



## MINUTES

### CONTINUATION OF REGULAR CITY COMMISSION MEETING ON SEPTEMBER 14, 2020

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2020, AT 5:56 P.M.

CITY OF ST. AUGUSTINE BEACH, 2200 A1A South, St. Augustine Beach, FL 32080

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I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor England opened the meeting at 6:01 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

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

Also present: City Manager Royle, Assistant City Attorney Taylor, Police Chief Hardwick, Commander Daniel Carswell, Finance Director Douylliez, City Clerk Raddatz, Building Official Law, and Public Works Director Tredik.

XI. OLD BUSINESS

6. New Year's Fireworks Show: Update Report and Request for Commission to Decide Whether to Hold It (Presenter: Melinda Conlon, Communications and Events Coordinator)

Mayor England introduced Item 6 and asked Ms. Conlon for her report.

Communications and Events Coordinator Conlon show a PowerPoint presentation regarding Beach Blast Off and alternative events instead of Beach Blast Off. She advised that the City did not get funding from the Tourist Development Council (TDC) because they did not want any events before January 1, 2021 due to COVID-19. St. Johns County limited the crowd size, which would be impossible for the City to maintain. She commented that St. Johns Sheriff's Office and the Department Heads also would not give support to the event due to COVID-19. She then explained that instead of having only Beach Blast Off that there could be events that would support a limited number of visitors. She suggested a shop and dine event with an art walk, a holiday night market promoting local businesses and vendors, and having a fun light or laser show along with the City of St. Augustine. She would work with the businesses and the art studio.

Mayor England asked if this needs to be a consensus or a motion.

City Manager Royle advised that a motion would be needed. He explained that he has had no emails or comments about Beach Blast Off. He commented that he needed to bring it to the Commission's attention now because contracts need to be signed and expenses sent for Beach Blast Off if the Commission wanted to move forward. He advised that he and Police Chief Hardwick do not want the Beach Blast Off do to COVID-19.

Police Chief Hardwick agreed with City Manager Royle. He explained that St. Johns County is still recovering and does not want COVID-19 cases to increase. He does not want to expose the men and women of the City to any more than we have to and advised that there are no other events happening, except the Amphitheater having small events.

Mayor England advised that there is a mask ordinance that says any outside gatherings of 50 or more requires a mask, which would be impossible to enforce for Beach Blast Off.

Mayor England opened the Public Comments section. Being none, Mayor England asked for other Commission discussion.

Vice Mayor Kostka advised that many events have been cancelled due to COVID-19 and does not see the harm in cancelling Beach Blast Off in order to protect the citizens. She said that overtime expenses would be saved.

Mayor England advised that there is no money in the budget for Beach Blast Off expenses.

Commissioner Samora agreed to cancel Beach Blast Off this year because there is no choice; however, he appreciated seeing the alternative planning for smaller events. He suggested starting events before Thanksgiving and continuing the events through the holiday season.

Communications and Events Coordinator advised that she met with City Manager Regan from the City of St. Augustine about being a part of their Nights of Lights. She explained that it does not have to be white lights, but it could be colored lights and our own presentation. She commented that she would like the businesses to all get involved along A1A Beach Boulevard.

Mayor England wanted funky beach colored lights along with the Nights of Lights.

Commissioner George advised that cancelling Beach Blast Off is the only right thing to do and commends staff on their wonderful ideas. Loved the concept of creating a season. She advised that she would help in any way she could.

Commissioner Rumrell agreed with the other Commissioners.

Mayor England made a motion.

**Motion:** to discontinue the Beach Blast Off in 2020 and consider other alternative ways to celebrate the end of 2020. **Motion by** Mayor England, **Seconded by** Commissioner George.

Mayor England asked for a roll call vote.

Mayor England                      Yes

Vice Mayor Kostka                      Yes

Commissioner George                      Yes

Commissioner Rumrell                      Yes

Commissioner Samora                      Yes

Motion passed unanimously.

Mayor England moved on to Item 7.

