

City Commission Meeting

August 23, 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

ELECTED OFFICIALS ABSENT:

Melinda Pletcher, Commissioner, District 4

STAFF PRESENT:

Alex Rey, City Manager

Matthew McConnell, Assistant City Attorney

Amber LaRowe, City Clerk

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

1. PRESENTATIONS

Mayor Johnson presented a proclamation recognizing Arbor Day as the last Friday in April.

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Motion: Commissioner Grill moved, Vice Mayor Graus seconded, and the motion carried 4-0 to approve the August 23, 2022 City Commission Agenda.

3. AUDIENCE COMMENTS

Cindy Perry, resident, gave a presentation to the City Commission regarding protecting Black Skimmers on the beach and encouraged staff to review the Fish and Wildlife Commission's Rules. A copy of the presentation is made a part of the record.

Theresa Schefstad, resident, commented on the recent workshops wherein various suggestions and proposals were made to incorporate into a new Beach Ordinance. She was thankful that staff has heard her and other members of the public's expression of concern over regulations of fishing and looks forward to seeing the new ordinance move forward for approval.

Deb Schechner, resident, commented on the development of the parcel near Lido Park and opined that the City Commission should deny the Conditional Use Permit request.

4. CONSENT

- a. City Commission Minutes: August 9, 2022 Workshop and 6:00 PM Meeting**
- b. Re-Appointment to the General Employees' Pension Board of Trustees**
- c. Ratification of the 5th Trustee to General Employees' Pension Board of Trustees**
- d. Authorize the City Manager to Execute the Agreement with Joe Payne, Inc. dba JPI for Building Department Services**

Motion: Vice Mayor Graus moved, Commissioner Grill seconded, and the motion carried 4-0 to approve the August 23, 2022 Consent Agenda as presented by the City Manager.

5. RESOLUTIONS

a. Resolution 2022-16: Appointment to Forward Pinellas

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF ST. PETE BEACH, FLORIDA, RECOMMENDING APPOINTMENT OF A MEMBER TO THE PINELLAS PLANNING COUNCIL/FORWARD PINELLAS; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Mayor Johnson informed the Commission that a municipality from the cities (as identified in the Resolution) shall nominate or support the nomination of one of its own elected officials. At the July BIG-C meeting, Mayor Johnson was nominated and confirmed to represent the membership on the Forward Pinellas Board.

Motion: Commissioner Friszolowski moved, Vice Mayor Graus seconded, and the motion carried 4-0 to adopt Resolution 2022-16.

6. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

No items.

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

Alex Rey, City Manager—mentioned a recent meeting/tour that he and a few staff members went on with Tampa Bay Watch courtesy of Betcinda Kettells, Librarian. Ms. Kettells coordinated the meet-up because of the good work that they are doing in the area and because there will be resources and information provided at the Library.

Commissioner Friszolowski—mentioned his attendance at the Florida League of Cities (FLC) Annual Conference last week that had a great turnout and was a good experience.

Commissioner Grill—also attended the FLC Conference last week and added that Commissioner Friszolowski was recognized for his 20 years of service. He also had a great experience and obtained a lot of information.

Mr. Grill discussed the disappointment with Duke Energy and the hardening project that has begun. He is pleased that this is happening; however, he is not in favor of how the process began. When Duke came to the City to present the project to the City, the City asked Duke for some information to be provided before the project began; this did not happen. The project has begun, and he has heard from disgruntled residents due to lack of information being provided like scheduling, street closures, etc. Commissioner Grill has been on the phone with the Duke representative regarding these concerns and the concern of “half-poles” due to other service providers (Brighthouse, Verizon) being on the current poles and not being moved to the new pole; the representative is to be getting back to Commissioner Grill and the City regarding all these concerns.

Commissioner Grill answered one question as posed during tonight’s public comment, stating that he has not had discussions with the property owner/applicant for the conditional use for the property near Lido Park.

Commissioner Graus—also addressed the question that was asked during tonight’s public comment, stating that he has not had discussions with the property owner/applicant for the conditional use for the property near Lido Park.

He reminded residents that we are at the peak of Hurricane Season and to make sure they have their supplies and receive their return tag/pass from City Hall.

Mr. Graus stated that with school being back in session, there is heavy traffic on Blind Pass Road where the two schools start and end at the same time.

Mayor Johnson—attended the FLC Conference and found it to be very beneficial.

He discussed an economic analysis that was provided to the City in 2003 or 2004 that helped develop the Comprehensive Plan. He has asked the City Clerk to research and provide any information on the analysis if she can.

Commissioner Friszolowski discussed the analysis stating that it was the catalyst for the City to review hotels versus condominiums and to reevaluate current (at the time) density, height, and setbacks.

Mayor Johnson adjourned the meeting at 6:40 p.m.

MINUTES APPROVED: SEPTEMBER 12, 2022



AMBER LAROWE
CITY CLERK



ALAN JOHNSON
MAYOR