

City Commission Meeting

March 23, 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

Melinda Pletcher, Commissioner, District 4

STAFF PRESENT:

Alex Rey, City Manager

Andrew Dickman, City Attorney

Amber LaRowe, City Clerk

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. PRESENTATIONS

City Clerk LaRowe administered the Oath of Office to Mark Grill, Commissioner, District 2 and Melinda Pletcher, Commissioner, District 4.

Commissioner Pletcher expressed excitement to continue serving; this is her 5th term serving the City. She was thankful to the members of her District and the City as a whole and is happy to continue being part of the team not only with the other elected officials but with the staff.

Commissioner Grill expressed gratitude to the other Commissioners/Mayor for selecting him to fill the vacancy that was left with Doug Izzo resigned. He is thankful and pleased to continue working with everyone both elected and staff. Mr. Grill looks forward to representing District 2 and continuing to meet all the residents.

2. CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

City Manager Rey removed item 4.b., Shenandoah General Construction LLC Services Agreement, from the Agenda.

3. AUDIENCE COMMENTS

No comments.

4. CONSENT

- a. Replacement of Ballfield Fence at Egan Park
- b. ~~Shenandoah General Construction LLC Services Agreement~~ *Removed*
- c. Street Closure – 16th Avenue
- d. Street Closure – 76th Avenue
- e. Property Purchase Contract 7300 Boca Ciega Drive

Motion: **Vice Mayor Friszolowski moved, Commissioner Grill seconded, and the motion carried 5-0 to approve the March 23, 2021 Consent Agenda as recommended by the City Manager.**

5. ACTION ITEMS

a. Hurley Park Sidewalk and Concrete Repairs at the Warren Webster Building

City Manager Rey stated that this proposal from Gilliam is to install a sidewalk at Hurley Park that will connect to the newly installed dog park along 16th Avenue, the concession stand, and the Warren Webster Building on 15th Avenue. Along with sidewalk installation, Gilliam's proposal is for the waterproofing at Warren Webster to prohibit water penetration. The Historic Preservation Board approved the sidewalk and concrete items during the March 4th meeting.

Motion: Commissioner Pletcher moved, Commissioner Graus seconded, and the motion carried 5-0 to approve the proposal under the existing unit price contract with Gilliam Construction LLC, in the amount of \$113,744.25 for Hurley Park Sidewalk and Concrete Repairs to the Warren Webster Building.

b. City Manager Performance and Contract Review

Mr. Rey stated that this is the annual evaluation and review of his services over the last year and he mentioned that the request for contract extension is for 3 years, to extend to 2024. Mr. Rey addressed his achievements as attached to the Agenda and recognized that it could not have been done had it not been for the dedication of his staff.

Commissioner Pletcher recognized the accomplishments over the last year, especially during the outbreak of the pandemic. She thanked he and all his staff for their determination to continue to accomplish tasks in the City despite the challenges of the pandemic. Mrs. Pletcher discussed the salary increase along with the consideration of a housing allowance since Mr. Rey does live in the City of St. Pete Beach. She is of the opinion that he should receive a 5 percent increase in salary as well as a \$500/month housing allowance as long as he continues to live within the City limits.

Commissioner Graus echoed the above statements of Commissioner Pletcher and agreed that he should be compensated for living in the City.

Mayor Johnson did not disagree with the above statements; however, he was of the opinion that it can be kept simple with a blanket 6 percent salary increase. He was open to the consideration of the housing allowance.

Commissioner Grill thanked Mr. Rey and staff for their dedication to making the City a better place and to keep moving projects forward. He discussed his review of the salary as well as other jurisdictions. Mr. Grill opined that, in the future, a salary survey could be produced to accompany this discussion just so he can be educated on where the City stands in comparison to surrounding neighborhoods.

Vice Mayor Friszolowski also gave his thanks and discussed the value that the staff has added through working together as a team all around. He echoed the above comments about Mr. Rey's performance and the projects in the City during the pandemic. Vice Mayor Friszolowski is in agreement with a 5 percent increase with an added \$500/month housing allowance as long as the City Manager lives in the City.

Attorney Dickman asked that language be added to the motion to include the authorization for the City Attorney to draft the addendum to the City Manager's Agreement and authorize the Mayor to sign.

Motion: Mayor Johnson moved, Vice Mayor Friszolowski seconded, and the motion carried 5-0 to approve that the City Manager's annual salary be adjusted from \$190,000 to \$199,500.00 with a \$500.00 per month housing allowance for as long as the City Manager resides within

the City of St. Pete Beach City limits, and authorize the City Attorney to draft the addendum to the Agreement for the Mayor's signature, effective on his anniversary date of April 1, 2021 and a contract extension until March 31, 2024.

- c. Continual COVID-19 Sanitation by Florida Cleaning Bee at City Facilities and Parks

Mr. Rey reminded the Commission of the contract that was started with Florida Cleaning Bee at the onset of the COVID-19 Pandemic. COVID is still a concern, and Mr. Rey opined that it is in the best interest of the City to continue having the cleaning and sanitation done by Florida Cleaning Bee.