7. Use of City Property Adjacent to Mizell Road retention Pond: Review of Agreements to Allow Honeybee Hives and Consideration of Agreement with Ark Wildlife Rehabilitation for Injured Bird Recovery Facility (Presenter: Max Royle, City Manager)

Mayor England introduced Item 7 and asked for a staff report from City Manager Royle.

City Manager Royle showed (Exhibit 2) of Mizell pond and explained that there is a bird facility on the western side of Mizell pond. He explained that this bird facility helps injured birds and they have been there since 2005 and is managed by Karen Lynch, which who like to renew the agreement with the City. He commented that there is an additional proposal for the use of that land for beehives. Diane Spoden will speak to the Commission regarding this Boy Scout project. It is a good location for both the birds and the bees, and no one can disturb the beehives.

Mayor England advised in August 2020, the Commission approved moving forward with the beehives and now will approve the contract that the City Attorney drafted.

Diane Spoden, 7424 A1A South, St. Augustine, FL, advised the property is ideal because it is fenced, and the public cannot disturb the bees. She explained that there would be no problem with the birds being affected and the contract looks fine. She agreed to mow the land around the beehives so no one can get stung.

Mayor England opened the Public Comments section. Being none, Mayor England closed the Public Comments section and the made a motion.

**Motion:** to approve the contract. **Motion by** Mayor England, **Seconded by** Vice Mayor Kostka.

Mayor England asked for a roll call vote.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

City Manager Royle advised that the second agreement is for the Ark Wildlife Service.

Karen Ward, 700 W Pope Road, St. Augustine, FL, gave history of her bird wildlife sanctuary and thanked the Commission for their help by allowing her to lease the property.

Mayor England asked the Commission if there were any questions. Being none, Mayor England asked Ms. Ward if she was satisfied with the lease renewal.

Ms. Ward advised yes.

Mayor England thanked all Ms. Ward does for the animals.

**Motion:** to approve the lease for the Ark. **Motion by** Mayor England, **Seconded by** Commissioner George.

Mayor England asked for a roll call vote.

Mayor England	Yes
Vice Mayor Kostka	Yes
Commissioner George	Yes

Commissioner Rumrell      Yes  
Commissioner Samora      Yes  
Motion passed unanimously.

Mayor England moved on to Item 8.

## XII. OLD BUSINESS

8. Tourist Development Council: Approval of a Letter to Re-Appoint Commissioner Undine George as the City Representative (Presenter: Max Royle, City Manager)

Mayor England introduced the Item 8 and asked for a staff report from City Manager Royle.

City Manager Royle advised that Commissioner George has been the representative for the City on the Tourist Development Council (TDC) and she would like to open up discussion on whether Mayor England would like her to continue in that role or if Mayor England would like to assume the role.

Mayor England advised that Commissioner George has done a great job with the TDC and would like her to continue in the role.

Commissioner George advised that she would continue as the representative.

Mayor England moved on to Item 9.

9. Civil Rights Monument Adjacent to Former City Hall: Consideration of How to Highlight It (Presenter: Commissioner Undine George)

Mayor England introduced Item 9 and asked Commissioner George to comment on the civil rights monument.

Commissioner George advised that she sent to the Commission photographs and the video regarding the civil rights monument and explained that the City has a lot of history. She advised that with the national attention to the monuments, she was asked by a reporter about the City's monument. She commented that the monument has not been taken proper care of, but she is looking into grants and the businesses may be willing to help in cleaning up the monument. She suggested that staff or a board come up with a vision for the monument to bring attention to it and fundraising.

Mayor England advised that she would like to put a photograph at city hall.

Commissioner George asked to come up with a vision to update the site by SEPAC or staff. She would like a concept or a theme and then get funding for it. Staff could do the initial research or SEPAC do it.

City Manager Royle advised that he would like to speak to staff to get their vision and then report back to the Commission if that is the Commission's direction.

Commissioner George asked how the Veteran's Memorial was done.

City Manager Royle advised that Captain Bob Beskind had the vision and then Michael Stauffer did the design of the monument. He explained that the Commission appropriated the money for Mr. Stauffer's design, and it was done.

