City Commission Meeting
August 9, 2022
6:00 p.m.

ELECTED OFFICIALS PRESENT:
Alan Johnson, Mayor
Chris Graus, Vice Mayor, Commissioner, District 1
Mark Grill, Commissioner, District 2
Ward Friszolowski, Commissioner, District 3
Melinda Pletcher, Commissioner, District 4

STAFF PRESENT:
Alex Rey, City Manager
Matthew McConnell, Assistant City Attorney
Amber LaRowe, City Clerk
Jennifer McMahon, Chief Operating Officer
Michelle Gonzalez, Community Development Director

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

1. PRESENTATIONS

a. Mayor Johnson presented a proclamation recognizing Chuck Newman and Michelle Gonzalez for recent career accomplishments.
b. Mayor Johnson an the City Commission recognized City Lifeguards Annelise Knous, Ashley Font, and Ainsley Burke for recent lifesaving efforts they performed on duty.
c. Brian Hunter, Florida Department of Transportation, discussed traffic data collection in the City.

2. CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

No changes.

3. AUDIENCE COMMENTS

Denise Chase, resident, requested the City Commission revisit the installation of the playground equipment at Hurley Park.

City Manager Alex Rey informed the Commission that there are no funds currently budgeted for FY2023 for a playground at Hurley Park. Staff performed research on the number of children in the area and there are no children identified under the age of nine in the Pass-A-Grille neighborhood. The Mayor would like to look at this item in the FY2023 upcoming budget discussion.

James Proctor, resident, spoke in opposition of the large tourist development in the City, mentioning Tradewinds development.

Theresa Schefstad, resident, commented on the fishing portion of the proposed beach ordinance as discussed at today's workshop meeting. She opined that fisherman are self-regulating and recommended that the City review the Fish and Wildlife Commission's ordinances/policies on fishing. She also commented on cabana rentals and asked the City to incorporate locking/chaining them together, so they are not removed during non-operating hours.

Laura Travison, resident, spoke in opposition to the proposed parking lot or other development near Lido Park. She expressed concerns about child and pedestrian safety as well as overall resident displeasure of the

development of the lot.

Deb Schechner, resident, commented on the fishing prohibition in the beach ordinance as discussed at today's workshop meeting; she echoed Ms. Schefstad's comments regarding self-regulation. Ms. Schechner also commented on the playgrounds and the development occurring near Lido Park.

Nancy Schultz, resident, agrees with the banning of Styrofoam on the beaches and opined that businesses should be educated on that prohibition so they can decide on any changes they may want to make in their business model. She also opined that bicycles on the beach should not be regulated.

Betty Rzewnicki, resident, opined that bicycles should not be prohibited on the beaches.

4. CONSENT

a. **City Commission Minutes: July 25, 2022 Budget Workshop and July 26, 2022 6:00 PM Meeting**
b. **Renewal of Interlocal Agreement with Forward Pinellas for Planning, Mapping, and Special Project Assistance**
c. **Authorize the City Manager to enter into an Agreement with Forward Pinellas for a Complete Streets Visioning Study in the Downtown Core and to expend funds in the amount of $65,000.**
d. **Authorization to enter into an Agreement with Forward Pinellas for a Gulf Boulevard Conceptual Alternatives and Safety Study to expend $65,000 from the Mobility Fund**
e. **Wastewater/Stormwater Equipment Sharing ILA**
f. **Purchase Toro Sand Pro**

Commissioner Grill requested the removal of items b, c, d, and f for further discussion.

Motion: **Commissioner Friszolowski moved, Vice Mayor Graus seconded, and the motion carried 5-0 approve items a and e of the August 9, 2022 Consent Agenda as presented by the City Manager.**

4.b. c. and d. Forward Pinellas Agreements Discussion:
Commissioner Grill commented on these agreements and questioned why the City could not hire Kimley-Horn directly to complete the Gulf Boulevard Conceptual Alternative and Safety Study.

