RESOLUTION NO. 38-14

1

2 3

4

5

6 7

8 9

10

11 12

13 14 15

16 17

18 19

20 21

22 23

25 26 27

28

24

29 30

31 32 33

34 35 36

A RESOLUTION OPPOSING SEISMIC AIRGUN TESTING IN THE ATLANTIC OCEAN: PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTING RESOLUTIONS; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the City of New Smyrna Beach endeavors to be a good steward of the coastal environment and its resources; and

WHEREAS, seismic airgun testing is being proposed by the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) for the exploration oof oil and natural gas off the mid-Atlantic coast; and

WHEREAS, tourism is a major economic force in the City of New Smyrna Beach and offshore drilling poses a major threat to our coastal economy and natural resources and, should a spill occur, the natural environment that supports our local economy would be severely damaged and the quality of life that both residents and visitors have come to expect would be negatively affected for the foreseeable future; and

WHEREAS, the State of Florida has a long history of hurricanes and offshore drilling would increase the chances of platform failures and oil spills due to the vulnerability of the coastal waters to severe weather; and

WHEREAS, the use of airguns to conduct these seismic tests threatens fish populations and profitable fisheries; and

WHEREAS, the type of seismic airgun testing used to search for oil and gas is incredibly harmful and could injure or possibly kill thousands of marine mammals, sea turtles and fish including the critically endangered North Atlantic right whale whose population stands at 500 individuals in the entire world; and

WHEREAS, the seismic airguns fire intense blasts compressed air - almost as loud as explosives every 10-12 seconds twenty-four hours a day for days to weeks on end. These loud airgun blasts can be heard for many hundreds of miles in the ocean and can drive whales to abandon their habitats, go silent and cease foraging over vast areas. At shorter distances, airguns can cause permanent hearing loss, injury and even death for whales, dolphins, sea turtles and fish; and

WHEREAS, the proposed seismic airgun testing will result in serious negative impact to our marine resources which form the foundation of economic vitality for communities all along the Atlantic Coast.
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF NEW SMYRNA BEACH, FLORIDA:
SECTION 1: That the City Commission of the City of New Smyrna Beach, Florida, opposes seismic airgun testing and urges the President's Administration to stop this process and focus on ensuring the vitality of vulnerable local economies along the Atlantic Coast as we cannot continue to put our ocean, environment, beaches, marine resources and local economies at risk.
<u>SECTION 2</u> : <i>Conflicting Resolutions</i> . That all resolutions or parts thereof that are in conflict with this resolution are hereby rescinded and repealed.
<u>SECTION 3</u> : <i>Effective Date</i> . That this resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.
APPROVED AS TO FORM AND CORRECTNESS:
FRANK B. GUMMEY, III City Attorney DATE: 17/3/14

Page 2 of 2

The Within and Foregoing Resolution No. 38-14 as introduced and read before the City Commission of the City of New Smyrna Beach, Florida, at its Regular Meeting held at City Hall in said City on December 9, 2014. Motion was made by Commissioner Sachs, and seconded by Commissioner Reiker, that said Resolution be adopted.

A roll-call vote of the City Commission on said motion to adopt the Resolution resulted as follows:

MAYOR JAMES W. HATHAWAY	Yes
VICE MAYOR KIRK JONES	Absent
COMMISSIONER JUDY REIKER	Yes
COMMISSIONER JACOB D. SACHS	Yes
COMMISSIONER JASON MCGUIRK	Yes

Whereupon, the Mayor of the City of New Smyrna Beach, Florida, has hereunto set his official signature, duly attested by the City Clerk, and has caused the Official Seal of said City to be hereunto affixed for the purpose of authenticity and as is required by law

(OFFICIAL SEAL)

As City Clerk of the City of New Smyrna Beach,

Florida

As Mayor of the City of New Smyrna Beach, Florida