CITY COMMISSION MEETING

MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 9, 2015

6:00 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

INVOCATION

PRESENT:

Maria Lowe, Mayor
Terri Finnerty, Vice Mayor
Rick Falkenstein, Commissioner
Gregory Premer, Commissioner
Melinda Pletcher, Commissioner

ALSO PRESENT:

Wayne Saunders, City Manager
Andrew Dickman, City Attorney
Rebecca C. Haynes, City Clerk
Jennifer Bryla, Community Development Director
Bruce Cooper, Building Official
Elaine Edmunds, Administrative Services Director
Jennifer McMahon, Recreation Director

1. Presentations

There were no presentations.

2. Changes to the Agenda

City Manager Wayne Saunders requested to move Items 7(a), 7(b) and 8(a) to immediately follow Item 4(a); to withdraw Item 6(a) at the request of the applicant; and pull Item 7(c) and replace it with Item 7(d).

3. Audience Comments

There were no audience comments.

4. Ordinance – Millage Rate

a. Ordinance 2015-24, First Reading and Public Hearing setting the millage rate for Fiscal Year 2016

Administrative Services Director Elaine Edmunds explained the ordinance sets the millage rate for Fiscal Year 2016 at 3.1500 mills. Ms. Edmunds noted that, although the proposed millage rate is the same as the current rate, taxable values have risen which will result in increased revenue to the City.

Vice Mayor Finnerty moved to approve Item 4(a), Ordinance 2015-24, upon first reading, an ordinance of the City of St. Pete Beach, Florida; adopting a final millage rate for the Fiscal Year ending September 30, 2016; providing for an effective date. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Falkenstein.

Vice Mayor Finnerty read Ordinance 2015-24 in its entirety.

Mayor Lowe called for audience comments.

John Michael, Bay Street, spoke in opposition to the millage rate as it will result in increased property taxes.

Hearing no further audience comments, Mayor Lowe called for the vote.

The motion was unanimously approved by an individual roll call vote.

The following three items were taken out of order as previously noted under Item 2, Changes to the Agenda.

7. Ordinances

a. Ordinance 2015-23, First Reading and Public Hearing, providing for wastewater fee adjustments for fiscal year 2016.

City Manager Saunders noted the increase will provide for a sustainable wastewater fund for future needs.

Administrative Services Director Edmunds commented that the increase of 9.75% will generate approximately $500,000 in revenue that is restricted to the wastewater system.

Commissioner Pletcher moved to approve Item 7(a), Ordinance 2015-23, upon first reading, an ordinance of the City of St. Pete Beach, Florida providing for an amendment of Appendix A, Fee Schedule, of the Code of Ordinances implementing a 9.75% increase in wastewater fees; providing

for severability; providing for repeal of ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith, to the extent of such conflict; and providing for an effective date. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Premer.

Mayor Lowe called for audience comments.

John Michael, Bay Street, spoke in opposition to the rate increase and recommended working with County Commissioners in regard to receiving additional transient occupancy tax monies.

Hearing no further audience comments, Mayor Lowe called for the vote.

The motion was unanimously approved by an individual roll call vote.

b. Ordinance 2015-25, First reading and public hearing, an ordinance of the City of St. Pete Beach, Florida adopting a budget for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016; providing appropriations; and providing for an effective date

Ms. Edmunds reviewed the budget process and summarized the various funds and capital improvement projects.

Vice Mayor Finnerty moved to approve Item 7(b), Ordinance 2015-25, upon first reading, an ordinance of the City of St. Pete Beach, Florida; adopting a budget for the Fiscal Year ending September 30, 2016; providing appropriations; providing for an effective date. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Premer.

Mayor Lowe called for audience comments.

John Michael, Bay Street, spoke in opposition to the proposed ordinance.

Gary (last name not provided), Belle Point Drive, questioned previous financial planning procedures and the status of the BP Oil Spill funds.