City Manager Rey addressed item b. first, explaining that this Agreement allows the City to use Forward Pinellas staff to provide planning and mapping services as needed.

Michelle Gonzalez, Community Development Director, discussed item c. stating that the City applied for a grant to do the study along Corey Avenue and the surrounding area. The City was awarded the grant amount of $35,000.00 from Pinellas County with a commitment of $30,000.00 made by the City in the grant application. She followed her discussion of item c. with a discussion of item d. explaining that the amount of $65,000.00 is for the City portion of the study, not Treasure Island. The reason Treasure Island is identified in the documents in the agenda is to inform the City that Treasure Island will be undergoing a similar study along Gulf Boulevard.

Deb Schechner, resident, commented on the traffic studies of item c and item d stating that this has been going on for years.

Motion: **Commissioner Friszolowski moved, Commissioner Pletcher seconded, and the motion carried 5-0 to approve the Amendment to the Forward Pinellas Interlocal Agreement for**

planning, mapping, and special project services as approved by the Forward Pinellas Board and authorize the City Manager and Mayor to execute the Agreement.

Motion: **Commissioner Grill moved, Vice Mayor Graus seconded, and the motion carried 5-0 to authorize the City Manger to execute the Agreement with Forward Pinellas for a Complete Streets Visioning Study and to expend funds in the amount of $65,000.00.**

Motion: **Commissioner Pletcher moved, Vice Mayor Graus seconded, and the motion carried 5-0 to authorize the City Manager to execute the Agreement with Forward Pinellas for the Gulf Boulevard Vision Zero Safety Study and to expend $64,635.00 in funds from the Mobility Fund.**

4.f. Purchase of Toro Sand Pro Discussion:

Commissioner Grill questioned why the City needs a Sand Pro machine for two ball fields. City Manager Rey explained that the Sand Pro is used to till the clay and it is too cumbersome to move the machines from one field to another across town. Putting the machines on a trailer is a very difficult task. The clay needs to be tilled 1-2x a week. Mr. Rey stated that the City can look to contracting this service but is unsure if it will be of saving to the City. Jennifer McMahon, Chief Operating Officer, stated that City staff takes a lot of pride in the fields and enjoys the responsibility of tilling and maintaining them.

Deb Schechner, resident, opined that the City should be investing in one machine per field due to the excessive need to till for games and safety.

Motion: **Vice Mayor Graus moved, Commissioner Grill seconded, and the motion carried 5-0 to authorize the City Manager to purchase a Sand Pro 3040 in the amount of $27,474.01 from Wesco Turf that will be assigned to the Parks Division.**

5. ACTION ITEMS

a. **Rileighs Outdoor, LLC. Holiday Decorations Proposal**

Mrs. McMahon explained that the City signed a 5-year lease with Clarks Sales Display for City wide decorations in 2017 as part of a piggyback with Treasure Island; Clarks Sales Display is now Rileighs Outdoor, LLC. The City of Treasure Island renewed their agreement with Rileighs Outdoor, LLC in June. Based on that renewal, staff is recommending waiving the bid process and piggyback with Treasure Island to approve this year's proposal for $76,880.00.

Commissioner Grill is not in favor of this proposal and suggested a citizen committee be formed to discuss what the citizens would like to see with a reasonable budget. He stated that there may be another company out there that is comparable but more affordable.

Commissioner Pletcher appreciates the décor and opined that if the City were to reduce the displays there would be a lot of negative feedback.

Deb Schechner, resident, wants to make sure the City gets the best decorations. She opined a different company may be available to provide decorations at a lesser price. She also suggested that the hoteliers could invest funds towards the décor since having decorations entices more tourism during the holidays.