Mayor England advised that since the City is not doing Beach Blast Off, then maybe those sponsors could be asked to help with this civil rights monument. She suggested contacting Mr. Stauffer and seeing if he had any ideas.

Commissioner George thought it was a great plan. She suggested getting in contact with the Art Studio as well. She said that she would be happy to ask some artists in the City to see if they would like to help with concepts as well. She agreed with contacting Mr. Stauffer.

Commissioner Rumrell agreed with all the suggestions but feels that the monument is in need of some work.

Vice Mayor Kostka advised that the monument is in need of repair and suggested getting the vision first, so the sponsors know what they are contributing too. It's a great opportunity and is deserving.

Commissioner Samora suggested reaching out to the Brumagin family since they funded or designed it and also to get grants.

It was the Commission's consensus to move this forward under Commissioner Comments or Staff Comments next month.

Commissioner George asked who would bring it up to Mr. Stauffer.

Mayor England advised and she and the City Manager would contact Mr. Stauffer.

Commissioner George advised that she would reach out to the Arts Council.

#### XIV. STAFF COMMENTS

Mayor England asked Police Chief Hardwick for any staff comments.

Police Chief Hardwick advised he is preparing for the General Election and he had an succession plan in place with Commander Ashlock being on staff; however, Mr. Ashlock has been activated and is going to Washington, DC for an unknown amount of time. Mr. Ashlock will be on unpaid military leave from October 1, 2020. He advised that Daniel Carswell has been promoted to Commander. He suggested that after the election, Commander Carswell become Interim Police Chief until a decision can be made permanently. He explained that Commander Carswell has filled in for him and Commander Ashlock when they have been on military leave and his leave of absence during his campaign. Police Chief Hardwick will be with the agency until after the election on November 3<sup>rd</sup> and after that he plans on transitioning to the Sheriff's Office when Sheriff Shoar welcomes him. He asked for guidance from the Commission. He said the options are that Commander Carswell can fill in as the Interim Police Chief until the Commission decides that he meets the criteria. He has been with the agency for 16 years and can fill the Chief's role. Police Chief Hardwick advised that he would be here if needed until January 1<sup>st</sup>. Option 2 would be to do a national search for a Police Chief and Option 3 would be to go to a local search. He explained that for a local search he could advertise on the local police association website for free of charge. He commented that he has received resumes, which he has forwarded to the Commission. He remarked that the previously Commission received 224 applications the last time and he was working in St. Johns County. He suggested that the Commission give Commander Carswell until the first quarter of the year to see how he is doing as Interim Police Chief. He advised that he already had a mock accreditation with no blemishes and small word changes to the Standard Operating Policies.

Mayor England asked if Commander Ashlock has left permanently and not be back.

Police Chief Hardwick advised that Commander Ashlock is on military orders as of October 1, 2020 and he will report to his duty station for a year and will be on leave without pay.

Mayor England asked to put this item on an agenda to notice the public.

City Attorney Taylor agreed that it should be noticed and not to make any decisions today.

Mayor England asked that this item be brought up so the Commission could think about what options they would like to move in.

Vice Mayor Kostka advised that it is important to move quickly and that the new chief would be able to spend time with Police Chief Hardwick.

Police Chief Hardwick advised that Commander Carswell will continue until he leaves in December.

Mayor England asked City Manager Royle to have salary information and have this added to the agenda in October.

Commissioner George and Commissioner Rumrell agreed to bring this up next month.

Commissioner Samora asked to bring it up as soon as possible for the sake of the Police Department.

Police Chief Hardwick asked if this should have a separate meeting for this item. He will as Sheriff continue to give St. Augustine Police Department whatever the City needs and will continue their relationship. He advised that Officer Lewis would be back from military in November and there would be full staff.

Mayor England advised we need get information on salaries, Sheriff's Office commitment, whether to accept resumes locally or nationwide, so there are several things to discuss and it may need a separate meeting.

Discussion ensued regarding whether to have a workshop in October or November; present all information possible to present to the public; October's agenda is light right now; election machines will be in the Commission room starting October 17<sup>th</sup> through November 5<sup>th</sup>; Commission needing full information; having to schedule a date on the October agenda; whether to delay interviewing for the Chief's position until after the election; listen to Police Chief Hardwick's suggestions; Interim Police Chief Carswell has no limit of time until the Commission decides what option to take; to give the public more time; and having Commander Carswell's resume available to the Commission.

