City Commission Meeting
April 13, 2021
6:00 p.m.

ELECTED OFFICIALS PRESENT:
Alan 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— (appeared via telephone)
Amber LaRowe, City Clerk
Vince Tenaglia, Assistant City Manager

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

1. PRESENTATIONS
Vince Tenaglia, Assistant City Manager, presented the City of St. Pete Beach Financial Audit Report for Fiscal Year Ending September 30, 2020. He noted that the City is in a good financial position. Mr. Tenaglia discussed the net revenue, utilities, pensions, and the summary of property values.

Zach Chalifour, CPA with James Moore Certified Public Accountants and Consultants gave a presentation to the Commission on the Annual Audit for the September 30, 2020 year-end. A copy of the presentation is made a part of the minutes. The City received an unmodified opinion; this is an opinion that means the financial statements are presented fairly, in all material respects, and in accordance with applicable financial reporting framework. Mr. Chalifour addressed the fund balance and compared the prior two fiscal years with the 2020 fiscal year.

The Commission was complimentary of the finance team on the preparation of the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR); they all enjoyed reading through it and found the information very valuable.

The City Clerk will distribute a copy of the presentation made by Mr. Chalifour.

2. CHANGES TO THE AGENDA
Mayor Johnson asked for an addition to the Agenda as item 6 a. Fence Restrictions; to discuss an email that was received.

Commissioner Pletcher asked for an addition to the Agenda as item 6 b. Pass-A-Grille Overlay.

3. AUDIENCE COMMENTS
Carrie Ruckdeschel, resident, spoke regarding the comments by the Commission at the March 23rd meeting as it related to single use plastics and plastic straws. She opined that the best way to get the public and businesses on board is with an ordinance. When an ordinance is adopted, the Suncoast Rise Against Plastics organization will provide education to the public and businesses alike but prefer that an ordinance is in place before they do so.

Ms. Ruckdeschel then addressed safety concerns along Boca Ciega Drive, stating that her and her children are almost struck by a car daily. She asked the Commission to look into some traffic calming devices and to do their

due diligence in regarding to the traffic along this road.

Ron, resident, echoed Ms. Ruckdeschel's concerns about the traffic issues, speeding, and careless driving along Boca Ciega Drive.

Phil Smithers, resident, stated that the traffic issues along Boca Ciega Drive are worrisome; he asked the City to study the traffic and do something to calm the speeding down.

David Nixon, resident, asked Mike Clarke, Public Works Director, about who keeps stopping the baffle box and check valve at 36th Street [Avenue]. He also asked for copies of any transcripts of decisions of baffle boxes and check valves on 36th Street [Avenue]. He then asked Vice Mayor Friszolowski about the discussions at the last Don CeSar Neighborhood meeting that he attended; specifically related to the breach in the seawall at E. Maritana. Mr. Nixon questioned why the City has not fixed this breach. Mr. Nixon followed up with making a request for transcripts from the City for a Bay News 9 interview/meeting by Joshua Rojas approximately two years ago. His final request was for copies of any seawater rise or any flood mitigation projects and costs to the City that have been completed over the last three years in any neighborhood. The City Clerk acknowledged Mr. Nixon's requests and informed him that she would follow up as soon as she could.

Ken F., resident, commented on the flooding in the Don CeSar neighborhood; he requested a meeting with the residents of the neighborhood to discuss the flooding issues.

Vice Mayor Friszolowski asked for an update at the next Commission meeting in regard to projects that have been approved [for flood mitigation, sea rise, etc.] with a time table on construction, start, and end times.

Mayor Johnson would like to have a workshop with the residents of the Boca Ciega neighborhood to discuss the traffic issues as expressed tonight. The Commission agreed that they would like a workshop for that neighborhood as well as with the residents in Don CeSar Place to discuss flooding.

City Manager Rey stated he will provide a detailed work scope, money budgeted, and timeline as soon as possible.

Commissioner Grill discussed the traffic issues throughout the entire City, suggesting a review of short-term solutions and long-term solutions was necessary.

Commissioner Graus opined the use of speed bumps, humps, or tables may be the easiest solution to assist with safety concerns.

4. CONSENT

a. Minutes: March 9 Executive Session, March 9 Commission Meeting, March 23 Commission Meeting
b. July 4th Fireworks
c. Annual Asphalt Patching Contract Award
d. Cost Estimate for Electrical Undergrounding Project with Charter Spectrum

Motion: **Vice Mayor Friszolowski moved, Commissioner Graus seconded, and the motion carried 5-0 to approve the April 13, 2021 Consent Agenda as presented by the City Manager.**

5. ACTION ITEMS

a. Force Main 1 Preliminary Design Report

City Manager Rey discussed the map on page 52 of the Agenda. This map outlines the existing force main, as well as the two alternatives. The Task Order is for the Consultant to prepare a preliminary design report and route analysis for the replacement of this force main. The alternatives will be evaluated based on existing and future flow conditions. No condition assessment will be completed under this scope of work; however, the preliminary design report performed under this scope will incorporate the findings of the force main assessment that was completed in 2017. Typically these force mains have a life span of seven years and it is necessary that the City plans accordingly. This force main is the sole disbursement of sewer from the City to the Treatment Plant in St. Petersburg.

