City Commission Meeting
July 25, 2023
6:00 p.m.

ELECTED OFFICIALS PRESENT:
Adrian Petrila, Mayor
Mark Grill, Vice Mayor, Commissioner, District 2
Chris Graus, Commissioner, District 1
Ward Friszolowski, Commissioner, District 3
Chris Marone, Commissioner, District 4

STAFF PRESENT:
Matthew McConnell, Assistant City Attorney
Alex Rey, City Manager
Amber LaRowe, City Clerk
Mike Clarke, Public Works Director
Betcinda Kettells, Library Director
Jim Kilpatrick, Fire Chief

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

1. PRESENTATIONS

a. **Firefighter Yellow Helmet Ceremony**
Fire Chief Jim Kilpatrick presented Firefighter/Paramedic Mike Zamparelli with his yellow helmet. The Yellow Helmet Ceremony is a tradition that the Fire Department undergoes whereby once a firefighter successfully completes his first year, all fire employees touch the helmet to signify unity and being with the firefighter throughout their career. This is the first time the yellow helmet is allowed to be touched by someone other than the firefighter who wears it; the second time is upon retirement when the firefighter gets to take their helmet home.

b. **Beach Renourishment Status Update**
Kelli Levy, Pinellas County Public Works Director, gave an update to the City Commission on the Army Corp of Engineers Renourishment to St. Pete Beach. She explained that the Army Corps requires perpetual access easements to support the renourishment efforts. The Army Corps informed Ms. Levy that they would not be proceeding with the City project if not all properties complied with the easement submissions. The Silver Sands property has never submitted the easements and that is part of the reason that the Army Corp will not be proceeding. The City of Treasure Island's renourishment is intertwined with the City's, and they do not have the easements either. The County has sent a disagreement letter to the Army Corps.

Ms. Levy stated that she and the County are working on how to move forward with County funding; different ideas were discussed. If the County/City goes this alone with no help from the Army Corp, then the renourishment will probably take place in 2025. An emergency fill can be done as well, especially for Pass-A-Grille Beach.

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA
Vice Mayor Grill requested two discussion items be added; one on City Manager's expenses and one on social media/media policy.

Motion: **Commissioner Friszolowski moved, Commissioner Graus seconded, and the motion carried**

5-0 to approve the July 25, 2023, City Commission Agenda as amended.

3. Audience Comments

Brian Rutherford, resident, discussed the information shared by the Sheriff at the District 4 Town Hall meeting last week.

BJ Lawson, resident, expressed the issues he has experienced with SunRunner. He also shared a chart with crime statistics.

The following business representatives and residentS shared their opinions on the proposed Beach Ordinance:

- Jeff Homad – Don CeSar
- Paul Nicklaus – Undertow Beach Bar
- Robert Czyszczon – Plaza Beach Hotel
- Robb Russman – Resident
- Jeremy DaSilva – Postcard Inn

Edna Hicks, resident, mentioned her attendance at last week's Technical Review Committee and the review of the Sirata Hotel Conditional Use Permit.

Robin Miller, Tampa Bay Beaches Chamber of Commerce, commented on the beach renourishment update as presented by Ms. Levy. She mentioned the packet of information and signed letter that was sent to the Tourist Development Council advocating for an increase in the hotel tax that can be used for renourishment efforts.

4. Consent

a. Minutes: June 16th City Commission Special Meeting, June 20th City Commission Special Meeting, June 27, 2023 City Commission Regular Meeting, and July 11, 2023 Joint Beach Stewardship Workshop Meeting and 6:00 p.m. Regular Meeting

Motion: **Commissioner Friszolowski moved, Vice Mayor Grill seconded, and the motion carried 5-0 to approve the July 25, 2023 Consent Agenda as presented by the City Manager.**

5. Action Items

a. City Clerk Contract and Annual Performance Review

City Clerk LaRowe discussed the items as attached to the Agenda and asked for any feedback that the Commission would like to share.

