

ST JOHNS COUNTY CIVIC ROUNDTABLE

MINUTES OF MEETING

November 14, 2017

The meeting was called to order by president Lofgren at 9:00 am. The minutes of the October 9th, 2017 meeting were accepted as read. The treasurer reported a balance of \$711.68.

President Lofgren introduced the guest speaker, Mr Mike Wanchick, County Administrator, St. Johns County.

Mr Wanchick presented an overview of the county involving several areas.

1. Finances – He declared that the county was in solid financial shape. It has a AA+ bond rating and sufficient reserves for the short term. He indicated there were several financial challenges ahead for the county in raising sufficient revenue to support the quality of life we all enjoy.
2. He stated that the County Commissioners are proceeding with a program of cost for services in several areas in order to mitigate this problem. They are looking at charging for the use of boat ramps, charging for parking adjacent to the beaches and raising the fees for recreation use. He said that the proposed constitutional amendment increasing the homestead exemption would cost the county 10 million in lost revenue if it passes.
3.
 1. Hastings. The city of Hastings has voted to dissolve and become a part of St. Johns County. This will result in additional costs for the County
 - 2.

3. Hurricanes – The county is waiting for reimbursement of approximately 53 million dollars from FEMA for costs incurred as a result of Hurricane Mathew last year. In addition to this there will be more costs needing to be reimbursed as a result of hurricane Irma this year.

He indicated that the county is getting valuable assistance from Adudra in recovering this money.

1. Beaches – He stated that the County has not been able to come up with a recovery plan for the South part of the Summer Island area. He indicated that the County is proposing a MSTU for the Vilano- South Ponte Vedra area to finance the placement of sand in that area.

5 Growth – The county is currently issuing over 400 building permit every month and is outpacing all adjacent counties in growth.

6 Economic Development – The county has recognized the importance of economic development and has created a full time position in this area. The recent decision of the TPC to establish their headquarters here is an example of good economic development.

1. Golf Course- The county is investigating a possible public/private partnership for improving the golf course.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 am

Submitted

Ed Olsen
for Secretary Dennis Froio

