

City Commission Meeting

October 14, 2024

6:00 p.m.

ELECTED OFFICIALS PRESENT:

Adrian Pettila, Mayor

Joe Moholland, Vice Mayor, Commissioner, District 4

Karen Marriott, Commissioner, District 1

Lisa Robinson, Commissioner, District 2

Betty Rzewnicki, Commissioner, District 3

STAFF PRESENT:

Andrew Dickman, City Attorney

Frances Robustelli, City Manager

Amber LaRowe, City Clerk

Brandon Berry, Senior Planner

Denise Sanderson, Community Development Director

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

1. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Vice Mayor Moholland requested the addition of the following discussion items:

- Revenue Sources
- Long Term Sewer System
- Debris Pickup
- Existing Permit Extensions

He also requested that item h of the Consent Agenda be moved to Action Items before the Interim City Attorney selection.

Commissioner Rzewnicki requested that items d, f, and g of the Consent Agenda be removed for further discussion and moved to Action Items.

City Manager Robustelli requested the following discussion items:

- Brief presentation by the Community Development Department; this will be the first discussion item as it may answer questions by the Commissioners
- Emergency Relief Paid-Time Off Resolution
- Emergency Paid-Time Off Buyout Resolution

Commissioner Robinson requested a discussion on the FEMA 50% rule rollback date.

Motion: Commissioner Marriott moved, Vice Mayor Moholland seconded, and the motion carried 5-0 to approve the October 14, 2024, City Commission Agenda with the changes as mentioned.

2. AUDIENCE COMMENTS

Mary R., a resident who spoke on behalf of the Homeowners Association for Captiva Cay, discussed Egan Park and the debris and implored the City to take proactive measures to mitigate any rodent infestation.

Robin Miller, President/CEO of the Tampa Bay Beaches Chamber of Commerce, commented on the resiliency needed in this community. She expressed the need for clear communication, especially regarding permitting and rebuilding.

Robert Czyszczon, property and business owner mentioned goals for rebuilding the community.

3. CONSENT

- a. Approve the September 23, 2024, City Commission Meeting Minutes
- b. Adopt Resolution 2024-17: Extend State of Emergency – Hurricane Helene
- c. Adopt Resolution 2024-18: Extend State of Emergency – Hurricane Milton
- d. ~~Authorization for the City Manager to enter into a two year coverage agreement with Public Risk Management of Florida in the amount of \$852,511 (moved to Action Item)~~
- e. Approve Resolution 2024-11: Statewide Mutual Aid Agreement
- f. ~~Resolution 2024-09: Shared Parking Agreement (moved to Action Item)~~
- g. ~~Move to authorize the City Manager to enter into a service agreement with Bomac Construction Services, Inc. dba GH Street Sweeping for street and parking lot sweeping in the amount of \$42,000.00 per year (\$151,200.00 for contract duration) (moved to Action Item)~~
- h. ~~Authorize the City Manager to sign the amendment to S. Renee Narloch and Associates Employment Search Firm Agreement to include the search for an Assistant City Manager and a City Attorney in the amount of \$42,900 (moved to Action Item)~~

Motion: Vice Mayor Moholland moved, Commissioner Rzewnicki seconded, and the motion carried 5-0 to approve the October 14, 2024, City Commission Consent Agenda.

4. ACTION ITEMS

- h. Authorize the City Manager to sign the amendment to S. Renee Narloch and Associates Employment Search Firm Agreement to include the search for an Assistant City Manager and a City Attorney in the amount of \$42,900 (moved from the Consent Agenda)

Vice Mayor Moholland questioned whether the City should still proceed with a search for an in-house City Attorney while putting out a request for qualifications/proposals, especially given the situation we are in with recovering from two hurricanes.

City Manager Robustelli stated that she has spoken with Ms. Narloch and sees difficulty in performing a simultaneous search.

The Commission agreed that S. Renee Narloch should only search for an Assistant City Manager.

Motion: Commissioner Rzewnicki moved, Vice Mayor Moholland seconded, and the motion carried 5-0 to authorize the City Manager to sign the amendment to S. Renee Narloch and Associated Employment Search Firm Agreement to include the search for an Assistant City Manager.

a. Selection of the Interim City Attorney

Each Commissioner discussed their interviews with Trask Daigneault, LLP, and Vose Law Firm.

Attorney Erica Augello from Trask Daigneault, LLP, answered questions posed by Vice Mayor Moholland.

Attorney Wade Vose from Vose Law Firm answered questions posed by Vice Mayor Moholland.

Both law firms were amenable to a 90-day termination notice within their agreement.

