

ST. JOHNS COUNTY CIVIC ROUNDTABLE  
4/13/20 Meeting Minutes

Chairman Jim McLane opened the meeting at 9:09 am.

He welcomed everyone to the meeting expressing that he suspected that while this is the first, it may not be our last Virtual Video Meeting,. He thanked everyone for joining today, stating , “We are all trying to figure out how to keep our community together-- during times when we need to stay apart and we hope that through the Civic Roundtable, we can work together for the good of our community.” All were asked to say the Pledge of Allegiance just as we would if we were together.

All joined in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Co-Chair McGlynn thanked all for being present and explained the video chat features. She asked each person to identify themselves, then turned it back to Chairman McLane.

Chairman McLane explained that we had planned to have Becky Yanni, the Executive Director of the St. Johns County Council on Aging speak to us this morning. However, Becky had to cancel as they are having some food preparation challenges at the Center and couldn't make it. After learning that Becky Yanni could not attend we turned to Cyndi Stevenson, our State Representative. Unfortunately she also had to cancel due to feeling under the weather after returning home from Tallahassee.

The Board thought it would be fine to move forward without a speaker, we would hold an abbreviated meeting with a few reports and then open up the floor to hear about the concerns and issues from members.

It was reported what a phenomenal job the County Staff is doing at this time of our new normal. The SJC BOCC is meeting every Tuesday morning at this time to discuss and extend the time period of the Emergency Proclamation. On 4/7/20 the Board extended the Proclamation and had a discussion about opening the beaches again. Chief Hardwick spoke on the subject to share with the Board that Jacksonville and Neptune Beaches reached out to him and asked if St. Johns County would consider not reopening their

beaches at this time, especially that this weekend would be the Easter Holiday Weekend. The decision was made not to open the beaches at this time but will look into opening them at a later date.

Assistant Administrator Joy Andrews explained how the County has assembled a COVID-19 Task Force in response to the COVID-19 Virus and the implications it has on our County. Members that have joined the team are from the Economic Sector, Tourism Board, DCB, the United Way, City of St. Augustine, City of St. Augustine Beach, the Media, Hospitality and Private Businesses, along with County Staff to prepare a plan to support the citizens of SJC. Their meetings are to position themselves in helping with County Resources in regard to Tourism Economic Development, Revenue, Repurposing Staff, resolutions in technical areas as to set up a Business Hotline for businesses suffering from loss of revenue. The County staff is here to assist businesses with the Florida Reemployment Assistance Program and to help the Community recover with the CARES Act and other Grants. Maps have been set up that can direct citizens to restaurants and other businesses that are open for services. Our County Golf Course is very busy and more resources are needed. County revenue is being affected by the closing of the AMP, Gas Tax, and Tourist Business is down. Our solid waste removal for residential and businesses is still working at capacity at this time.

Also the County is looking at Essential / Non-Essential Staff Modifications that can be made, while many are working from home.

Co-Chair McGlynn thanked Joy for the updates she provided and stated that a link for this information will be provided in our newsletter and offered to email or send a paper copy out to anyone interested.

Chairman McLane asked that we move onto Roundtable Business. All were asked if they had read the minutes from 3/9/20 meeting. Motions were made, minutes were voted on and excepted.

Co-Chair McGlynn gave the treasurers Report as the Banks Balance is at \$1147.72, with 2 checks written to pay a \$20.00 fee from Old City Web and another \$20.00 charge to pay for Uber Conference Calls.

Janet Patten, Chair of Government Affairs reported that the Legislation adjourned but not before expending 300 million dollars in funds towards the COVID-19 financial needs for the State. Funding 100 million dollars towards Florida Forever, 650 million dollars for the Everglades.

Governor DeSantis has signed several bills into law, one that creates difficulty to get an Amendment on the Ballot that will need more signatures and cost more money. There will be a Tax Free day from August 7th through the 9th each year to help citizens purchase school supplies and other items. Visit Florida has been reauthorized and will stay in effect till 10/1/2023.

Chairman McLane asked if anyone had any new business.

Co-Chair said she was sending out the last COVID-19 Newsletter from the Roundtable, now that information can be found easily by our citizens.

Members thanked her for all the great work she did providing the invaluable information she collected and shared with our members and citizens.

There was a conversation about how the PZA is still moving along with business as usual. There was some concern that perhaps this was not the time for the PZA be voting on certain items as so many of SJC citizens are distracted, not having the time or capability to attend meetings and the like.

A Discussion was had about sending a letter to the SJC BOCC from the Roundtable requesting that the BOCC rescind the Emergency Proclamation 2020-7. A motion was made and seconded, all voted in favor of sending the letter to the BOCC.

There were over 23 attendees who signed on and attended. All agreed that the Roundtable's first Via Virtual Video Tele-conference was effective and will be used for the next May 11th 2020 meeting. Everyone thanked Co-Chair McGlynn for setting up such a successful morning meeting.

Chairman McLane adjourned the meeting around 10:20.

Respectfully, Maureen Long. Secretary

