliez advised no. She explained that it was her understanding that the weir would be 100% funded: 25% from FEMA and 75% from St. Johns Water Management District. She explained it will be an 18-month project and explained that she has been researching for funding to get the City through the project until reimbursements come to the City.

Commissioner Rumrell advised that he would keep researching for more funding.

Vice Mayor Kostka thanked Finance Director Douylliez for her report and for doing so well in her projections.

Public Works Director Tredik advised that there is a project for parallel parking on Pope Road that the County did a conceptual plan which he sent to the Commission. He explained that there are 30 spaces east of Clipper and 17 additional parking spaces west of the YMCA, which he was concerned about because it is near a residential area. He asked for Commission guidance in case the County decides to build the parking spaces.

Mayor England asked to make this an agenda item if the County decides to move forward with it. She also commended the Public Works staff for picking up so much yard waste. She asked about the entrances and parkettes.

Public Works Director Tredik advised that he did not have any updates but could investigate that and bring it up at the next meeting.

Mayor England suggested to water the parkette where the two A1A highways.

Vice Mayor Kostka asked to place trash cans where there are benches in the parkettes and also placing trash cans at the crosswalks where there were flags during 4th of July and asked if they could be placed a week before and after 4th of July.

Public Works Director Tredik advised that he would do so.

City Manager Royle told Commissioner George that we have canned water for the meetings. He explained that on Zoom there was some problems with control over the meeting at the last night's meeting. He suggested that on the July 7th Special Commission meeting for the non-ad valorem assessment that there would be no zooming from the public. He asked that the public use the speaker cards or come to the meeting. He said if there are excess crowds, we would have the meeting room open for the public.

Discussion ensued regarding that the City only had 12 lines for parking calls; coordinating the muting on Zoom for the public if they get out of control or are not following the rules; not legal to mute people when they have their two or three minutes to address the Commission; allowed to mute a person if they are cursing after a warning; and coordinating the names for Vice Mayor Kostka with a list of those who Zoom in.

City Manager Royle advised that the Tourist Development Council (TDC) grant applications are open June 5th to July 4th. He explained that staff has discussed some modifications for Beach Blast Off or keep it as normal. He commented that he has asked the TDC Director if they will give the grant money for the fireworks; will the County allow us to use the pier because it was just refurbished, which the Assistant County Administrator is researching for him; Sheriff Shoar may not provide low or no cost police officers for the event, which would cost the City a lot of overtime pay for law enforcement; COVID-19 outcomes have not be reached, so the City doesn't know what that might entail; the Communications and Events Coordinator is looking for sponsorships, but may be hard to obtain due to businesses shutting down; not sure if TDC will give the City grant money for the advertising that is necessary for Beach Blast Off; commented that distancing due to COVID-19 may be enforced and so does the Commission want to have only who local people that can drive to the City; if the event is cancelled, there will be no reimbursement for the funds spent; if the event is modified this year, local food trucks were being discussed for the event; not having the kids zone due to COVID-19; only having one band instead of several; and not having buses because that costs approximately \$8,200. He explained that Port-o-Lets are still needed, light towers, overtime for employees, payment to the radio station and fees for licensing. He advised that staff is in a holding pattern because there are so many decision points not decided upon. There will be a budget hole if the TDC does not provide the grant money and if St. Johns

County does not allow the City to shoot the fireworks from the pier, there is no other place to shoot off the fireworks. He explained that there is a limited budget due to COVID-19 and that Beach Blast Off would cost the City \$30,000 to \$40,000. He remarked that he is not asking for answers from the Commission at this point but will need to have other agencies' decisions soon.

Finance Director Douylliez advised that this list (Exhibit 1) is a general concept of what the staff is looking at right now. Staff is submitting to the TDC just like other years and see what the City obtains and try to fund the rest of the event. Once the final decision is made by the TDC, the City staff will move forward if it is granted. Half of the fireworks payment is needed to be given to the contractor for the fireworks on October 1st, so cancelling the event would mean that the City would lose \$12,500. The production company would require half of their costs up front in October as well. She explained that there are very limited refunds with those cash outlays. She explained that Police Chief Hardwick suggested to work with the City of St. Augustine as a joint event, but that would be a Commission decision.

Vice Mayor Kostka advised that the most important deadline is from TDC because it is before the Commission next meeting. She asked if we apply and get the money but don't want to hold the event, do we just give the money back to the TDC.

Finance Director Douylliez advised that staff will be discussing this with the TDC on Friday to find out any penalties if we cancel now and if there are any penalties in the future for grants. She commented that she wants to move forward on the application; however, she was not certain what penalties there might be for the future.

Mayor England asked staff to move forward and ask all the appropriate questions of the TDC so there can be a determination. She said that she would work with City Manager Royle to reach out to the City of Jacksonville and the City of St. Augustine to see what their plans are. She explained that this would be a very difficult year to hold Beach Blast Off due to limitations on the budget and restrictions from COVID-19.

Commissioner George asked to bring this back for an agenda item. She explained that she had never seen the TDC give out penalties if an event did not take place, especially currently. She suggested that staff move forward with the application to TDC, but she was not prepared to answer whether to have the event now without having the figures of the event in advance.

Commissioner Samora thanked staff for the update, but too early to decide yet. He explained that the deadline date would be in October and things could change with the COVID-19 situation between now and then.

Commissioner Rumrell asked if the fireworks were cancelled would it go towards the following year's event. He suggested to work with the City of St. Augustine if that is an opportunity as well. He asked to find out if the TDC grant money could be used for the following year.

Mayor England asked staff to research this further and to have a Special Commission meeting if necessary, to inform the Commission.

Police Chief Hardwick advised that his concern is that other cities are pushing their fireworks shows off to New Year's Eve and if the City of St. Augustine does the event on New Year's Eve, there is no way law enforcement could do two events in the same county. He suggested to piggyback on the City of St. Augustine's event.

XV. ADJOURNMENT

Motion: to adjourn. **Moved by** Mayor England, **Seconded by** Vice Mayor Kostka.

Roll Call was as followed:

Commissioner Samora Yes

Commissioner George Yes

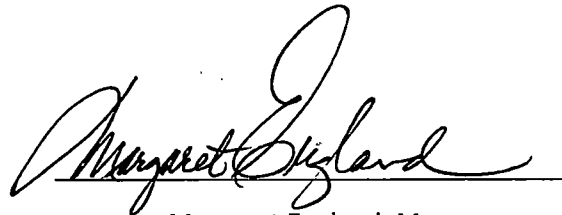
Mayor England Yes

Vice Mayor Kostka Yes

Commissioner Rumrell Yes

Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:49 p.m.



Margaret England, Mayor

ATTEST:



Beverly Raddatz, City Clerk