



CITY OF ST. MARYS

418 OSBORNE STREET
ST. MARYS, GEORGIA 31558

St. Marys Convention and Visitors Bureau
St. Marys Welcome Center, Ward Hernandez Building, 400 Osborne Street
Minutes: **January 24, 2023, 3:30 p.m.**

- I. **Meeting called to order** and welcome to new council member, Councilman Rassi, at 3:32 p.m. by Darlene Landreth & Welcome to new member City Councilman Rassi.
- II. **Quorum in in attendance.** Attended: Allen Rassi, Darlene Landreth, Tyler Carpenter, Valerie Fautz, Judy Thurner, Mardja Grey. Absent: Sugar Yadav, Melissa Braun, Jake Alexander
- III. Approval of the November 2022 Minutes
Motion to Approve the November 2022 minutes as presented to the board by Valerie Fautz. Seconded by Tyler Carpenter. No discussion.
APPROVED.
- IV. Granting Audience to the Public (any speakers should provide name and address): Chris Thurner attended. No comments.
- V. Approval of the Agenda
Motion to Approve the Agenda by Valerie Fautz. Seconded by Judy Thurner. No discussion.
APPROVED.
- VI. Other Business
 1. Cumberland Island Update – CUIS Staff- In attendance from NPS were Pauline Wentworth, Elizabeth “Beth” Hudick, Interim Chief Interpretive Ranger, and Sarah Koenen who will be the fulltime business manager at the visitor center. The ferry is on winter schedule through March 1st. Christmas holidays went smooth and the ferry is picking up again. They were sold out this past Saturday. Last month they did an astronomy event on the lawn for First Friday and are planning a Highland encampment during the February First Friday event. They have gotten a grant again this year for 4th graders.
 2. Key Data revenue and occupancy outlooks for SM and County – Angela Wigger reviewed the printed pace reports for rental properties in St. Marys and Camden County. Camden area Average Daily Rate was \$167 from December 2022 to March 2023 as compared to \$156 for December 2021 to March 2022. St. Marys rentals occupancy is 30.1% compared to 21.9% same time previous year.
 3. LRC Media/Public Relations/Placement Report – Angela Wigger reported that from July 2022 to January 16th we have had 122 published results through our contract with LRC. We have gotten 37,018,574,980 digital impressions and 2,189,656 print impressions for a total of 37,020,764,636 impressions for a total estimated value of \$342,474,404.

VII. Old Business

1. BRAG (Bicycle Ride Across Georgia) Winter Ride Update – Angela Wigger just a reminder that the group is coming February 15-20 and February 22-27. We will host a reception each Wednesday night.

2. Presentation & Discussion of Slate of Officers: Chair, Vice-Chair, and Secretary. – Angela Wigger presented the slate of officers. Judy Thurner made a motion to accept the slate of officers as presented with Darlene Landreth as Chair, Tyler Carpenter as Vice Chair, and Valerie Fautz and secretary. Seconded by Mardja Gray.

APPROVED.

3. Highway 40 improvements – Angela Wigger shared she spoke to city personnel (Mayor Morrissey and Kenneth Hughes), and they said they were working with the county to get that land turned over to the city and that would simplify removing old signs and adding a new sign to the intersection at Hwy 40 and St. Marys Road. We are keeping this item on the agenda for future follow up.

4. Explore Georgia RVIC (Regional Visitor Information Center) Program – Angela Wigger gave a copy of the state’s notification that they will sunset the RVIC program.

VIII. New Business

1. February 28th SMCVB Meeting location – Angela Wigger notified the board that the meeting has been moved to Council Chambers for this one date.

2. FY2024 budget preparations – Angela Wigger said she will soon be working on the budget and will review with the city has appropriate and share with the board once it’s drafted out. She will use last year’s budget as the guide to set the FY2024 budget.

IX. Hotel/Motel Tax, St. Marys Financials – reviewed written reports. End of December revenue was \$158,739 and expenditures were \$122,853.

X. Director’s Report/ Other/Marketing/Events – Angela Wigger reviewed the upcoming event calendar and referred the board to the directors’ report and site calendar.

XI. Adjournment: Motion to Adjourn by Judy Thurner and seconded by Tyler Carpenter at 4:30 p.m.

ADJOURNED.

Minutes by Angela Wigger