Each Commissioner discussed their experience working with Mrs. LaRowe and the job she does for the City. They highlighted what a City Clerk is, her educational achievements, her recognition within her peer groups, and the positive comments received by other employees.

Attorney McConnell noted that the City Clerk's contract doesn't expire per se, it is a continuous agreement – the Commission does not need to make a motion to renew unless that is what the City Clerk prefers. Mrs. LaRowe agreed with the Attorney's comment.

Motion: **Commissioner Marone moved, Commissioner Graus seconded, and the motion carried to approve the City Clerk's annual salary be adjusted from $90,000.00 to $110,000.00, effective**

on her anniversary date of August 17, 2023.

b. 2023 Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) Library Project

City Manager Rey informed the Commission of the procurement process and bids received. After review, the Committee chose Bibliotheca.

Betcinda Kettells, Library Director, explained that the RFID project will allow the Library to tag each book to keep accurate inventory; later, if necessary, the City can install security gates at the entrances/exits.

A return on the investment was discussed with Mrs. Kettells mentioning that the RFID project itself won't necessarily provide a significant return on investment; however, coupling this project with other technology advancements such as book lockers throughout the City would.

Motion: **Commissioner Friszolowski moved, Commissioner Marone seconded, and the motion carried 5-0 to approve the award on the Library Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) project to Bibliotheca and authorize the City Manager to execute the Agreement.**

c. Lift Station Underground Power Conversion

Mike Clarke, Public Works Director, explained how the pumps and controls at the four lift stations in the Hotel District on the west side of Gulf Boulevard will not support the underground project. Because of that, a modification must be made to maintain the power at the stations. Conversion needs to occur with an estimated cost of $87,352.00 to complete all four stations. Mr. Clarke touched on what the conversion process involves as outlined in the attached Agenda Memorandum. The time to complete the conversion is approximately 4 to 6 months; vendor-supplied pumps will be utilized during the conversion project until completion.

Motion: **Vice Mayor Grill moved, Commissioner Graus seconded, and the motion carried 5-0 to authorize the expenditure of $87,352.00 with Xylem Water Solutions USA, Inc. for Lift Station Underground Project Conversion.**

6. Resolutions

a. Resolution 2023-11: Fiscal Year 2024 Proposed Millage Rate

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF ST. PETE BEACH, FLORIDA, ESTABLISHING THE FISCAL YEAR 2024 PROPOSED MILLAGE RATE; SCHEDULING PUBLIC HEARING DATES FOR BUDGET ADOPTION; AN PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

City Manager Rey reminded the Commission that the millage rate proposed is $3.1500 mills which is the highest possible rate that can be set upon adoption at the meetings in September. The City can always go lower. The City must adopt the Resolution to allow the Truth in Millage statements to be sent out to the residents with proper notice.

Based on yesterday's discussions, the revised budget with a summary of changes will be prepared, prior to September.

Motion: **Commissioner Friszolowski moved, Commissioner Marone seconded, and the motion carried 5-0 to adopt Resolution 2023-11.**

7. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

a. Lobbyist Quarterly Reporting

City Clerk LaRowe addressed the updated reporting information; there are five remaining board members who have yet to turn in their second-quarter report. She opined that perhaps the Commission does not take any action at this time; rather, sees how the reporting continues and then addresses that with those who continue to not report in the time needed. The Commission agreed.

b. Corey Landings Brownfields

Attorney McConnell stated that he distributed the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) documents to the City Manager and Brett Warner, City Engineer. The management plan and rehabilitation agreement for this property were executed last year. The property owner is responsible for what has been uncovered and would need to address any environmental issues prior to development. If the owner changes, a new agreement from FDEP would be necessary.

c. Corey Avenue Sunday Market

Attorney McConnell explained that the street closure application was filed after the City Commission meeting last week. There were comments made by staff that were sent back to the applicant prior to the application being deemed complete and approved.

