City Commission Meeting
July 9, 2024
6:00 p.m.

ELECTED / APPOINTED OFFICIALS PRESENT:
Adrian Petrila, Mayor
Rich Lorenzen, Vice Mayor, Commissioner, District 4 – appeared via Zoom
Karen Marriott, Commissioner, District 1
Nick Filtz, Commissioner, District 2
Betty Rzewnicki, Commissioner, District 3

STAFF PRESENT:
Andrew Dickman, City Attorney
Fran Robustelli, City Manager
Amber LaRowe, City Clerk
Jennifer McMahon, Chief Operating Officer
Kristin Coman, Community Development Director

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

Mayor Petrila introduced and welcomed the new City Manager, Fran Robustelli. He also mentioned that today is the anniversary of the incorporation of the City of St. Pete Beach.

In recognition of the City's anniversary, City Manager Robustelli read about the history and interesting facts of the City.

1. PRESENTATIONS

a. FY2023 Financial Audit Report

Brendan McKitrick, CPA, James Moore, gave a presentation to the Commission regarding the audit report that is part of the Agenda packet. A copy of the presentation is made a part of the record. He touched on the process of reviewing capital assets/projects and the funds that are tied to those.

b. Gulf Boulevard Safety Study

Kristin Coman, Community Development Director, explained the history and what led to the study being conducted.

Nousheen Rahman, AICP-C, Planner for Forward Pinellas, gave a presentation to the City Commission on the study which was provided in the Agenda packet.

After a brief question-and-answer period, it was decided that this item would be brought forward for adoption via a resolution.

c. Freebee Vehicles

Jennifer McMahon, Chief Operating Officer, introduced Christopher Walker who reviewed the presentation that was provided in the Agenda packet.

Mr. Walker explained the Telsa versus GEM cars, charging, safety, and comfort. Regarding Warren Webster parking and charging, Mr. Walker stated that the charging stations are being removed, and charging and storing of the vehicles will take place at City Hall.

2. Approval of the Agenda

Attorney Dickman requested the addition of the following discussion items:

b. Naming of City Property
c. Litigation Updates
d. Freebee Discussion

Commissioner Rzewnicki requested the addition of the Finance and Budget Committee (item 6.e.).

Commissioner Filtz requested the addition of Parking (item 6.f.).

Motion: **Commissioner Marriott moved, Commissioner Filtz seconded, and the motion carried 5-0 to approve the July 9, 2024, City Commission agenda with the changes.**

3. Audience Comments

Dave Green, resident and Free Beach Ride owner, discussed Freebee versus the services he provides. He is willing to work with the City to provide something as an alternative to Freebee.

Susan Lamoureux, resident, mentioned the troubles she has had with the Building Department and permitting.

Greg Christopher, resident, rides Freebee often and would like to see a mixed fleet of Tesla and GEM cars.

Mark Grill, resident, suggested the City Commission review prior presentations and discussions of Freebee. Mr. Grill would like to see more urgency placed on the redesign of Gulf Winds Drive and asked the City to take action on the unsightly property located on Mangrove and 73rd Avenue.

Kathy Garchow, resident, mentioned the petition from Don CeSar Neighborhood, studies the City has conducted on the Neighborhood, and budgeted items versus completed.

Lisa Robinson, resident, echoed her comments from the last meeting about the Business Site Improvement Grant and is seeking City staff to assist these local businesses that have yet to receive their awarded funds.

Dana Richardson, resident, commented on Freebee services and the presentation given tonight.

4. Consent

a. June 25, 2024, City Commission Workshop and Regular Meeting Minutes
b. Egan Park Fence Removal
c. Warren Webster Air Conditioning Equipment Replacement

Motion: **Commissioner Filtz moved, Commissioner Marriott seconded, and the motion carried 5-0 to approve the July 9, 2024, Consent Agenda.**

5. Action Items

a. Florida League of Cities Coting Delegate Designation

City Clerk LaRowe stated that this is to delegate an elected official to represent the City at the August Florida League of Cities conference; Mayor Petrila and Commissioner Rzewnicki will be in attendance.

Motion: **Commissioner Marriott moved, Commissioner Filtz seconded, and the motion carried 5-0 to designate Mayor Adrian Petrila as the voting delegate for the City of St. Pete Beach at the Florida League of Cities Annual Conference in August.**

b. <u>Request for an Executive Session</u>

City Attorney Dickman requested an Executive Closed-Door Session pursuant to Florida State Statute 286.011(8) regarding David Green, an individual; E.A.P., LLC, a Florida Limited Liability Company; Grace Sea, LLC, a Florida Limited Liability Company; Adam Forney, an individual; Mister Tan Enterprise, LTD; an Illinois Limited Liability Company; and all other Plaintiffs similarly situated vs. the City of St. Pete Beach, a Florida Incorporated Municipality; Case No. 2019-003761-CI; Pinellas County, Florida to be held on July 23, 2024, at 5:00 p.m. in the City Commission Chambers at City Hall.

The Executive Session is expected to last approximately 1 hour. The entire session shall be recorded by a certified court reporter. The court reporter shall record the times of commencement and termination of the session, all discussions and proceedings, the names of all persons present at any time, and the names of all persons speaking. No portion of the session will be off the record. The court reporter's notes shall be fully transcribed and filed with the City Clerk within a reasonable time after the meeting. The City Commission will not take action during the Executive Session but may take action concerning settlement negotiations at a future public meeting.

