

City Commission Meeting
November 6, 2023
6:00 p.m.

ELECTED OFFICIALS PRESENT:

Adrian Petrilă, 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:

Andrew Dickman, City Attorney
Wayne Saunders, City Manager
Amber LaRowe, City Clerk
Matthew McConnell, Assistant City Attorney
Mike Clarke, Public Works Director
Jennifer McMahon, Chief Operating Officer

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

1. PRESENTATIONS

a. National Wildlife Federation Tampa Bay Project Presentation

Amanda R. Moore, National Wildlife Federation Director – Gulf Program, made a presentation to the City Commission on their recent project in Tampa Bay. A copy of the presentation is made a part of the record. Please visit their website <https://www.nwf.org/en/Our-Work/Waters/Gulf-Restoration/Dear-Tampa> for more information.

2. CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

City Manager Saunders requested the removal of 4.e. IWorq Software Renewal.

Mrs. McMahon informed the Commission that the applicant for item 4.c. CABA Christmas Land Parade asked to have it removed.

Motion: Commissioner Marone moved, Commissioner Friszolowski seconded, and the motion carried 5-0 to approve the November 6, 2023 City Commission Agenda.

3. AUDIENCE COMMENTS

Resident John Kurzman provided comments on parking lots, poor signage, and towing. He also provided comments on the consideration of wider bike lanes as it relates to road projects such as Boca Ciega Isle and Gulf Winds Drive.

Resident Deborah Schechner complimented tonight's presentation. She also expressed appreciation for the programs held at the Library and Community Center. Mrs. Schechner expressed her opinions on the increased development and the hardship it creates for the City.

4. CONSENT

a. October 24th City Commission Meeting Minutes: 3:00 p.m. Workshop and 6:00 p.m. Regular Meeting

- b. PAG Beach Fire
- e. ~~CABA Christmas Land Parade removed~~
- d. Purchase of a Parks Truck
- e. ~~IWorq Software Renewal removed~~

Motion: Commissioner Friszolowski moved, Vice Mayor Grill seconded, and the motion carried 5-0 to approve the November 6, 2023, City Commission Consent Agenda as modified.

5. ACTION ITEMS

a. City Wide Holiday Decorations

Mrs. McMahon reminded the Commission of the 3-year agreement with Rileighs Outdoor, LLC. that was signed in 2022. This agreement was part of a piggyback agreement with the City of Treasure Island. As shown in the attachment, the proposal for decorations this year totals \$76,880.00. Mrs. McMahon confirmed that Duke Energy is ensuring that the electricity is working on the poles. Regarding Gulf Boulevard median lighting, those will be solar-powered.

Mrs. McMahon stated that the City issued a request for proposals in September with no responses received. She and the Procurement Manager will issue a request for proposals in the spring of 2024 for holiday lighting next year.

Vice Mayor Grill requested the City work on forming a committee of citizens who can review the lighting proposals.

The Commission discussed the possibility of a public/private partnership for more consistent lighting along Gulf Boulevard.

Motion: Commissioner Graus moved, Commissioner Marone seconded the motion to approve and accept Rileighs Outdoor, LLC proposal in the amount of \$76,880.00 for City wide holiday decorations.

Resident Terri Orr commented on the funds for holiday decorations and opined that there may be better use of that for other projects. He agreed that the City should work to obtain a public/private partnership with the businesses along Gulf Boulevard.

The motion on the floor carried 5-0.

b. Pump Station 1 Rehabilitation – Pump Package Direct Purchase

Mike Clarke, Public Works Director, stated that Xylem Water Solutions USA, Inc. is the only authorized vendor for Flygt Products and is the only authorized service repair and warranty organization in the State of Florida. This pump and controls package will be installed as part of the upcoming rehabilitation of master pump station 1. Mr. Clarke confirmed a savings of approximately \$98,910.00 in sales tax by directly purchasing these items. There is a 5-year warranty that begins upon delivery.

Motion: Commissioner Graus moved, Vice Mayor Grill seconded the motion to approve the sole source purchase with Xylem Water Solutions USA, Inc. for Flygt pumps, controllers, and associated pump package in the amount of \$1,413,000.00.

