

City Commission Workshop

July 12, 2022

4:30 p.m.

ELECTED OFFICIALS PRESENT:

Alan Johnson, Mayor

Chris Graus, Vice Mayor, Commissioner, District 1

Ward Friszolowski, Commissioner, District 3

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, Chief Operating Officer

Mayor Johnson called the workshop to order at 4:40 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. DISCUSSION AND PRESENTATION

a. Beach Ordinance

Alex Rey, City Manager, introduced the topic by stating the reasoning behind the development of this ordinance is due to several areas in the City Code that regulate what can and cannot happen on beaches. The Code would be better enforced and understood by the public and staff alike if any regulations that pertain to the beaches would be identified in one section of the Code. He stated that there has been one meeting with the City hotelier group and one meeting with the City's Beach Stewardship Committee (BSC). Today's workshop is for the Commission to discuss policies and concepts with staff and Attorney gathering that information to develop into an ordinance. He looks forward to having a meeting with the community as well to gather their desires.

Andrew Dickman, City Attorney, explained the legal considerations for local beach regulations as well as the dynamics of that. A copy of his presentation is made a part of the record.

Jennifer McMahon, Chief Operating Officer, made a presentation to the Commission to include:

- Current beach prohibitions and the section of the Code that speaks to that
 - Fireworks are currently prohibited unless a person is issued a City permit; the Commission requested staff investigate how to prohibit fireworks on the beach regardless of private or public.
- Proposed new regulations:
 - No fishing except done between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. as recommended by the BSC; the Commission agreed with the BSC recommendation
 - No smoking – Commission agreed and requested follow-up by legal on where the prohibition would be (public vs. private)
 - No bicycles
 - This prohibition was discussed with the direction made by the Commission for staff to bring back peak hours versus nonpeak hours. Commissioner Friszolowski suggested bicycles on beach between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m.
 - No Styrofoam - discussion was had about the banning of Styrofoam and how that will possibly affect business. Commissioner Grill expressed concern and requested that staff talk to the Tampa Bay Beaches Chamber of Commerce as well as businesses

Mrs. McMahon displayed two pictures of how Walton Beach identifies various sections of the beach by name, location, and property specifics. Commission seemed interested in doing something similar for St. Pete Beaches.

A copy of the two maps is made a part of the record.

Mrs. McMahon discussed cabana rentals and services that use the public beach for personal profit. She opined that a way to regulate this could be effective to include the possible permitting and reserving an area of the beach much like small weddings are currently done. A business tax receipt process was also mentioned requiring private hotels to ask their vendors to register with the City. This topic was heavily discussed with the Commission stating that this area needs more thought.

With the time being almost 6:00 p.m., the Commission requested to table the discussion and continue at another workshop.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:55 p.m.

MINUTES APPROVED: JULY 26, 2022



AMBER LAROWE
CITY CLERK



ALAN JOHNSON
MAYOR