City Commission Meeting
February 13, 2023
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 – entered at 6:02 p.m.

STAFF PRESENT:
Alex Rey, City Manager
Matthew McConnell, Assistant City Attorney
Amber LaRowe, City Clerk
Jennifer McMahon, Chief Operating Officer
Vince Tenaglia, Assistant City Manager

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

1. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Commissioner Grill requested the addition of electric vehicle (EV) charging to the agenda as item 6.a.

Motion: **Commissioner Friszolowski moved, Vice Mayor Graus seconded, and the motion carried 4-0 to approve the February 13, 2023 City Commission Agenda. Commissioner Pletcher entered the meeting as the vote was taken.**

2. AUDIENCE COMMENTS

John Kurzman, resident, commented on beach access for residents especially around the hotels, ownership rights vs. resident rights, and legal customary use.

John Kurzman, on behalf of Lisa Kurzman, resident, commented on the Comprehensive Plan and the combining of lots.

Deborah Schechner, resident, echoed the concerns and questions expressed by Mr. Kurzman and would like the City to focus on beach access rights for the residents.

Dickman Law Firm will research legal customary use and access rights and bring back an update to the City Commission.

3. CONSENT

a. **January 24, 2023 City Commission Meeting Minutes**
b. **Don CeSar Boat Ramp Feasibility Study**
c. **Don CeSar Boat Ramp Feasibility Study – FBIP Grant**
d. **Suntan Memorandum of Understanding Renewal**
e. **Alleyway Improvements between 18th Avenue and 19th Avenue**
f. **Ratification of the 5th Trustee to the Police Pension Board**

Betty Rzewnicki, resident, left a voicemail regarding comments and concerns on items 3.b. and 3.c. She requests that the Commission carefully review the location of the Don CeSar Boat Ramp and the viability of that location.

Consideration should be made for the public to provide ample input and review before final decisions are made.

The Commission agreed that the Feasibility Study should be performed; however significant public comment will be requested before any decisions are made.

Motion: **Commissioner Friszolowski moved, Vice Mayor Graus seconded, and the motion carried 5-0 to approve the February 13, 2023 Consent Agenda as presented by the City Manager.**

4. ACTION ITEMS

a. Horan Playground Proposal

Jennifer McMahon, Chief Operating Officer, explained that this request is to remove and replace the current equipment at Horan Park with new and updated ADA compliant equipment and surfacing. The equipment and surfacing will be in the same location as the current playground.

Deborah Schechner, resident, requested that the City consider Lido Park for the renovations as this playground is heavily utilized and is becoming quite dilapidated.

It was confirmed that staff is preparing Lido Park for updates in FY 2024.

Motion: **Commissioner Grill moved, Commissioner Friszolowski seconded, and the motion carried 5-0 to authorize the City Manager to enter into a purchasing agreement with Project Innovations, Inc. in the amount of $119,929.36 for Horan Park playground equipment and surfacing.**

b. Dickman Law Firm Retainer Agreement

Andrew Dickman, City Attorney, appeared telephonically to discuss this item. He stated that the only change to what is prepared in the Agenda packet is that monthly invoices will be prepared with a summary sheet and distributed to the City Commission for their review. This will allow further transparency and the ability of the Commission to call and discuss any questions they may have.

Commissioner Grill discussed whether there is a process in place for the verification of the Attorney's invoicing.

Commissioner Friszolowski agreed with Mr. Dickman's suggestion for further review of the invoices.

Commissioner Pletcher commented on the modest increase to the fee structure as presented, stating that Dickman Law Firm has been consistently supportive and trustworthy throughout their tenure with the City.

Commissioner Grill expressed his opinions on the invoice process and review, stating that he is not sure that this method is best.

The consensus was to go with the approach as expressed by Attorney Dickman and reevaluate as needed.

Motion: **Vice Mayor Graus moved, Commissioner Pletcher seconded, and the motion carried 4-1 to approve the revised City Attorney Retainer Agreement effective March 1, 2023. Commissioner Grill voted no.**

5. ORDINANCES

a. Ordinance 2023-01: Supplemental Budget Appropriations

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ST. PETE BEACH, FLORIDA PROVIDING FOR SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET APPROPRIATIONS; PROVIDING FOR CODIFICATION; CONFLICTS; SEVERABILITY; CORRECTION OF SCRIVENER'S ERROR; CONSTRUCTION; PUBLICATION; AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Vince Tenaglia, Assistant City Manager, gave a presentation on the Ordinance. This presentation included the annual budget and finance calendar, re-appropriations summary, the current financial position, proposed new expenditures, and the recommendation by the Finance and Budget Review Committee. A copy of the presentation is made a part of the record.

Motion: **Commissioner Friszolowski moved, Vice Mayor Graus seconded, and the motion carried 5-0 to adopt Ordinance 2023-01.**

6. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

a. EV Chargers *(added)*

Commissioner Grill would like the City to consider an EV charging policy for the charging stations that are owned, installed, and maintained by the City. Example: Freebee contract does not say that the City will provide charging or pay for the charging of their vehicles; however, they have been charging at the City's stations. Another consideration is the benefit to employees that charge their personal vehicles at the stations at no cost to them.

Mayor Johnson agrees with Commissioner Grill and believes that those who need to use the charging stations for non-city vehicles should be paying to do so; it should not be a City expense.

Alex Rey, City Manager, agrees that the charging station should be for City vehicle use only and will do more research to bring a policy forward.

Commissioner Grill would like consideration by the City to seek reimbursement from Freebee for the years that they have been charging at the City's expense.

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

Alex Rey, City Manager—mentioned the streetlights north of 76th Avenue -- Blind Pass and Gulf Way. The City is planning to move along to the next neighborhood in Belle Vista where there will be about 300 more lights replaced. Before the City proceeds, he requested feedback from the Commission after they have had a chance to look at the new lights in District 1. There will be a slight cost increase for these lights due to the fixtures being more expensive; however, the maintenance and electricity cost is less.

Mr. Rey displayed a road resurfacing map that shows the plans for the next few years. This map will be uploaded on the City's website tomorrow for the public to view.

He then updated the Commission on the undergrounding work along Gulf Boulevard. Because this is a multi-year project, it cannot only be done during the off-season. The plans are to not impede the flow of traffic too much; however, for safety reasons, it may occur from time to time during the project.

Commissioner Pletcher—commented on the Women's Club luncheon tomorrow. She wished everyone a Happy Valentine's Day.

Vice Mayor Graus—encouraged everyone to go look at the new LED lights. He wished everyone a Happy Valentine's Day.

Mayor Johnson—stated that at the last Forward Pinellas meeting it was mentioned that Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority is considering keeping the SunRunner free.

Mayor Johnson adjourned the meeting at 7:51 p.m.

MINUTES APPROVED: FEBRUARY 28, 2023

alarowe

AMBER LAROWE
CITY CLERK

Alan P Johnson

ALAN JOHNSON
MAYOR