Motion: **Commissioner Graus moved, Commissioner Grill seconded, and the motion carried 5-0 to approve the Task Order under the Continuing Engineering Services Contract with Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc., in the amount of $92,219.00 for Force Main 1 Preliminary Design Report.**

b. Kimley-Horn and Associates Urban Design and Landscape Architectural Services

Mr. Rey addressed the map on page 62 of the Agenda. He discussed the traffic issues for pedestrians who walk along the west end of Corey Avenue. The Consultant will provide a conceptual design and 3-D modeling graphics for the beach walk. Mr. Rey noted that the area encompasses down to 67th Avenue (Upham Beach).

Motion: **Commissioner Grill moved, Vice Mayor Friszolowski seconded, and the motion carried 5-0 to approve Urban Design and Landscape Architectural Services from Kimley-Horn and Associates in the amount of $36,800.00.**

6. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

a. Fence Discussion *Added*

Mayor Johnson discussed the recent email that everyone received in regard to the maximum fence height allowable in waterfront yards. This resident would like to see an increase from 4 feet to 6 feet, all the way to the seawall. Several reasons for this request were cited such as the City not having a landscape height restriction, privacy, and safety.

City Manager Rey received a copy of the email and researched the height restrictions of landscaping. He stated that the City does have height restrictions; however, they are in a different section of the Code. Staff will be doing research to understand the Code, the intent, and if necessary, move or add to other applicable section(s).

Vice Mayor Friszolowski and Commissioner Grill discussed the privacy issue as mentioned by the resident. Discussion continued amongst the Commission and staff, noting that the resident seems most concerned with privacy.

Commissioner Grill suggested an administrative variance; however, the Commission pointed out that if that were issued, it would affect residents who purchase that property or next door to that property in the future. The intent of the height restrictions is to not impose a blocked waterfront view upon all neighbors. Mr. Rey will provide an email to the Commission upon review of the Code.

b. Pass-A-Grille Overlay Discussion *Added*

Commissioner Pletcher discussed the design elements of Pass-A-Grille (PAG). A new house was recently built in PAG but the setback in the rear-yard did not seem to comply. She discussed the different design elements that were approved and discussed for PAG specifically; however, the setback to the rear-yard either was not discussed or not articulated appropriately for the Form Based Code. The City is investigating what happened and when. Commissioner Pletcher discussed adopting a moratorium on Form Based Codes on waterfront and gulf front properties in Pass-A-Grille; the Commission was in agreement.

Attorney Dickman will be drafting a resolution for the moratorium to be presented at the next meeting.

City Manager Rey stated that the Community Development Department is aware and is researching and working to correct the issue.

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

Amber LaRowe, City Clerk—discussed the recent resignation of James Kopco from the Fire Pension Board. The Plan Administrator is taking the names of those not chosen at the last Commission meeting and bringing them forward to the Fire Pension Board for appointment of the 5th Trustee. Once done, she will forward the remaining names back to the City Clerk for the Commission to review and appoint a person to the Board in the vacant seat. This will be done in May.

Alex Rey, City Manager—asked Mr. Tenaglia to speak on utility billing refunds.

Vince Tenaglia, Assistant City Manager—discussed the process for utility billing crediting. He will be working on a policy for refunding reclaimed water that is unavailable to residents. Unavailability could mean that there is a drought, a pipe break, or malfunction. Mr. Tenaglia addressed a recent construction incident that caused reclaimed water to be unavailable; this incident caused staff to consider a policy for potential future issues so that it can be addressed consistently.

Attorney Dickman—will be drafting the moratorium resolution for the next meeting.

Commissioner Pletcher—commented on the Vina Del Mar Community Garage Sale this weekend; it was well received and well attended.

She suggested that Code Enforcement utilize a boat to review docks in the City that are non-compliant.

Vice Mayor Friszolowski—stated that Lynda Fontana, Beach Stewardship Committee, is stepping down. Mr. Friszolowski will be appointing Michael Welch to serve as her replacement. The City will draft a thank you letter to Ms. Fontana for her service.

He discussed dogs on the beach and the complaints from people, especially dogs not on a leash. Discussion ensued amongst the Commission on this topic with various ideas suggested such as increase of fines and warnings no longer being issued.

Commissioner Grill—discussed the Three Palms Point Community Garage Sale this weekend, it had a great turnout.

He mentioned the reclaimed water line that recently broke near his neighborhood and commented how quickly it

was repaired by both the County and the City.

Mayor Johnson—mentioned that the Resolution for Home Rule that was approved at the last meeting was signed and distributed, noting that the current Legislative Session ends soon.

In regard to the receipt of anonymous letters, Mayor stated that if they are not signed, then the issues, comments, and thoughts cannot be addressed or followed up on.

Mayor will be featured on AM 970 WFLA News to discuss the upcoming projects in the City.

Mayor Johnson adjourned the meeting at 7:57 p.m.

MINUTES APPROVED: May 11, 2021

AMBER LAROWE
CITY CLERK

ALAN JOHNSON
MAYOR