City Attorney Dickman responded that the City cannot comment on the status of the negotiations in regard to the BP Oil Spill lawsuit.

Hearing no further comments, Mayor Lowe called for the vote.

The motion was unanimously approved by an individual roll call vote.

8. Resolution

a. Resolution 2015-11, a Resolution of the City Commission of the City of St. Pete Beach, Florida, relating to the provision of stormwater management

services provided by the City's stormwater system; imposing stormwater service assessments against assessed property located in the City for the fiscal years beginning October 1, 2015 through and including the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2019; approving the stormwater rates; approving the stormwater service assessment rolls, directing that the stormwater service assessment rolls be certified to the Pinellas County Tax Collector; and providing an effective date

Mr. Saunders noted the proposed resolution is an adjustment in the assessment rate following an extensive study by Burton and Associates, an independent consultant.

Ms. Edmunds explained the funding needs and rate structure proposed.

Commissioner Premer moved to approve Item 8(a), Resolution 2015-11, a resolution of the City Commission of the City of St. Pete Beach, Florida, relating to the provision of stormwater management services provided by the City's stormwater system; imposing stormwater service assessments against assessed property located in the City for the fiscal years beginning October 1, 2015 through and including the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2019; approving the stormwater rates; approving the stormwater service assessment rolls; directing that the stormwater service assessment rolls be certified to the Pinellas County Tax Collector; and providing for an effective date. It was further moved to direct staff to place Resolution 2015-11 on the agenda for the September 24, 2015 special meeting to afford additional public comment, if any. The motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Finnerty.

Mayor Lowe called for audience comments.

John Michael, Bay Street, commented on Federal Emergency Management Association regulations and spoke against the increased rate.

Paul Pfister, Gulf Boulevard, offered his appreciation to staff and commented that a more detailed explanation needs to be provided to residents in regard to the distribution of funds.

Lenny Stamos, Vina del Mar, requested additional information on the rate structure for his residence and his business.

John Michael, Bay Street, commented that he noticed water running directly into the Bay.

Joanne Lentino, Boca Ciega Drive, expressed her concern in regard to storm drain filters that collect debris and act as a water purification system.

Romeo Siramelli, 77th Avenue, requested clarification on increased fees and outside funding such as Pennies For Pinellas, the Environmental Protection Agency and municipal bonds.

Joanne Lentino, Boca Ciega Drive, commented on the operation and maintenance costs related to projects funded with grant money.

Sue Suchodolski, Treasure Island, commented on urban stability and sustainability.

Hearing no further audience comments, Mayor Lowe called for the vote.

The motion was unanimously approved by an individual roll call vote.

5. Consent

a. Approval of City Commission minutes from the following meetings: July 13, 2015 Budget Workshop; July 15, 2015 Budget Workshop; and August 11, 2015 Regular Meeting

b. Authorization to approve special event application and street closure for the 7th Annual VW Beach Bash scheduled for October 3, 2015. Closures would be 9th Avenue and 10th Avenue from 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

City Manager Saunders reviewed the consent items and recommended approval as presented.

Commissioner Falkenstein noted that he will abstain from voting on Item 5(b) as there may be a potential conflict with the event in proximity to his business. Commissioner Falkenstein read a statement and will submit Form 8B, "Memorandum of Voting Conflict for County, Municipal and Other Local Public Officers."

Vice Mayor Finnerty moved to approve Item 5(a) as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Falkenstein.

Mayor Lowe called for audience comments.

Hearing no audience comments, Mayor Lowe called for the vote.

The motion was unanimously approved by an individual roll vote.

Commissioner Premer moved to approve Item 5(b) as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Pletcher.

Mayor Lowe called for audience comments.

John Michael, Bay Street, suggested using parking tags for residents during events.

Hearing no further audience comments, Mayor Lowe called for the vote.

The motion was approved by an individual roll call vote of 4-1 with Commissioner Falkenstein abstaining.

