

City Commission Meeting

June 11, 2024

6:00 p.m.

ELECTED / APPOINTED OFFICIALS PRESENT:

Adrian Petrila, Mayor

Rich Lorenzen, Vice Mayor, Commissioner, District 4

Karen Marriott, Commissioner, District 1

Nick Filtz, Commissioner, District 2

Betty Rzewnicki, District 3

STAFF PRESENT:

Andrew Dickman, City Attorney

Wayne Saunders, City Manager

Amber LaRowe, City Clerk

Jennifer McMahon, Chief Operating Officer

Mike Clarke, Public Works Director

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

1. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Commissioner Rzewnicki requested that all the action items on tonight's agenda be removed and placed on a future agenda. She expressed her reasoning, including the inability to access City emails to receive comments and concerns from residents, especially since these items impact District 3.

The Commission discussed Commissioner Rzewnicki's request.

Commissioner Marriott moved, and Vice Mayor Lorenzen seconded the motion to approve the [June 11, 2024, City Commission] agenda as published.

Mayor Petrila requested to amend the motion on the floor to include a discussion item on Freebee; the motion carried 4-1 with Commissioner Rzewnicki voting no.

Vice Mayor Lorenzen requested to amend the main motion on the floor to include a discussion on 8th Avenue Parking and Hurley Park playground; the motion carried unanimously.

The main motion on the floor including the additional discussion items was approved 5-0.

2. AUDIENCE COMMENTS

Jerry Iacangelo, resident, discussed the flooding in the Don CeSar Neighborhood and the drainage system repairs.

Mary McReynolds, resident, expressed her concerns about flooding in the Don CeSar Neighborhood.

John Kurzman, resident, expressed his opinions of the June 4th joint meeting minutes as attached to the agenda and the Comprehensive Plan approval at the last City Commission meeting; a copy of his slides are made a part of the record.

3. CONSENT

- a. May 28, 2024, City Commission Workshop and 6:00 p.m. Meeting Minutes and June 4, 2024, City Commission and Beach Stewardship Committee Joint Workshop Minutes
- b. PAGW Seawall Repair PHI – Change Order 2&3
- c. PS1 Direct Purchase Odor Control – Heyward
- d. SWLL Field Use Agreement Renewal

Motion: Commissioner Rzewnicki moved, Commissioner Marriott seconded, and the motion carried 5-0 to approve the June 11, 2024, Consent Agenda.

4. ACTION ITEMS

a. Don CeSar Boat Ramp Feasibility Location

Public Works Director Mike Clarke gave the history of the Feasibility Study and the grant application; to close the grant out, a decision needs to be made on the location of the boat ramp, if any.

Commissioner Rzewnicki expressed her opinions on the May 29th boat ramp community meeting and the residents of this neighborhood's concern for the boat ramp at this location. She discussed her conversations with her constituents, the emails, and the petition.

Mr. Clarke continued to touch on the Feasibility Study, the two locations, and the option before the Commission. Staff was not able to determine another City-owned property that would be viable for the boat ramp and that is why only the current location and Cabrillo Avenue were reviewed by the consultant. An estimated cost of \$1M was mentioned by Mr. Clarke; however, he suspects a more accurate dollar amount will be provided once the City undergoes designing.

Vice Mayor Lorenzen expressed his opinions on keeping the boat ramp where it is. He cited the use of emergency services, the use of this location during storms for residents, and the Comprehensive Plan requirement of one boat ramp per 5,000 residents. He expressed the popularity of this amenity and does not believe it should be removed.

Commissioner Rzewnicki reviewed the history of this boat ramp, reminding the Commission that it was originally an outfall and used by construction companies for the Don CeSar hotel; it was never designed to be a boat ramp. She encouraged the City to review other options in the City to have a boat ramp. She opined having a boat ramp in a residential area is of great concern including safety and traffic.

The following residents spoke in opposition of the boat ramp and keeping it at Don CeSar:

- Omer Chicoine
- Ed Chima
- Mary LaFond
- Michael Welch
- Jeff Rzewnicki
- Kathy Garchow
- Jill LaFond

Resident Louise Monsalie spoke in favor of the boat ramp.

Resident Deborah Schechner stated the City should fix what is there, work on business uses, and commented on the use of the ramp for emergency services.

Resident Steve Stewart is in favor of keeping the boat ramp where it is.

Resident John Kurzman displayed slides to the Commission on some historical articles about the boat ramp; these slides are made a part of the record.

Resident Al Bobelis spoke in favor of the boat ramp.

Resident Craig Stephan spoke about making the boat ramp better and more efficient drainage if it is kept here; however, he is not in favor of keeping it at the current location.

