

City Commission Workshop
August 9, 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 – arrived at 4:35 PM

STAFF PRESENT:

Alex Rey, City Manager
Matthew McConnell, Assistant City Attorney
Amber LaRowe, City Clerk
Jennifer McMahon, Chief Operating Officer

Mayor Johnson called the workshop to order at 4:30 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. DISCUSSION AND PRESENTATION

a. Beach Ordinance

Jennifer McMahon, Chief Operating Officer, made a presentation to the Commission. This presentation is made a part of the record. She explained that the presentation begins where the Commission last left off at the July 12th Workshop.

The presentation discussed:

- Vehicles on the Beach - Current:
 - Only allowed with an approved permit by City to include Public Works, Public Safety, Permitted Commercial Services, Special Events, Mechanical Beach Cleaning
 - Driving on beach related to concessions – Land Development Code Sec. 6.12(3)
- Vehicles on the Beach – Proposed:
 - No fueling any watercrafts or equipment on the sand beach and no storage of fueling containers
 - Discussion:
 - Electric vehicle time frame
 - Public safety designated drive area – high density areas
 - Possible lane near the dunes or as high on the sand beach as possible
 - Regulate vehicle size discussion
 - ATVs & Gators unless an emergency
 - Should the City have a designated beach patrol so as to have less cars/trucks on the beach
 - Weekend patrol could be designated to just the beach and use an ATV
 - Private businesses using vehicles on their own property and/or crossing over onto public or other private property
- Special Events - Current:
 - Permit only and may allow alcohol and food
 - Beach weddings need beach wedding permit
- Special Events - Discussion:
 - Rental fees on the beach (i.e. class or volleyball tournament)
 - Commission agreed that this should be consistent with those who have an event in a park, the park event must pay the park rental fee so should a beach event

- Businesses on the beach – treat like beach wedding (permit and fee)
 - Commission agreed that businesses using the beach should be treated just like a beach wedding who pays to use the beach
 - Regulation of types of businesses who can “rent” the beach?
 - Additional insurance naming the City of St. Pete Beach as an additional insured
- Sea Turtle Protection - Current:
 - Division 44 Land Development Code
 - No changes
- Sea Bird Protection - Proposed:
 - No harassing, harming, hunting, killing, etc.
 - List of protected birds
- Dune Protection – Current:
 - Section 25.5 & 25.9 Land Development Code
 - Permit from City and the Department of Environmental Protection if requesting to alter any dune or naturally occurring accrued sand
- Commercial Property Cabana Service Areas – Current:
 - Serving alcohol must
 - Permit
 - Active Business Receipt Tax
 - Clear identified boundaries with site plan review
 - Alcohol must remain in cabana
 - Must be 75 ft from an abutting residential property line
 - Guests must wear easily identifiable wrist band
 - Cabana hours 10am-10pm
 - Employees and servers must be easily identified as associated with Transient Lodging Facility
 - Cabana service must be no closer than 50 feet to the wet sand
- Commercial Property Cabana Service Areas – Proposed:
 - Density of cabana
 - Based on survey of property lines
 - Example of Postcard Inn map was displayed in the presentation
 - Limit number of rows each property can have
 - Discussion about:
 - Uniform cabanas
 - Placed in designated use when actually being used
 - 25-foot buffer to property lines
 - Put away each night
 - Renewal each year should be closely monitored with Transient Lodging Facility having a staff meeting to review following guidelines, etc.
 - Renewal of cabana permits on a uniform timeline, i.e. December 31st expiration with a January 1 renewal regardless when receive permit
- Beach Maintenance Regulations – Current:
 - Section 94-101 and 94-102 of Land Development Code
- Recap from July 12th Workshop & today:
 - Cabanas can only be placed out in designated area when in-use or reserved
 - Cabanas must be brought up each night
 - Cabana density regulations
 - Sea bird protection
 - No fueling watercrafts or equipment on sand beaches and no storage of fuel containers on sand beach

- Commission would rather the implementation of safety measures as opposed to prohibition
- No Styrofoam
- No fishing allowed within any marked swim zone
 - Commission would prefer fishing only between 6:00 am-9:00 am
- No smoking (no filtered cigarettes)
 - Commissioner Grill is opposed to this and stated it should be enforced via the littering ordinance
 - City Manager Rey stated that the main reason that the State of Florida signed this into law is for secondhand smoke
 - Attorney McConnell stated that the law only applies to filtered cigarettes, not vaping, unfiltered cigarettes, or cigars
- No micromobility
- No bicycles
 - Commission would prefer bicycles only between 2 hours before sunrise and 2 hours after sunset
 - Commissioner Grill opined that bicycles should be allowed and requested staff review options to allow bicycles that is not necessarily time driven
 - Mrs. McMahon suggested permits for residents only with specific regulations that the resident must sign off on
- Vehicles on the beach
 - Designated lane
 - Mrs. McMahon will do more research on this
 - Electric vehicles only
 - Mrs. McMahon will do more research on this
 - Limit on size
 - Mrs. McMahon will do more research on this
- Business regulations or not allow
 - Will handle this like park rentals
 - Commissioner Pletcher is not a fan of business regulations on the beach like yoga, class, etc.
 - City Manager Rey mentioned various ways to handle some businesses or classes that use the beaches especially during certain designated times and treat businesses that are bringing tangible items (chairs, umbrellas, tents) differently via a permit
 - Mrs. McMahon will outline this
- Enforcement:
 - City staff responsibilities
 - Beach manager position
 - Code Enforcement responsibilities
 - Sheriff's Office responsibilities

Mayor Johnson adjourned the meeting at 6:05 p.m.

MINUTES APPROVED: AUGUST 23, 2022



AMBER LAROWE
CITY CLERK



ALAN JOHNSON
MAYOR