Resident Terri Orr asked several questions regarding this pipe, installation, disruption, and cost. The questions

were answered by the Commission, Public Works Director, and City Manager.

The motion on the floor carried 5-0.

c. 45th Avenue Stormwater Improvements

Mr. Clarke briefed the Commission on the timeline of this project as outlined in the Agenda Memorandum. After the survey data was collected by Halff, it was apparent that an elevation change was needed; this task order will allow Halff to develop a design package for the bidding on the construction of a new gravity stormwater collection system with pump station and force main discharge to Boca Ciega Bay.

The timeline was discussed as well as the time projections for other projects in the City. It was requested by the Commission that staff place information on the City's website on major projects to inform the residents on timelines.

Motion: Vice Mayor Grill moved, Commissioner Friszolowski seconded, and the motion carried 5-0 to approve expenditures with Halff Associates, Inc. for 45th Avenue Drainage Improvements Design in the amount of \$191,400.00.

d. Lot Split #23079: 102 15th Avenue

The applicant could not be present for tonight's meeting and requested a continuance.

Motion: Vice Mayor Grill moved, Commissioner Graus seconded, and the motion carried 5-0 to continue the hearing on Lot Split #23079 to the December 12, 2023, City Commission meeting.

e. Comprehensive Plan Review Discussion and Action

The Mayor asked for the Commission to discuss narrowing the scope on this project. The following was decided upon to place into the scope for this project:

- Focus on Gulf Boulevard and Corey Avenue
- Density – Intensity – Height
- Economic analysis incorporated into the review
 - Focus on units per acre with various decreasing options and what economic impact is per threshold
- Legal implications

Attorney Dickman suggested the City retain the attorney directly instead of via the consultant which will allow the City to have more oversight and better direction; the Commission agreed.

Motion: Commissioner Marone moved, Commissioner Friszolowski seconded, and the motion carried 5-0 to select Calvin, Giordano & Associates, Inc. to work with the City on a Comprehensive Plan review.

6. ORDINANCES

a. First Reading Ordinance 2023-15: Fire Pension Membership to Florida Retirement System

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ST. PETE BEACH, FLORIDA RELATED TO MEMBERSHIP INTO THE FLORIDA RETIREMENT SYSTEM PROVIDING FOR CORRECTION OF SCRIVENER'S ERROR; CONSTRUCTION; PUBLICATION; AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

This Ordinance is required as part of the transfer of the Fire Pension Plan into the Florida Retirement System.

Motion: Commissioner Friszolowski moved, Commissioner Graus seconded, and the motion carried 5-0 to approve the first reading of Ordinance 2023-15.

b. Public Hearing Ordinance 2023-07: Fire Pension Plan Participation in the Florida Retirement System

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ST. PETE BEACH, FLORIDA, AMENDING CHAPTER 66, PENSIONS AND RETIREMENT, ARTICLE IV FIREFIGHTERS' RETIREMENT SYSTEM, DIVISION 1, GENERALLY, DIVISION 2, ADMINISTRATION, AND DIVISION 3, BENEFITS OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF ST. PETE BEACH; AMENDING SECTION 66-253 "MEMBERSHIP"; AMENDING SECTION 66-252 "BENEFIT FREEZE AND MAXIMUM BENEFIT"; AMENDING SECTION 66-291(a) "BOARD OF TRUSTEES"; ADDING A NEW SECTION 66-297 "PLAN CLOSED TO NEW FIREFIGHTERS; PARTICIPATION IN THE FLORIDA RETIREMENT SYSTEM"; PROVIDING FOR CODIFICATION; CONFLICTS; SEVERABILITY; CORRECTION OF SCRIVENER'S ERROR; CONSTRUCTION; PUBLICATION; AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

No changes to this Ordinance since the first reading during the last Commission Meeting.

