

ST. JOHNS COUNTY CIVIC ROUNDTABLE

2/10/20 Meeting Minutes

Submitted by Maureen Long, Secretary

The meeting was opened at 9:00 am by Chairman Jim McLane.

The Pledge was said and Chairman Jim McLane introduced SJC Commissioner Jimmy Johns who represents District 1. Commissioner Johns spoke on a wide range of issues, concerning the growing needs as our county expands and the need for more infrastructures, explained the Federal funding of the beach re-nourishment program, sea level rise, his take on raising the bed tax, he emphasized the importance of open dialogue among citizens and County Commissioners and finished by answering an array of questions by members of the Roundtable.

Chairman McLane thanked Commissioner Johns for speaking and attending our meeting, inviting the Commissioner back again.

Chairman McLane read the Treasurer's Report in Mrs. McGlynn absence stating that at BBVA Compass Bank Account Balance: \$249.72, SunTrust Bank Account Balance: \$292.00, Total Bank Balance \$541.72 Less Checks Outstanding (\$60.00) Total Cash On Hand: \$481.72.

Govt. Report was read by Maureen Long in Janet Patten's absence:

- Hunter Conrad has been selected as County Administrator.
- Embassy Suites' appeal for a Splash Park was denied by District Court of Appeals. Case closed.
- There are two vacancies on St. Augustine Beach zoning board.
- This is a critical juncture in the state Legislature when bills move quickly if they are going to get on the floor for consideration, so it is very important to contact our legislative delegation now.

John Pilecki Chair of our Education Committee reported on his recent trip to Tallahassee with the FEA, Statewide Teachers Union. He suggested that we ask the SJC Superintendent of Schools to speak at a future Roundtable meeting.

Chairman McLane reported on the latest tour at the SJC Utility RO water plant treatment facility and explained that there was reason for some concern for the water supply as the water travels farther down the county and how impressive it was to see the RO process in action.

Member at Large Robert Olson reported on local control regulations of short term rentals. He explained how the legislature is currently considering new regulations, including HB 1011 and SB 1128 that would virtually strip all power from local governments to regulate the short-term vacation rental industry.

Chairman McLane read the Roundtable's resolution letter written to the Florida Legislature in opposition of these Bills. A motion was made and seconded, the Roundtable voted to submit the resolution letter to the Florida Legislature opposing these Bills that will preempt local regulations being considered and enacted on short term rentals.

To: Florida Senate Members Commerce and Tourism Committee
From: St. Johns County Civic Association Roundtable
Subject: SB 1128 position

The St. Johns County Civic Association Roundtable, opposes actions by the Florida Legislature to preempt local regulations being considered and enacted on short term rentals. We believe these issues are best overseen by local governments and that a one size fits all approach embodied in HB 1011 and SB 1128, are of immediate concern. The City of St. Augustine and St. Johns County are working to address the challenges and opportunities of short term rentals and enact regulations for short-term rental operations. This has and is being done with efforts taken to garner both local citizen participation and industry input.

Enactment of HB 1011 and SB 1128 would deny communities the right to address short-term rental issues and would nullify many existing local short-term rental rules or requirements. These bills would remove the ability of Florida's cities and counties to enact and administer sensible rules that accommodate commercial vacation rental operations while preserving residential character of neighborhoods.

State preemption of local controls, as embodied in HB 1011 and SB 1128, is contrary to strengthening Florida's local communities in leadership and governance. In the words of Thomas Jefferson, "The government closest to the people serves the people best."

James McLane, Chairman
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Chairman McLane called the meeting to adjourn at 11:02.

Respectfully,
Maureen Long. Secretary