Commissioner Rzewnicki questioned the validity of the use of the boat ramp for emergency services; City Manager Saunders clarified that the Fire Department does use it from time to time for emergency services.

Motion: Vice Mayor Lorenzen moved, Commissioner Marriott seconded, and the motion carried 3-2 to approve locating and replacing the exiting Don CeSar boat ramp at Don CeSar boat ramp (keep it where it is). Mayor Petrila and Commissioner Rzewnicki voted no.

b. Stormwater Pumpstation Don CeSar Neighborhood – 30% Design

Mr. Clarke stated that this is a request to reallocate the available funds as a change order to the Concept Plan by Halff Associates and add a new task to develop a 30% concept design for a pump station which will provide the spatial relationship for the future integration of the pump station with the tidal check valve and baffle box.

Resident Craig Stephan asked where this would be located.

Mr. Clarke identified the location as East Maritana and Debazan; however, this is for the concept design only.

Commissioner Rzewnicki inquired how this would play into the outfalls for this location; Mr. Clarke stated that the outfall design as well as this design will be done simultaneously with the same design firm.

Motion: Vice Mayor Lorenzen moved, Commissioner Filtz seconded, and the motion carried 5-0 to approve item 4.b. Stormwater Pumpstation Don CeSar Neighborhood 30% design.

c. Outfall Rehabilitation (5) Locations Don CeSar Neighborhood

Mr. Clarke discussed the current problems with the outfalls and the ongoing maintenance. This agenda item is to approve the design for the project before issuing a request for bids.

The Commission expressed their concerns with this rehabilitation concept due to the promises that were made two years ago; the baffle boxes and tidal check valves were discussed, and the Commission was concerned that the same problems would keep occurring with this new plan.

City Manager Saunders suggested that the Commission could approve the design; however, when it comes to construction, they could approve one first to see how it goes and then proceed with the other four later.

Mayor Petrila asked staff to reach out to the County to see if they would be willing to contribute some funding towards this since they have expressed interest in using the design if it works here in the City [Mr. Clarke stated that he came up with this design concept].

Resident Kathy Garchow commented on the update to the water threats analysis/mitigation study, asking that the update be made available to the residents via the website. She expressed her opinions on this rehab plan and made suggestions on tying this into the overall resiliency plan.

Resident Cameron Mazochi commented on the complexities of this, staffing, and the hiring of an expert firm(s) to design. He also expressed his opinions on the next agenda item, the temporary seawall.

Resident Jerry Iacangelo requested the Commission and staff work on what can be done right now with the current valves and boxes while this is designed and constructed.

Resident John Kurzman commented on flooding over the years and the water levels.

Commissioner Rzewnicki requested staff determine who is responsible (which contractor or the City) for the dysfunctional tidal check valves; she requested maintenance be done to what is there currently. Mrs. Rzewnicki requested the City Manager and/or Mr. Clarke follow up on the motion that was made in June 2023 regarding the coordination of seawall replacement in the Don CeSar Neighborhood.

Motion: Commissioner Filtz moved, Commissioner Marriott seconded, and the motion carried 5-0 to approve item 4.c. Outfall Rehabilitation Locations Don CeSar Neighborhood.

d. Temporary Seawall at 36th Avenue for Neighborhood Protection During 2024 Hurricane Season

Mr. Clarke addressed the thought process behind the design of this temporary seawall. He stated that because of the current agreement with the contractor, this temporary seawall can be completed within the next few weeks. While this is constructed, the City can begin the process of seeking bids for a permanent seawall at this location that could be constructed prior to the 2025 hurricane season.

Motion: Commissioner Filtz moved, Vice Mayor Lorenzen seconded, and the motion carried 5-0 to approve the construction of a temporary seawall at the 36th Avenue terminus by Rowland Inc. in the amount of \$36,457.50.

Mayor Petrila recessed the City Commission meeting at 8:41 p.m. and reconvened the meeting at 8:50 p.m.

5. ORDINANCES

a. Final Reading and Public Hearing of Ordinance 2024-01: Technical Review Committee Attendance

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ST. PETE BEACH, FLORIDA, AMENDING THE CODE OF ORDINANCES, CHAPTER 22-BOARDS, COMMITTEES, COMMISSIONS, ARTICLE VI – TECHNICAL REVIEW COMMITTEE (TRC), SECTION 22-146 – MEMBERSHIP, PROVIDING FOR CODIFICATION; CONFLICTS; SEVERABILITY; CORRECTION OF SCRIVENER’S ERROR; CONSTRUCTION; PUBLICATION; AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Attorney Dickman stated that this Ordinance adds the City Clerk and the City Attorney’s Office to the roster of attendance to the TRC meetings.

