

City Commission Meeting
January 26, 2021
6:00 p.m.

ELECTED OFFICIALS PRESENT:

Al Johnson, Mayor

Ward Friszolowski, Vice Mayor, Commissioner, District 3

Chris Graus, Commissioner, District 1

Mark Grill, Commissioner, District 2— (seated at the dais after his formal swearing in)

Melinda Pletcher, Commissioner, District 4

STAFF PRESENT:

Alex Rey, City Manager

Andrew Dickman, City Attorney

Amber LaRowe, City Clerk

Vincent Tenaglia, Assistant City Manager

Michelle Gonzalez, Transportation and Parking Director

Jennifer McMahon, Parks and Recreation Director

Mayor Johnson called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. APPOINTMENT OF INTERIM COMMISSIONER AND OATH OF OFFICE, DISTRICT 2

Interviews were conducted of the two applicants, Rachel Ciliberti and Mark Grill, today at 4:00 p.m. meeting.

Motion: Vice Mayor Friszolowski moved, Commissioner Pletcher seconded, and the motion carried 4-0 to appoint Mark Grill as the interim Commissioner for District 2.

The Commission thanked Ms. Ciliberti for her willingness to step up and serve the community and encouraged her to continue wanting to serve the community and hopes she will be available to volunteer her time on one of the City's advisory boards/committees.

City Clerk Amber LaRowe administered the Oath of Office to Mr. Mark Grill.

2. CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

No changes.

3. AUDIENCE COMMENTS

No public comment.

4. CONSENT

- a. January 12, 2021 Commission Minutes
- b. Blind Pass Road Landscaping
- c. Program Management for Electrical Undergrounding Project
- d. Cardno Pass-A-Grille Way and 17th Avenue Seawall Design

Motion: Vice Mayor Friszolowski moved, Commissioner Pletcher seconded, and the motion carried 5-0 to approve the January 26, 2021 Consent Agenda as recommended by the City Manager.

5. ACTION ITEMS

- a. Pay Station Upgrades, Parking Meter Removal, and Establishment of Mobile Payment Zones

Michelle Gonzalez, Transportation and Parking Director, reminded the Commission of the presentation on this

topic at the January 12th meeting. She stated that the County will reimburse the City approximately \$8,000 for these upgrades. These changes will also address several of the complaints made by visitors and residents alike. There will be a phased approach to the installation and upgrades to include mobile payment zones. The Commission was pleased with this option.

Motion: Commissioner Graus moved, Commissioner Grill seconded, and the motion carried 5-0 to approve Option 2—upgrade pay station doors and eliminate individual parking meters in replacement of exclusive mobile payment zones and the expenditure of funds in the amount of \$91,875 for the pay station door upgrades.

6. ORDINANCES

a. **Public Hearing and Second Reading Ordinance 2021-03 Budget Appropriations**

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ST. PETE BEACH, FLORIDA PROVIDING FOR SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET APPROPRIATIONS; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS, SEVERABILITY, CONSTRUCTION, PUBLICATION, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

City Manager Rey discussed a change made to the Appendix from the January 12th Commission meeting. He discussed the alternate Appendix A as attached. This schedule provides funding (\$350,000) for the possible acquisition of property located at 7300 Boca Ciega Drive, which would allow the City to expand public parking options for Corey Avenue. The alternate also includes an additional \$30,000 for the Library parking lot while removing the \$65,000 capital project contingency. This alternate schedule increases the fund balance by \$11,400 rather than the \$326,400 as provided in the original Appendix A.

Mr. Rey reiterated that this alternate does not mean the City has to purchase the property; however, allows for the funding option should the City decided this is a good purchase for the needs of the community.

Mr. Tenaglia discussed pages 132 and 137 of the Agenda that outlines the FY21 allocation requests.

Mayor Johnson opened the public hearing and closed the hearing after no comments were made.

Motion: Vice Mayor Friszolowski moved, Commissioner Graus seconded, and the motion carried 5-0 to adopt Ordinance 2021-03 with the alternate Appendix A as attached in the Agenda.

7. RESOLUTIONS

a. **Resolution 2021-03 Special Election and Qualifying Period**

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF ST. PETE BEACH, PINELLAS COUNTY, FLORIDA ESTABLISHING THE DATE FOR THE 2021 SPECIAL MUNICIPAL ELECTION AND THE QUALIFICATION PERIOD FOR THE COMMISSIONER FOR DISTRICT 2.

Mrs. LaRowe stated that this Resolution formalizes the discussion had at the last meeting regarding the August and November special election options provided by the Supervisor of Elections. She stated that the Resolution allows for the City to participate in the August 24, 2021 election as well as designates June 1st through June 11th as the dates for qualification for District 2. The Commission agreed with the City Clerk's recommendations.

