City Commission Special Meeting
September 5, 2023
4:00 p.m.

ELECTED OFFICIALS PRESENT:
Adrian Petrila, Mayor
Chris Graus, Commissioner, District 1
Chris Marone, Commissioner, District 4

ELECTED OFFICIALS EXCUSED:
Mark Grill, Vice Mayor, Commissioner, District 2
Ward Friszolowski, Commissioner, District 3

STAFF PRESENT:
Matthew McConnell, Assistant City Attorney
Alex Rey, City Manager
Ginny Keeter-Bodkin, Deputy City Clerk

Mayor Petrila called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Assistant City Attorney Matthew McConnell asked to add to the agenda Resolution 2023-15 and the related Proclamation which will renew Resolution 2023-14, the State of Emergency from Hurricane Idalia, until next Monday's meeting.

City Manager Alex Rey indicated that he had updates to add to the agenda prior to the action item.

Mayor Petrila indicated he had a beach renourishment update and two very brief discussion items.

Motion: **Commissioner Graus moved, Commissioner Marone seconded, and the motion carried 3-0 to approve the September 5, 2023, City Commission Agenda as amended.**

CITY MANAGER UPDATES (ADDED)

Mr. Rey reported that preliminary assessments of impacts to City facilities from Hurricane Idalia are underway with an aggregate total of approximately $25,000. The more significant issue is the loss of dunes, the beach, and crossovers that will need to be dismantled and replaced at Pass-a-Grille. County staff have estimated somewhere near $12 million for this project. The impacted sidewalks near 8th Avenue and the Merry Pier were already considered part of the seawall project. The threshold level of the damage for the County to qualify for disaster relief has been met, for both the public (the City) and individuals for assistance with damages. Mr. Rey went on to report that preliminarily, storm damage to an estimated 50 homes in the City; most of the water intrusion was less than two feet, which can be positive in terms of less electrical damage and complexity of repairs. These damaged areas correspond with the areas that were identified in the future risk areas of the Water Threats Analysis that the City had conducted. None of the impacted homes were FEMA compliant, which creates a future discussion on how aggressive the City wants to be in terms of pushing for more FEMA compliance to improve the long-term resilience of the City.

Mr. Rey reported that he had closed the beach from Sixth Avenue southward for the week to complete a full inspection including the condition of the damaged crossovers and hopefully have structural engineers determine how quickly they can be removed. The other concern is the integrity of the dune system if people are allowed onto the beach. He asked for Commission input on keeping that area closed for a full analysis to be completed. Mayor Petrila commented that in addition to the safety issues is the lack of communication without a Public

Information Officer. Although the City is taking necessary steps for assessment and safety, the residents need to be informed. It may be necessary to overcommunicate for the next few weeks. Mr. Rey reported that City Fire Marshall Kelly Intzes is serving as the temporary PIO; she is also the PIO for the Emergency Operations Center.

Commissioner Marone added that he worked within his district with the Pass-a-Grille Community Association to inform residents when, where and why the beach was going to be closed. Despite signs, chains, and Sheriffs present, visitors are still entering these areas. He stressed the need for communication until this area is safe.

2. RESOLUTIONS

a. Resolution 2023-14

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF ST. PETE BEACH, FLORIDA, DECLARING A STATE OF EMERGENCY IN ORDER TO PROTECT THE HEALTH, SAFETY, AND WELFARE OF THE COMMUNITY AND PROPERTY, BOTH PUBLIC AND PRIVATE, FROM THE HAZARDS OF INVEST 93L/TROPICAL STORM IDALIA; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Kevin Cann 203 Gulf Way gave a comment regarding the lack of information provided on beach closings; better communication is needed. He spoke about protecting the dunes and safety issues with crossovers vs. safety on the actual beach.

Kathy Cann of 203 Gulf Way added comments on the priority of rebuilding walkovers and the need for good communication.

Motion: **Commissioner Graus moved, and Commissioner Marone seconded, and the motion carried 3-0 to adopt Resolution 2023-14.**

b. (Added) Resolution 2023-15

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF ST. PETE BEACH, FLORIDA, DECLARING A STATE OF EMERGENCY IN ORDER TO PROTECT THE HEALTH, SAFETY, AND WELFARE OF THE COMMUNITY AND PROPERTY, BOTH PUBLIC AND PRIVATE, FROM THE HAZARDS OF INVEST 93L/TROPICAL STORM IDALIA; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Motion: **Commissioner Marone moved, Commissioner Graus seconded, and the motion carried 3-0 to adopt Resolution 2023-15.**

MAYOR UPDATES

Mayor Petrila gave a reminder of the Army Corps of Engineers beach renourishment on 9/8/23 at Indian Shores City Hall. He also stressed the need for the City to have more adequate resources for sandbags; they ran out on Tuesday, prior to the storm. Commissioner Graus agreed and stressed getting the word out early.

Mayor Petrila adjourned the meeting at 4:26 p.m.

MINUTES APPROVED: SEPTEMBER 26, 2023

AMBER LAROWE
CITY CLERK

MARK GRILL
VICE MAYOR