Commissioner Samora asked to formalize whether Commander Carswell would become Interim Police Chief.

Mayor England advised that a date could be set for a November workshop and whether to allow Commander Carswell to be Interim Police Chief on the October agenda.

Police Chief Hardwick will forward the dates for the accreditation in October.

Commander Carswell advised that he would be happy to serve as Interim Police Chief and explained that he has been with Chief Hardwick for seven years. He advised that this is his home and family. He commented that he has a very good relationship with the businesses and Police Chief Hardwick.

Police Chief Hardwick advised that Commander Carswell is going for his master's degree and is on the waiting list for the FBI National Academy.

Mayor England asked for Commander Carswell's resume and Police Chief Hardwick's recommendations.

Mayor England asked City Manager Royle for his comments.

City Manager Royle advised he attended a meeting today to update the transit development plan with a consultant that was just hired for St. Johns County. He advised it was a staff level meeting. The consultant was England, Thims, and Miller. They are creating a 10-year transit development plan and public transportation. The consultant is seeking public comments. A monorail that connect to the two cities would be great.

Public Works Director Tredik advised that this weekend with all the rain was challenging, but the beach took the worse beating. He explained that there is no sand left in front of Embassy Suites and had a seawall failure. There is not much left on the pier. Water was coming in under Pope Road and flowing into the Mickler pipe and into the Mizell pond. There was not any property damage and Lee Drive was fine because of the cleaning of the ditches. He wants to create a stormwater funding mechanism for the future but needs guidance from the Commission on whether they are opened to it for FY 21-22.

Vice Mayor Kostka requested general information on problem areas in the City on flooding when this is brought up on the October Commission meeting.

Public Works Director Tredik advised yes, but only general information. He advised that he would give a briefing on Ocean Hammock Park at the October meeting and is applying for a \$60,000 matching grant for the improvements in Ocean Hammock Park.

Mayor England asked if the deadlines will be met in the contract and the consultant understands the seriousness of meeting deadlines.

Public Works Director Tredik advised yes. He explained that Ocean Walk needs a survey and what the next step would be. He suggested CMT because they have the history and the modeling of the area.

Mayor England asked about Gulfstream in the past.

Public Works Director Tredik advised that Gulfstream does not have the knowledge and there is a lot of knowledge and expertise with CMT.

Mayor England advised that the Commission would have to decide whether to get a second opinion or to go with CMT. She asked Commissioner Rumrell about CMT.

Commissioner Rumrell prefers bidding it out when possible.

Commissioner George advised that it may not be appropriate to speak on this since it has not been noticed.

Public Works Director Tredik advised that he cannot get bids from engineers on this.

Commission agreed that it needs to be noticed on an agenda.

Finance Director Douylliez thanked the Commission for supporting the budget.

Mayor England advised that there were so many comments on how well the budget process went and was transparent.

City Clerk Raddatz had no comments.

City Attorney Taylor had no comments.

Communication and Event Coordinator had no comments.

Discussion ensued regarding when the next beach renourishment would be; three-years to go until the next renourishment is due; taking sand from the south to bring north; and City Manager Royle would look into replacing the sand if possible.

XV. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor England asked for a motion to adjourn.

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

Mayor England asked for roll call.

Mayor England asked for a roll call vote.

Mayor England                Yes

Vice Mayor Kostka        Yes

Commissioner George    Yes

Commissioner Rumrell   Yes

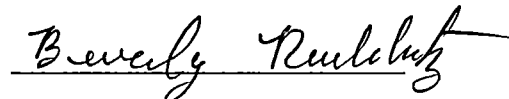
Commissioner Samora    Yes

Motion passed unanimously.

Mayor England adjourned the meeting at 7:20 p.m. and then recessed the meeting for five minutes before starting the Regular Commission meeting.

  
Margaret England, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
Beverly Raddatz, City Clerk