Motion Vice Mayor Friszolowski moved, Commissioner Pletcher seconded, and the motion carried 5-0 to adopt Resolution 2021-03.

8. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Vice Mayor Friszolowski expanded upon his mention at the last meeting regarding the Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners discussion of changes being made to the rules for property owners. He explained that the County is calling it the "FEMA Calamity Provision" and will make considerations for property owners not FEMA compliant to rebuild up to 110 percent of existing square footage and not be penalized on their assessed value; this will provide an incentive to rebuild. The Commission would like the City to review this provision and consider preparing a resolution for the Commission to adopt to do something like this for the property owners.

Mayor Johnson will also bring this up tomorrow during his BIG-C meeting.

9. CITY CLERK, CITY MANAGER, CITY ATTORNEY AND CITY COMMISSION REPORTS

Mrs. LaRowe, City Clerk—reminded the Commission of the vacancy on the Fire Pension Board of Trustees. She was recently informed by the Plan Administrator of another vacancy, the 5th Trustee. Per Statute, the Pension Board has five members, 2 that are members of the Plan, 2 are appointed by the Commission and must be residents and the 5th Trustee is appointed by the other trustees of the Board and can be a resident anywhere in the State, as long as they can make the meetings and be an active member of the Board. She plans to put information about both openings out to the residents via social media as well as the City's Website; the Commission agreed.

City Manager Rey introduced the next topic:

a. Parklet Program Feedback

Jennifer McMahon, Parks and Recreation Director, gave a presentation to the Commission on the feedback received by the Planning and the Historic Preservation Boards regarding the Parklet Program concept. She stated that all but one member was in favor of the program; the one member that was not in favor was only not in favor in the Pass-A-Grille area. The boards shared some of the following feedback:

- Set criteria for who can apply
- Two types of permits
 - One permanent with a platform
 - One temporary
- Seasonal
- No removal of handicap parking
- Consider nightly/weekend road closure to allow some weekend night dining/seating
- Open to all businesses in addition to restaurants

Mrs. McMahon also discussed some of the parking concerns expressed by the Corey Avenue Business Association:

- Designated parking in front of businesses
- Time limit parking
- Loading and unloading zones
- Widen sidewalks and look at compact car spaces
- Designate space in Library parking lot
- Employee parking at the Funeral Home and Library
- Find replacement parking spaces within a reasonable distance

A copy of the presentation is made a part of the minutes.

The Commission thanked Mrs. McMahon on the presentation and speaking with both boards and the businesses.

Vice Mayor Friszolowski would prefer this type of program be seasonal only.

Commissioner Pletcher wants to ensure that there are specific aesthetics and requirements in place.

The Commission likes the idea of once a month street closure of Corey Avenue for the weekend night dining in the street.

Alex Rey, City Manager—announced that the Library has new carpet and the furniture is being assembled. The Library may need to be closed for one week to allow for the moving of books from the current location to the Library with a soft opening to follow. He plans to have the parking lot work done in February.

Mr. Rey discussed the sewer project that has been happening in the City; the contractor is ahead of schedule with a target completion date in spring 2022.

Attorney Dickman, City Attorney—discussed the recent preliminary injunction for Pass-A-Grille Church as emailed to the Commission. He is requesting an Attorney-Client Executive Session to discuss this item on February 9, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. This meeting is closed to the public and will last approximately one-hour.

All Commissioners welcomed Commissioner Mark Grill to the Commission and thanked him for volunteering to serve.

Commissioner Pletcher—discussed the coyote issues on the Beach. She stated that there was recently a GoFundMe set up to raise money to hire a private trapper. However, once the County and Fish and Wildlife caught wind of this, the money was refunded, and people were notified that this was not allowed. She explained that a few years ago the County Animal Control Department spent two years trying to capture the wild coyotes and were not successful; basically, they are very elusive and are not easily trapped.

Commissioner Graus—coyotes have also been spotted in his district also. He will inform residents to be cautious, do not use retractable leashes, and should carry sticks or other items with them when out walking.

He thanked the crews who have been out working in the streets. He also is pleased to see that work has started at the Egan Park Boat Ramp.

Commissioner Grill—thanked the Commission for selecting him to serve. He looks forward to working with everyone and with his constituents.

Mayor Johnson—he discussed the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council Workshop that was forwarded to the Commission. This Workshop will be held via Zoom on February 12th and is to discuss the Broadband Access Initiative.

He mentioned that, contrary to belief, coyotes do not get into the garbage. Residents should still secure their garbage, but that is not their food source.

Mayor Johnson adjourned the meeting at 7:19 p.m.

MINUTES APPROVED: February 23, 2021



AMBER LAROWE
CITY CLERK


ALAN JOHNSON
MAYOR