In regard to reimbursement, Mr. Rey indicated that the expenses for this service is reimbursable through the CARES Act and through FEMA.

Motion: Commissioner Grill moved, Commissioner Graus seconded, and the motion carried 5-0 to approve authorization of expenditures in the amount of \$33,600 for the continuation of COVID-19 sanitation at City Facilities and Parks.

6. ORDINANCES

a. First Reading Ordinance 2021-07: Rental Fees, Deposits, and Pool Admission

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ST. PETE BEACH, FLORIDA, PROVIDING FOR AMENDMENTS TO APPENDIX A OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES; AMENDING, DELETING, AND ESTABLISHING FEES AND MEMBERSHIPS; PROVIDING FOR CODIFICATION; CONFLICTS; SEVERABILITY; CORRECTION OF SCRIVENER'S ERROR; CONSTRUCTION; PUBLICATION; AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Jennifer McMahon, Parks and Recreation Director, discussed the changes to Appendix A as presented in the Agenda. She stated that the most significant change is increase of the Community Center rental for weekends. Currently, the deposit is \$500 and is refundable. The problem has become that people are reserving the space, paying the deposit, continuing to shop around, then cancelling and receiving the deposit back. To prevent this recurring problem, she is proposing to increase the deposit, just for this space, to \$1,000.00 and have it become non-refundable. Mrs. McMahon acknowledged that the changes presented are in line with industry standards.

Mrs. McMahon addressed the increase from \$25 per hour to \$50 per hour for the Don Vista room rental fee and the pool admission daily increase by \$1 per category. There is still a punch card option and that fee does not change.

Mayor Johnson discussed page 79 of the Agenda that referenced 3R-B Decal and a 3R-D Decal. Mr. Rey stated that those are for residences in different zones of District 3. Vice Mayor Friszolowski stated that B is for Belle Vista parking and D is for the Don CeSar neighborhood. On that topic, Vice Mayor Friszolowski asked Mr. Rey to look into a hang tag or some other designation for Belle Vista area due to the residential parking and nuances with visitors for residents in that area.

Motion: Commissioner Graus moved, Commissioner Grill seconded, and the motion carried 5-0 to approve the first reading Ordinance 2021-07.

7. RESOLUTIONS

a. Resolution 2021-07: Surplus City Owned Assets

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF ST. PETE BEACH, FLORIDA, AUTHORIZING THE DISPOSAL OF SURPLUS CITY-OWNED ASSETS; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Mr. Rey stated that this is a routine item for request of disposal, per Chapter 2 of the City's Code. Attachment A to the Resolution outlines the equipment that has been determined by staff to no longer provide value to the operations.

Vince Tenaglia, Assistant City Manager, stated that these items are auctioned through GovDeals. Staff takes pictures, list the items, and GovDeals coordinates the payment and pickup. The City has the authority to reject bids if necessary.

Discussion ensued regarding market value for the assets auctioned off. Mr. Tenaglia acknowledged that this is not typically done on most surplus items; however, if the items are larger in nature such as vehicles and heavy equipment, it is expected that the City will receive at least the fair market value for said item(s).

Motion: Commissioner Pletcher moved, Commissioner Grill seconded, and the motion carried 5-0 to adopt Resolution 2021-07.

8. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

a. Beach Stewardship Committee Recommendations

Dan Rothenberger, Chair of the Beach Stewardship Committee, was present to discuss the topics as addressed at the Committee meetings. He introduced new Committee Member, Linda Borgia who was in the audience. Mr. Rothenberger thanked the Commission for considering discussion and possible action of the items as outlined in the memorandum.

Commissioner Pletcher thanked Mr. Rothenberger and Ms. Borgia for being present tonight and for their service to the City on the Board. She appreciated their diligence in wanting to care for and maintain the beaches in the City.

The first item discussed was in regard to bicycles/e-bicycles on the beach. Attorney Dickman stated that e-bicycles are categorized in three different classifications by the State depending on the speed and the wattage/horsepower of the electric motor. He has found that they are regulated generally as bicycles are and can be regulated by the City.

City Manager Rey stated that staff is drafting an ordinance to address the safety issue of these bicycles on the beach and to include sidewalks. This ordinance will have to prohibit regular bicycles as well. He stated that there are other inclusions being considered in the ordinance such as one person per bicycle unless designed for two or more and the age of operation. There is the potential for rental operators to receive a permit from the City with rules to be agreed upon before renting of these bicycles. The plan is to present this ordinance sometime in May.

The next item discussed was in regard to the ban of single use plastic bags and plastic straws. Commissioner Grill is not in favor of outright banning them without education. Not only in regard to plastic but also on the bicycle issue as well. He agrees that this is a safety issue for beachgoers, but, unfortunately, it will have negative impacts on residents who use their bicycles safely on the beach during non-high traffic times. This issue along with the plastics banning requires enforcement, consistently, and he is concerned about that aspect also. His preferable approach is for education to be provided to the residents, visitors, and businesses.