The following individuals will be present during the Executive Session: Mayor Adrian Petrila, City Commissioner Karen Marriott, City Commissioner Nick Filtz, City Commissioner Betty Rzewnicki, City Commissioner Rich Lorenzen, City Manager Fran Robustelli, City Attorney Andrew Dickman, Assistant City Attorney Matthew McConnell, and a court reporter.

Motion: **Commissioner Filtz moved, Commissioner Marriott seconded, and the motion carried 5-0 to approve the Executive Session for July 23, 2024, at 5:00 p.m.**

<u>6. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION</u>

a. **<u>Registered voters per City district as provided by the Pinellas County Supervisor of Elections</u>**

City Clerk LaRowe explained that this is a required process, per City Code, every two years in July following the election the City is to review the boundaries of each voting district and discuss any process for changes. Attached to the Agenda is the list of registered voters per district as provided by the Supervisor of Elections as of April 2024.

Mrs. LaRowe was asked to review the boundaries for Districts 3 and 4 with the City's GIS Coordinator and reach out to the Supervisor of Elections on the process for redistricting.

b. <u>Naming of City Property (*added*)</u>

City Attorney Dickman reviewed the City's Resolution that outlines the procedure for naming City property. The property being requested for renaming is currently being leased; he will have to review how that may affect the renaming. He asked the City Commission if they wanted to rename the property, add a plaque, erect a statue, or a combination of those things.

Commissioner Rzewnicki questioned if the City received a formal request as the Resolution states. City Clerk LaRowe reminded the Commission of the June email received from the Vets of South Pinellas County; she forwarded that email to the Commission and the City Attorney during the meeting.

Vice Mayor Lorenzen opined that the City should table this request and look to add a plaque recognizing Mr. Metz at the Veterans Memorial that is being created at McKenney Park.

City Staff will review the request and provide more information for the City Commission at the next meeting.

c. Litigation Updates (*added*)

Attorney Dickman updated the Commission on the following litigation

- Lawsuit with the garage located on Corey Avenue; this has been voluntarily dismissed.
- Protect St. Pete Beach Advocacy Group vs. City of St. Pete Beach filling of vacancies; the Judge has ruled in the City's favor.

Attorney Dickman stated that if there is no opposition, he would like to send a safe harbor letter to the council on the Sirata and Tradewinds appeal to remove the allegations in their appeal regarding the "unelected City Commission" and to remove their motion to stay as it was in relationship to the Protect St. Pete Beach Advocacy Group vs. City of St. Pete Beach filling of vacancies case which has now been ruled upon.

Mayor Petrila questioned if it is best to wait until after the 20-day appeal period to issue the safe harbor letter; Attorney Dickman discussed the process. Hearing no objections, Mr. Dickman will send the letter.

d. Freebee (*additional discussion continued*)

The Commission must decide whether they want to move the fleet to all Tesla cars or continue with GEM cars; a mixed fleet is unavailable.

Discussion: validation of residency to provide resident priority – City Manager Robustelli will review with staff the process and provide information to the Commission on the feasibility and staff time.

Mark Grill, resident, implored the Commission to consider what the intent of the Freebee is and what they want this ride service to be.

Because most of the Commission was in favor of keeping with the GEM cars, no other discussions or decisions were made.

e. Finance and Budget Review Committee (*added*)

Commissioner Rzewnicki questioned why the Committee had not met this year to review the budget and capital projects before the Commission. City Manager Robustelli will work on getting this scheduled as soon as possible.

Vice Mayor Lorenzen exited the meeting at 8:45 p.m.

f. Parking (*added*)

Commissioner Filtz discussed the parking issues along 55th and 59th Avenues. Mrs. McMahon mentioned the zoning issues and survey.

Mrs. Robustelli would like to hire a consultant to review the City's current parking zoning and plans to make recommendations on a holistic approach to parking in the City instead of piecing things together.

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

Amber LaRowe, City Clerk – spoke for Vice Mayor Lorenzen due to his departure from the meeting. Vice

Mayor Lorenzen requested the following information"

- When will the parking discs be removed from Pass-A-Grille; another trip hazard/injury occurred
    - Mrs. McMahon had a meeting with the vendor this morning and asked them to remove all discs urgently.
- Will phase 2 for the beach renourishment pick up where phase 1 ended?
    - Mrs. McMahon stated that she will send email updates from the County as she receives them.

Commissioner Rzewnicki – announced the general membership meeting for the Don CeSar Property Owners Corporation is on August 14th.

She mentioned that the Florida Department of Transportation was out at Granada and Barcelona today and discussed the pre-bid process that they are undertaking right now, this will take approximately 120 days. She will be having another meeting with them to discuss what the construction impact will look like for the Bayway and the community.

Commissioner Filtz – reminded everyone in District 2 of the special election on August 20th.

Commissioner Marriott – complimented Jennifer McMahon for the great Fourth of July event.

Regarding some rumors about Egan Park, Commissioner Marriott asked residents to read through tonight's Agenda to see that the only construction at Egan Park relates to fencing.

Mayor Petrila – reminded the candidates running for District 2 to ensure that their volunteers are abiding by the rules for sign placement.

Mayor Petrila adjourned the meeting at 9:10 p.m.

MINUTES APPROVED: JULY 23, 2024

alarowe

AMBER LAROWE
CITY CLERK

ADRIAN PETRILA
MAYOR