6. Action Items

a. Consideration and Action on Application for Case 20150028 a Conditional Use for a Commercial Parking Lot located at the 3800 block of Gulf Boulevard with the requested variances

Item 6(a) was withdrawn by the applicant.

b. Authorization for the City Manager to enter into an agreement with Public Risk Management of Florida for renewal of the City insurance policies covering the period from October 1, 2015 to September 30, 2016 in the amount of $503,930.00

The policies cover property and crime, liability, workers' compensation, boiler and machinery and pollution liability.

Commissioner Pletcher moved to approve Item 6(b), that the City Manager be authorized to enter into an agreement with Public Risk Management for renewal of the City insurance policies covering the period from October 1, 2015 to September 30, 2016 in the amount of $503,930.00. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Falkenstein.

Mayor Lowe called for audience comments.

John Michael, Bay Street, questioned if any claims have been filed against the policies to justify the increase and if quotes were received from competing companies.

Hearing no further audience comments, Mayor Lowe called for the vote.

The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 4-1 with Commissioner Premer voting "no."

c. Acceptance by City Commission to recognize ImageNet as the low proposer for Document Scanning Services for the Community Development Department.

Ms. Bryla noted proposals were received from four companies for document scanning services.

Commissioner Premer moved to approve Item 6(c), designating ImageNet as the apparent low bidder for the Scanning Design Services for an amount

not to exceed $41,000.00. The motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Finnerty.

Mayor Lowe called for audience comments.

Hearing no audience comments, Mayor Lowe called for the vote.

The motion was unanimously approved by an individual roll call vote.

d. Approve the ranking and authorize the City Manager to enter into negotiations with the top responder of the Pass-a-Grille RFQ for design services

Ms. Bryla noted the design services will provide a codified document to direct development of the Pass-A-Grille area. Once the ranking is approved, an agreement will be submitted for acceptance.

Commissioner Pletcher moved to approve Item 6(d), to approve the ranking as presented and authorize the City Manager to enter into negotiations with the top responder, PlanActive, for the design services work. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Premer.

Mayor Lowe called for audience comments.

Hearing no audience comments, Mayor Lowe called for the vote.

The motion was unanimously approved by an individual roll call vote.

7. Ordinances

c. Ordinance 2015-15, Final Reading and Public Hearing providing for an amendment to the Code of Ordinances regarding Flood Management

Ordinance 2015-15 was pulled at the request of City Manager Saunders. The ordinance was re-written to provide other opportunities that could be implemented to potentially lower the City's CRS rating.

d. Ordinance 2015-26, First Reading and Public Hearing providing for an amendment to the Code of Ordinances regarding Flood Management

Bruce Cooper, Building Official, explained that the updated ordinance includes more restrictive measures that will allow the City to mitigate flood hazards and provide data necessary to move toward a lower CRS rating. The action will provide up to a 20% discount on homeowner insurance rates.

Commissioner Pletcher moved to approve Item 7(d), Ordinance 2015-26, upon first reading, an ordinance of the City of St. Pete Beach, Florida amending the City Code to repeal the current Article V of Chapter 98, Flood Hazard Mitigation Regulations to adopt procedures and criteria for development in flood hazard areas, and for other purposes; to adopt local administrative amendments and technical amendments to the Florida Building Code; to format existing provisions to be consistent with the Florida Building Code; providing for severability; and providing for an effective date, with the change in Section 2, Subsections R322.2.1 and R322.3.2, from 2' (two feet) to 1' (one foot). The motion was seconded by Commissioner Falkenstein.

Mayor Lowe called for audience comments.

Gary Miller, no address provided, requested clarification on the one-foot versus the two-foot requirement for base flood elevation.

Hearing no further audience comments, Mayor Lowe called for the vote.

The motion was unanimously approved by an individual roll call vote.

8. Items for Discussion

Vice Mayor Finnerty requested to add a discussion of parking on Corey Avenue to the next agenda.