Mr. Rey stated that his thought about approach would be similar to that which was taken about the use of reclaimed water to the residents. He agreed that the first step is to try to change the behaviors instead of

creating more rules that require more enforcement which requires more staff time.

The last item for discussion in the memorandum was about sand dunes, more specifically at the Miramar. Attorney Dickman cautioned the Commission on discussing the Miramar specifically, but could discuss sand dunes as a whole. Vice Mayor Friszolowski agreed and stated that there is an ordinance on this topic in the Land Development Code.

Vice Mayor Friszolowski discussed his opinions on bicycles/e-bicycles, stating that they are increasing more and more and can cause injury to beachgoers, especially small children. In regard to plastics, he is open to more discussion of the no single use; however, prefers education first.

b. Replacement Program for the Memorial Beach Bench Program

Mr. Rey discussed the popular Memorial Beach Bench Program and the installment of 87 memorial benches on the beach. Due to the saturation of the benches, staff would like to offer a dedication of a tree in lieu of the bench. The trees can be planted along the beach wall or other parks in the different districts of the City in memorial of a loved one.

Commissioner Pletcher likes the tree dedication idea; however, wants to make sure there are only a few selections of trees so that the landscape stays consistent.

Commission was in agreement to move to a tree memorial program.

c. Discussion: Resolution Florida League of Mayors Preemption of Municipal Home Rule Powers

Mayor Johnson discussed the attached sample resolution as provided by the Florida League of Mayors. He stated that their intent is for cities to join in the signature and submission of the attached. He would like approval to do that as well as send one from the City specifically.

Attorney Dickman recommended that the resolution be formatted to the City template with information changed to appropriate names and signatures.

Vice Mayor Friszolowski would like to include a reference to the specific bills for the home-based businesses and the vacation rentals.

Commissioner Pletcher agreed and would prefer to send a resolution that is specific to the City.

Attorney Dickman stated that it can be adopted tonight, with authorization that the Attorney will add information about the specific house bills in relation to the home-based businesses and the vacation rentals as it affects the City.

City Clerk LaRowe read the title for the resolution as presented in the agenda, as Resolution 2021-08:

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF ST. PETE BEACH, FLORIDA, URGING ALL MEMBERS OF THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE TO OPPOSE UNWARRANTED OR OVERLY BROAD PREEMPTIONS OF MUNICIPAL HOME RULE POWERS; DIRECTING A COPY OF THIS RESOLUTION BE TRANSMITTED TO MEMBERS OF THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE, THE FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES, AND ANY OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES.

Motion: Vice Mayor Friszolowski moved, Commissioner Graus seconded, and the motion carried 5-0 to adopt Resolution 2021-08 and authorize the City Attorney to include other specific information relevant to the City of St. Pete Beach such as vacation rentals and home based businesses with the house bills proposed and to send a copy of the Resolution to the local representatives.

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

Alex Rey, City Manager—is working on street signage in the City that is no longer needed/warranted. This is in regard to no parking signs in areas where the curb can be painted yellow which is the equivalent of no parking. Staff coordinated with the State to identify five signs along Gulf Boulevard that are obsolete, i.e. adopt highway signs and directional signs; the State has given permission for their removal.

He then discussed the beautification in the districts, specifically with the allocated money for the historical street signs. He stated that the budgeted money translates to roughly \$48,000 per district. He opined that beautification in different districts can create character and allow residents to beautify their area. If this is the direction, each Commissioner, essentially, can decide what is best for their district, like how District 4 will use it for the historical street markers/signs. If this type of beautification is well received, it is something that can continue.

Commissioner Pletcher expressed her concerns and would rather it not be so subjective; instead, bring ideas to a budget workshop and discuss the different districts. She prefers to have some consistency, like the street signs. Mayor Johnson agreed with Commissioner Pletcher and would like to see a discussion of the character in each district.

Commissioner Grill—thanked the City Manager and staff for addressing the concerns of Gulf Winds. He complimented and acknowledged the continued construction throughout District 2.

Vice Mayor Friszolowski—complimented the work that was performed on the lift station in District 3.

He gave compliments to Mrs. McMahon for the great concert in the park series and hears a lot of compliments from the residents.

Mr. Friszolowski recently toured the renovated Library and complimented how well it was upgraded.

Commissioner Pletcher—announced the annual Vina Del Mar Community Garage Sale on April 10th.

Mayor Johnson—stated that he is taking the lead on gathering complaints and concerns for the 75th and Blind Pass Road area.

He informed the Commission that Mike Clarke will be the guest speaker at the BIG C meeting on March 31 on sea level rise and flooding; the meeting is open to the public and will be held at Madeira Beach City Hall.

Mayor Johnson adjourned the meeting at 7:54 p.m.

MINUTES APPROVED: April 13, 2021



AMBER LAROWE
CITY CLERK



ALAN JOHNSON
MAYOR