Motion: Mayor Petrila moved, Commissioner Robinson seconded, and the motion carried 5-0 to

select Vose Law Firm as the interim City Attorney.

Attorney Dickman spoke on transition. His law firm is prepared to start working with Vose Law Firm on the transition as soon as an engagement letter is signed. There may be a 30-day overlap between Dickman Law Firm and Vose Law Firm as the transition occurs.

Motion: Commissioner Marriott moved, Vice Mayor Moholland seconded, and the motion carried 5-0 to authorize the Mayor to sign the engagement letter with Vose Law Firm.

d. Authorization for the City Manager to enter into a two-year coverage agreement with Public Risk Management of Florida in the amount of \$852,511 (moved from the Consent Agenda)

A discussion occurred about the policy, the fees, and what the service entails.

Vice Mayor Moholland would like information in the future about loss ratios.

Motion: Commissioner Rzewnicki moved, Vice Mayor Moholland seconded, and the motion carried 5-0 to authorize the City Manager to enter into a two-year coverage agreement with Public Risk Management of Florida in the amount of \$852,511.

f. Resolution 2024-09: Shared Parking Agreement (moved to the Consent Agenda)

There was some confusion between the Agenda Memorandum and the Agreement; the information in the Agreement is correct.

Motion: Commissioner Rzewnicki moved, Commissioner Marriott seconded, and the motion carried 5-0 to approve Resolution 2024-09 Shared Parking Agreement.

g. Move to authorize the City Manager to enter into a service agreement with Bomac Construction Services, Inc. dba GH Street Sweeping for street and parking lot sweeping in the amount of \$42,000.00 per year (\$151,200.00 for contract duration) (moved from the Consent Agenda)

City Manager Robustelli informed the Commission that street sweeping occurs on every street in the City at least once per month; this Contractor has GPS on their vehicles so that the City can maintain data on their services.

Motion: Commissioner Rzewnicki moved, Commissioner Marriott seconded, and the motion carried 5-0 to authorize the City Manager to enter into a service agreement with Bomac Construction Services, Inc. dba GH Street Sweeping for street and parking lot sweeping in the amount of \$42,000.00 per year (\$151,200.00 for contract duration).

5. ORDINANCES

a. Public Hearing to Adopt Emergency Ordinance 2024-09: Permitting Elevation of Nonconforming Residential Structures and Allowing Changeouts of Nonconforming Residential Ancillary Equipment

AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ST. PETE BEACH, FLORIDA, AMENDING FOR SIXTY DAYS THE CITY'S LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE DIVISION 3 – ADMINISTRATION OF THE LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE, SECTION 3.10 – VESTED RIGHTS AND NONCONFORMITIES, AND DIVISION 6 – SUPPLEMENTAL REGULATIONS SECTION 6.14. - ENCROACHMENT OF CERTAIN SPECIFIED ANCILLARY RESIDENTIAL EQUIPMENT INTO REQUIRED YARDS; PROVIDING FOR CODIFICATION; CONFLICTS; SEVERABILITY; CORRECTION OF SCRIVENER'S ERROR; CONSTRUCTION; PUBLICATION; AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Denise Sanderson, Community Development Director, presented this Ordinance to the Commission; a copy of the presentation is included in the record.

This presentation touched on:

- The purpose
- Section 3.10 Key Elements
- Section 6.14 Key Elements
- Examples of modifications
- Impact
- Limitations

Discussion ensued, with the Commission expressing hesitation about the section related to permitting the elevation of nonconforming residential structures.

Mayor Petrila opened the public hearing.

Alex Bryant, a college student at St. Petersburg College, spoke in favor of adopting Ordinance 2024-09.

Resident George Smith spoke about lot size, rebuilding, and permitting.

After hearing no further comments, Mayor Petrila closed the public hearing.

Motion: Commissioner Rzewnicki moved, Commissioner Marriott seconded, and the motion carried 5-0 to adopt Ordinance 2024-09 permitting and allowing changeouts of nonconforming residential ancillary equipment.

b. Public Hearing to adopt Ordinance 2024-06: Parking Meter and Wastewater Fees

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ST. PETE BEACH, FLORIDA AMENDING APPENDIX A OF THE CITY'S CODE OF ORDINANCES; IMPLEMENTING AN HOURLY PUBLIC PARKING INCREASE; IMPLEMENTING A WASTEWATER FEE INCREASE; PROVIDING FOR CODIFICATION; CONFLICTS; SEVERABILITY; CORRECTION OF SCRIVENER'S ERROR; CONSTRUCTION; PUBLICATION; AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Andrew Laflin, Finance Director, informed the Commission that the only change between the first reading and this hearing is the increase in the weekday rates to \$4.50/hour and the weekend rates to \$5.50/hour.