Attorney Jane Graham, representing the Corey Avenue Business Association (CABA), gave a presentation to the City Commission on the history of the Sunday Market, the new market manager, and addressed other comments by the public and Tampa Bay Markets. A copy of the presentation is made a part of the record.

Discussion of the funding, profit, and financial statements was had. The Commission would like more information from CABA on this.

Yvonne Marcus, CABA, provided some information on the profits, advertisement, and assistance that is provided by the Association to other businesses along Corey Avenue.

Kevin T., Florida Penguin Productions (FPP), mentioned the various locations of other markets that FPP manages.

The permitting process was discussed. The City Manager stated that typically the street closures come to the City Commission the first time, then, if the permit is the same year after year, those permits are approved administratively. The Commission prefers that the street closure application for CABA be provided to them on August 8th for approval, then it can undergo administrative approval after that. A review of the financials was requested.

It was decided that the last Sunday Market to be managed by Tampa Bay Markets will be August 6th; then CABA will take over with their new market manager after the permit is presented to the Commission at the August 8th meeting.

d. City Employee Retention

Mayor Petrila discussed the current limitations of the City Manager that includes hiring/firing/promotions/pay increases. He understands that various employees in the City have obtained the records that showcase all employee salaries in the City and, because of that, are asking for pay increases and/or looking for higher-paying jobs with other municipalities.

A discussion was had on the best approach for bringing these requests forward to the Commission. It was decided that the City Manager should prepare a list, much like the expenditure reports that are shared, and provide that to the Commission.

City Manager Rey mentioned the following employees selected for hire:

- Two part-time code enforcement officers
- One firefighter/medic

He also addressed the CWA Union Contract that allows for a pay increase if an employee receives advanced training; a Street Maintenance Worker II has received his certification and the City Manager would like to provide an additional pay increase as the Contract allows for; the Commission agreed.

e. City Manager Expense Report -- *added*

Vice Mayor Grill addressed the reports as emailed earlier today and made a part of the record. He has reached out to the Chief Financial Officer to obtain more details.

f. Media Policy -- *added*

Vice Mayor Grill addressed an email he sent to the City Manager that included some information from the City of Parkland's Public Information Officer regarding media policies; he also attached a copy of three other municipalities' policies.

Discussion ensued, followed by the City Clerk's request to take on the writing of these policies as this had been something she had done in the prior City she worked for.

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

Amber LaRowe, City Clerk—mentioned some board members who are interpreting Sunshine and Public Records Law. An ongoing debate between her, the Assistant City Attorney, and an individual board member has been going on because of the continued interpretation and assertations of such. She and Attorney McConnell are working through this; however, it may need to be addressed with the Commission if this continues.

Alex Rey, City Manager – notified the Commission that the valves that take sewer out of the City and join into Treasure Island have been repaired.

He discussed the Gulf Beaches School pickup/drop-off traffic issue along Boca Ciega Drive. The School Board declined the City's proposed plan. He suggested that someone from the Commission attend the next School Board meeting to express to them the hardship that the pickup/drop-off traffic creates for the residents who live nearby. This was discussed with the Commission requesting a resolution be drafted about this.

Commissioner Marone—mentioned the well-attended District 4 Town Hall last week; the Sheriff's attendance was appreciated.

Vice Mayor Grill – reminded everyone of the City's adopt-a-drain program.

The actions on Gulf Boulevard and safety are to be discussed.

Mr. Grill mentioned the timing of paving and utility cuts.

Vice Mayor Grill discussed his route along District 2 looking at Duke utility poles and how some of them are half poles that need to be removed. He has been taking inventory and reporting back to Duke so that these can be removed as they do not have a report on these to take them out.

Commissioner Graus – echoed the adopt-a-drain program.

Mayor Petrila adjourned the meeting at 9:37 p.m.

MINUTES APPROVED: AUGUST 8, 2023 alarowe AMBER LAROWE CITY CLERK	ADRIAN PETRILA MAYOR