Mayor Lowe requested to add a discussion of the Tourist Development Council to a future agenda.

9. Audience Comments

There were no audience comments.

10. City Clerk, City Manager, City Attorney and City Commission Reports

City Clerk Haynes reported on the following items:

- Suncoast League of Cities will present the state-mandated "Ethics Training" class for elected officials on September 22, 2015 from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Community Center
- The Pinellas County Supervisor of Elections Office representatives will attend the "Community Yard Sale" on Saturday, September 12th, to register eligible community members and/or update voter information
- Friday, September 11th, is the 14th anniversary of 9-11

City Manager Saunders reported on the following item:

- There was no report given

City Attorney Dickman reported on the following item:

- Provided an update on the BP Oil Spill and reminded the Commission to refrain from discussing any details since litigation is pending

Commissioner Falkenstein reported on the following items:

- He expressed appreciation to residents affected by the repairs at Pump Station No. 2
- Encouraged residents to utilize the City's new app called "SPBConnect"
- Read communication from Representative Kathleen Peters in regard to a delegation meeting in the City of Seminole

Commissioner Premer reported on the following items:

- Expressed appreciation to residents who call him with concerns and urged them to also contact him via email communication
- Recognized the promotional activities surrounding Gulfport's "Gekko Festival"
- Festivities on October 3rd include the VW Bash in Pass-A-Grille, the first of four concerts in the "October Concert Series" at Horan Park, and the USO Show at the St. Petersburg Coliseum
- Encouraged the community to shop and dine locally

Vice Mayor Finnerty reported on the following items:

- Signs have been installed near Gulf Beaches Elementary School
- The Fish Broil will be held October 10th from 2:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Gulf Beaches Elementary School; a consolidated event will be held next year
- Florida Fish & Wildlife Commission reported there has been no reporting of Red Tide this year
- Tampa Bay Watch reported the largest level of sea grass since 1962
- The City of Sarasota will sponsor a free fishing clinic for children
- Sunset Festival will be held September 12th at 6:00 p.m.
- National POW-MIA Day is September 18th, and the American Legion will dedicate three flags and install them at various locations in the City
- Tampa Bay Times conducted an "Annual Bar Award" – winners included "Harry's Bar" at the Sirata Beach Resort and the "Swigwam Bar" on Corey Avenue
- Creative Loafing published several articles about St. Pete Beach and included favorite drink recipes of the "Swigwam Bar"
- Florida League of Cities annual conference information has been placed in Commission mailboxes
- Inquired about the status of the TECO gas company agreement
- Attended the Mayors' Council meeting on September 2nd and reported on a speaker
- Met with a representative of the Sunday Market which begins at 10:00 a.m. on October 4, 2015

- Discussed "Match Challenge" between Gulfport businesses and the City of Gulfport in regard to purchasing blocks of Tampa Bay tickets
- Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority is consolidating bus stops, replacing 30 small bus shelters with larger shelters, and installing concrete pads for benches

Commissioner Pletcher reported on the following items:

- Pet Pals sponsored a very successful "Bark Festival" in Pass-A-Grille to raise funds for the organization
- TECO repaired a gas line leak along Pass-A-Grille Way
- Pass-A-Grille Way reconstruction project status meetings are held on Thursdays at 3:00 p.m. at Warren Webster Community Center

Mayor Lowe reported on the following items:

- The Youth Council will meet at 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday at City Hall
- A Fire Department Promotion Ceremony will be held at 4:00 p.m. on October 2, 2015 at Horan Park
- Attended a Big C meeting where topics of discussion included tourism and marketing
- Met with FDOT representatives in regard to the sidewalk installation located at the Bayway Bridge – Medal of Honor Bridge underpass
- Encouraged participation in the events and classes held at the Recreation Department

11. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 10:10 p.m.

Attest:

Rebecca C. Haynes, City Clerk

Maria Lowe, Mayor

Minutes approved on: 10-13-2015