Motion: Commissioner Marriott moved, Vice Mayor Moholland seconded, and the motion carried 5-0 to adopt Ordinance 2024-06.

6. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

a. Post Disaster Operation Plan (added)

Ms. Sanderson presented to the Commission; a copy of the presentation is included in the record.

The presentation included information such as:

- Objectives

- Approach
- Plans to expand the hours of operation
- Temporary increase in staffing
- Ways to engage and inform residents/businesses
- Work that requires a permit vs. work that does not
- Prioritize and expedite permitting

Vice Mayor Moholland addressed an email he received regarding extensions to existing permit applications; Ms. Sanderson confirmed that those permits will be extended at no charge for the duration that the State's Executive Order for the State of Emergency is effective.

Commissioner Marriott would like to have information if a business owner or a person who owns a home, but it is not their primary residence, can pull the permit for small repairs so that they can do the work themselves or if it must continue to be a contractor.

b. Revenue Sources (added)

Vice Mayor Moholland would like the City to work with the lobbyist to determine if there are other revenue sources it could utilize to address this disaster. City Manager Robustelli confirmed that she will ask the current lobbying firm to attend a Commission meeting in November to discuss legislation and grants.

c. Sewer System (added)

City Manager Robustelli confirmed that the sewer system failures are related to the equipment failures from the hurricanes; it is not a capacity issue.

d. Debris Pickup (added)

City Manager Robustelli explained that Pinellas County is working on an emergency bid for debris pickup but is unsure if FEMA will cover the expenses. The discussion continued, with the City Manager saying that she would find out and report back when she has further details, and the Commission could choose the next steps.

e. Existing Permits (added)

Ms. Sanderson discussed the possible development of a task force with city staff and residents that could help draft policies or develop ideas to tackle the existing permits in conjunction with these emergency permits.

f. Resolutions regarding PTO Donation and PTO Buy-Back

City Manager Robustelli discussed the two resolutions that were prepared and handed out to the Commission before the meeting; these resolutions are made as a part of the record. The resolutions will adjust the Personnel Rules and Regulations regarding PTO. The first Resolution allows other employees to donate PTO to another employee who may need it because they are out of work to take care of repairs to their homes and/or property damaged by the storms. The second Resolution will allow employees to purchase their PTO with a maximum of \$3,000.00 pay, and they must have a minimum of 80 hours remaining in the PTO bank after selling their time. This Resolution will expire on December 31, 2024.

Motion: Commissioner Marriott moved, Vice Mayor Moholland seconded, and the motion carried to adopt Resolution 2024-21: PTO Donation Program.

Motion: Commissioner Marriott moved, Commissioner Robinson seconded, and the motion carried 5-0 to adopt Resolution 2024-22: PTO cashout benefit program.

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

Amber LaRowe, City Clerk, -- announced the change of voting venue for the November 5th election. Districts 1 and 2 voters will vote at City Hall in the Commission Chambers from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., while Districts 3 and 4 will continue to vote at the Warren Webster.

Frances Robustelli, City Manager, -- encouraged employees and residents to weather these storms and stated that the City would come back better and stronger.

Attorney Andrew Dickman, City Attorney– complimented the Commission's choice of Interim City Attorney selection.

Vice Mayor Moholland – complimented Attorney Dickman's professionalism during this process.

Commissioner Rzewnicki – thanked Attorney Dickman and his firm for all the service they have provided.

Commissioner Robinson -- discussed the Code's 5-year lookback period related to the FEMA 50% rule.

The Vose Law Firm spoke about their opinions on modifying the Code now or whether FEMA will consider the date of the storm and what Code was in effect at that time. They will work with the Community Development Department to provide the Commission with an answer on their options.

Commissioner Robinson thanked the residents and the community for enduring both storms and the associated stresses. She encouraged residents to do what they could as the City was overwhelmed with requests and demands.

Commissioner Marriott – encouraged everyone to look for the small wins.

She mentioned that the Tampa Bay Beaches Chamber of Commerce is opening an information center to assist with resources.

Mayor Petrila – spoke about the unprecedented times that the City is in. Encouraged continued patience and grace with the City and with each other as we tackle the cleanup and rebuilding ahead.

Mayor Petrila adjourned the meeting at 9:23 p.m.

MINUTES APPROVED:



AMBER LAROWE
CITY CLERK



ADRIAN PETRILA
MAYOR