Resident Deborah Schechner commented on these meetings and their importance. She stated that the recordings of these meetings on the website appear to skip around, and she requested that it be investigated. The Commissioners stated that this same issue is found in other meetings as well.

Resident Dana Richardson commented on recordings of meetings and inquired about the recording and uploading

of the town hall meetings.

Commissioner Filtz stated that the District 2 Town Hall is on the City's website on his bio page.

Motion: Vice Mayor Lorenzen moved, Commissioner Marriott seconded, and the motion carried 5-0 to adopt Ordinance 2024-01.

6. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

a. Florida League of Cities Florida City Government Week Activity

City Clerk LaRowe requested direction from the City Commission on their choice, if any, of an activity to participate in this year for Florida City Government Week; her suggestions were an essay contest with the topic "if I were Commissioner for a day" or "if I were Mayor for a day" or a bingo card with local businesses; the Commission suggested the City do both. The City Clerk will work with other City staff on these for the October week.

b. Beach Ordinance

Commissioner Marriott stated that she asked staff to place this on the agenda because she felt when she left the joint workshop last week, she did not convey her intent. She mentioned the complexities of the beach ordinance as well as the staff's task to do further review and investigation for the cabana area, setback, alcohol service, etc. She suggested that the City Commission could consider breaking the ordinance in half, meaning, allowing staff the time to work on the pieces that affect the hotels, but go ahead and bring forward to the Commission the other parts of the ordinance that focus on the dos and don'ts on the beach as well as commercial uses.

The consensus of the Commission was to continue moving forward with the beach ordinance, as is, and, if necessary, can make changes during the first reading.

c. Freebee added

Mayor Petrila stated that he has been on Freebee rides and has noticed an increase in the requests for tips. He has had the same reports from other residents who ride Freebee as well. The contract for Freebee states that there is no tipping of the drivers. Also, the Mayor has found out that there is a rating system that drivers give to riders and that, it appears, it is based on whether the rider gives tips. A low-rated rider is known to the other drivers and, it also appears that the lower the rating, the less likely the drivers will pick that rider up.

The City Manager will contact Freebee and discuss the tipping issue as well as this rating system; the Commission would prefer no rating system for drivers to riders – this may be included in a future contract with Freebee.

d. 8th Avenue Pass-A-Grill Parking added

Vice Mayor Lorenzen discussed the parking woes that the businesses along 8th Avenue have expressed to him. During the seawall construction and limited parking for Pass-A-Grille Beach for the dune restoration, parking along 8th Avenue has been taken by beachgoers as opposed to business patrons. Mr. Lorenzen suggested to the businesses along 8th Avenue to agree on an option to solve this; suggested options included turning 8th Avenue into paid parking only or adjusting the parking app so that when a person parks on 8th or 9th Avenues they only park for 3 hours once per day as opposed to 3 hours, and then they can refresh the parking.

Mayor Petrila suggested making 8th and 9th Avenue specific zones on the Park Mobile App where the person parks and they cannot add more time to their parking once the three hours is up.

e. Hurley Park Playground added

Vice Mayor Lorenzen discussed a petition he received regarding a request to install a playground at Hurley Park for the Montessori School to use as well. The Montessori School and Pass-A-Grille Community Church have indicated that they are willing to donate half of the cost for this playground equipment and installation. He requested that this is placed in the fiscal year 2025 budget.

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

Amber LaRowe, City Clerk – reminded the residents to review their mail-in ballot status via the Pinellas County Supervisor of Elections website.

Attorney Dickman, City Attorney – introduced Attorney Sharon Linser (in the audience) who works at Dickman Law Firm and completes work for the City as well.

He mentioned the Form 6 litigation and the temporary injunction, a copy of this is made a part of the record. Right now, the Commission on Ethics is required to cease the requirement for filing Form 6 by local elected officials and revert to Form 1. Attorney Dickman will continue to update the Commission on this as more develops.

Vice Mayor Lorenzen—the last meet and greet will be tomorrow at 5:00 p.m. at Hurley Park.

Commissioner Rzewnicki – commented on her attendance at the Institute for Elected Municipal Officers this weekend and all the information she received.

Commissioner Filtz – encouraged residents to begin making preparations for this hurricane season.

Commissioner Marriott – reminded everyone that the Corey Avenue Sunday Market is still going on through the summer.

Mayor Petrila—complimented Marc Portugal, the City's Communications Manager and the quality of information that he puts out.

He announced the Mayor's Town Hall will be on Tuesday, June 26th, time to be determined (look for the time on the City's online calendar).

Mayor Petrila adjourned the meeting at 9:50 p.m.

MINUTES APPROVED: JUNE 25, 2024

AMBER LAROWE
CITY CLERK

ADRIAN PETRILA
MAYOR