Motion: Commissioner Graus moved, Vice Mayor Grill seconded, and the motion carried 5-0 to adopt Ordinance 2023-07.

c. Public Hearing Ordinance 2023-09: Restriction on Use of Public Property

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ST. PETE BEACH, FLORIDA AMENDING THE CODE OF ORDINANCES, CHAPTER 94-WATERWAYS, ARTICLE II – WATERCRAFT, SECTION 94-33 – RESTRICTIONS ON USE OF PUBLIC PROPERTY; PROVIDING FOR CODIFICATION; CONFLICTS; SEVERABILITY; CORRECTION OF SCRIVENER'S ERROR; CONSTRUCTION; PUBLICATION; AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Attorney McConnell reminded the Commission that the boat ramps located on Maritana Drive and Egan Park will now be closed from 10:00 p.m. until 5:00 a.m. except for Federal Holidays which will be closed from 11:59 p.m. to 5:00 a.m. Staff is working on a proper permit with a cost, if any, to be minimal.

Resident John Kurzman expressed his opinions on the adoption of the Ordinance; he was neither in favor nor opposed.

Motion: Commissioner Marone moved, Commissioner Friszolowski seconded, and the motion carried 5-0 to adopt Ordinance 2023-09.

7. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

a. Virtual Participation

Amber LaRowe, City Clerk, discussed the information as shared in the Agenda packet. She recapped her research and the Attorney General Opinions on this topic. The Legal team, City Manager, and she all agree that the best approach would be to allow virtual participation options in workshop meetings where no action is taken.

Discussion ensued. Mrs. LaRowe expressed her hesitation about allowing public participation via virtual means due to staffing requirements that would be necessary to efficiently manage. She also expressed her concerns about voting virtually during a quasi-judicial proceeding.

Attorney Dickman and Mrs. LaRowe will discuss some options to bring forward to the Commission as soon as

possible.

Resident John Kurzman expressed his appreciation for the advancement in the virtual options and other means the City has for public participation.

b. ADA Discussion and Possible Action

Mrs. LaRowe recapped her research on this topic as provided in the Agenda packet. The Chief Operating Officer shared some information from 2016 to 2018 where the City was working with a consultant on the development of an ADA Transition Plan as required.

The Commission discussed the information provided and asked the City Manager to consider which department(s) should be designated as the City's ADA Coordinator.

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

Commissioner Friszolowski – mentioned the Don CeSar Property Owners' Corporation meeting on Wednesday at the Don Vista, it begins at 6:00 p.m.

Commissioner Friszolowski exited the meeting at 8:23 p.m.

Wayne Saunders, City Manager – had a meeting with Duke Energy about pole removal and Duke's efforts to work with other utility companies to remove their equipment off of the poles.

He mentioned House Bill 1 and Senate Bill 2 that could impact land development regulations.

The City is conducting a second round of interviews for the HR Administrator position. He asked the Commission if the title for this position could be changed to HR Director with no change to salary range; the Commission agreed.

Commissioner Marone – mentioned the constant off and on of power in Vina del Mar which he surmises is due to half of the electrical being underground and half of it not. He understands the City does not have the budget to underground the remaining electricity but asked if staff could reach out to Duke Energy to inquire about any hardening options.

Mr. Marone discussed the speeding in West Vina and is working with the City Manager on appropriate steps to mitigate that.

He mentioned the dunes and stated that the City is waiting on the permit from the Department of Environmental Protection to install barricades on the dunes which will allow the beach to be opened back up to the public. The Commission discussed the presence of the Sheriff's Office at the dunes.

Commissioner Marone mentioned the 1st Avenue jetty project that will be underway soon.

The Pass-A-Grille Beach bonfire is on December 14th.

Vice Mayor Grill – mentioned the reclaimed water breaks and asked the City to reach out to the County to have a joint meeting on working towards a resolution.

He reminded everyone of election day tomorrow and of Veteran's Day on Saturday.

Commissioner Graus – suggested the new HR Director and the Communications Manager could work together to be the ADA Coordinator for the City.

He commented on the issue of power in Vina stating that when this was happening in his District, Duke Energy took the initiative to underground/harden at their expense.

Mayor Petrila – read from an email he received from Kelli Levy, County Public Works Director, and the ongoing efforts of dune renourishment, the timeline for Pass-A-Grille Beach Dune completion, and beach renourishment with or without the help of the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers.

Mayor Petrila adjourned the meeting at 8:43 p.m.

MINUTES APPROVED: NOVEMBER 14, 2023



AMBER LAROWE
CITY CLERK



ADRIAN PETRILA
MAYOR