Motion: **Commissioner Pletcher moved, Commissioner Friszolowski seconded, and the motion carried 4-1 to authorize the City Manager to piggyback on the City of Treasure Island**

Agreement and approve Rileighs Outdoor proposal in the amount of $76,880.00 for City wide holiday decorations. Commissioner Grill voted no.

b. **License Agreement with Don CeSar Property Owners Corporation (DCPOC) for Emergency Access**

Matthew McConnell, Assistant City Attorney, stated that the attached Agreement allows the City to continue utilizing a portion of DCPOC's real property for purposes of ingress and egress to the sandy beach at approximately 35th Street for the City's police and fire emergency rescue vehicles. The City will be permitted to use the property for an initial term of five years with two additional five-year renewal terms without any financial compensation.

Motion: **Commissioner Friszolowski moved, Vice Mayor Graus seconded, and the motion carried 5-0 to approve the License Agreement with DCPOC and authorize the City Manager to execute same.**

6. RESOLUTIONS

a. **Resolution 2022-13: Public Meeting Rules and Procedures**

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF ST. PETE BEACH, FLORIDA, PROVIDING FOR RULES AND PROCEDURE FOR CITY COMMISSION MEETINGS AND BOARD AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS; AND PROVDIING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Amber LaRowe, City Clerk, informed the Commission that there have been no changes since presented at the last meeting.

Amy Auerbach, resident, expressed displeasure with public comment emails not being read aloud and into the record of meetings. She also opined that current public comment measures, i.e., email submissions, voicemails, and videos, be codified into the Resolution so that they are not taken away without the public being made aware.

Mrs. LaRowe addressed reading of emails into the record. She explained that in her career, it is not best practice to read emails and that is not something that her nor her staff will take on. Any emails submitted is sent to the Commission as soon as it is received and placed into the meeting record. She stated that emails are personal and reading them is a personal experience; her and her staff will not be able to convey accurate tone and passion. Sometimes several emails are received before a meeting and reading that will take a lot of staff time.

Mrs. LaRowe also addressed the current public comment measures stating that the current methods were established during her tenure and as long as she is the City Clerk, these measures will stay or improve as technology allows for better public participation.

Motion: **Vice Mayor Graus moved, Commissioner Grill seconded, and the motion carried 5-0 to adopt Resolution 2022-13.**

7. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

a. **Registered Voters per City district as provided by the Pinellas County Supervisor of Elections**

Mrs. LaRowe stated that according to Chapter 38 of the City's Code of Ordinance, the City Commission shall readjust such boundaries so that the number of qualified electors residing in such district shall be as nearly even in number as practicable. Mrs. LaRowe reminded the Commission of the conversation she had earlier this year with a resident of the Don CeSar Place neighborhood and how the neighborhood is split between District 3 and District 4; this is outlined on the attached map.

The Commission discussed the map and qualified electors and stated that it is mostly even as practicable and recommends no change at this time.

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

Alex Rey, City Manager—discussed two handouts – one of zoning districts in the City and one of pothole locations and planned repair; a copy of the handouts are made a part of the record. Mr. Rey stated that they will be made available on the City's website.

Mr. Rey discussed the conference he attended last week where he met with a vendor who creates street signs with PVC that attach to current poles, the look is very similar to the look the City has and for less cost. He will have one installed for comparison.

He discussed the CIP Budget Workshop that was being proposed for the end of this month and suggested, instead, that the Commission reviews and ranks the projects on their own and then have a brief meeting to discuss them before the September Budget Meeting.

Vice Mayor Graus—appreciates the positive start to the meetings.

Commissioner Grill—mentioned that he will be attending the Florida League of Cities Annual Conference this week.

Commissioner Friszolowski—commented on the kayak business that is not an allowable use and is being addressed.

Commissioner Pletcher—discussed the recent Historic Preservation Board meeting that discussed the Pass-A-Grille overlay. Staff and the consultant have put together great educational tools and information to help the Board become better educated and informed.

Mayor Johnson adjourned the meeting at 8:29 p.m.

MINUTES APPROVED: AUGUST 23, 2022

AMBER LAROWE
CITY CLERK

ALAN JOHNSON
MAYOR