

City Commission Meeting

March 25, 2025

6:00 p.m.

ELECTED OFFICIALS PRESENT:

Adrian Petrila, Mayor – via Zoom

Joe Moholland, Vice Mayor, Commissioner, District 4

Karen Marriott, Commissioner, District 1

Lisa Robinson, Commissioner, District 2 – via Zoom

Betty Rzewnicki, Commissioner, District 3

STAFF PRESENT:

Ralf Brookes, Interim City Attorney

Frances Robustelli, City Manager

Ginny Keeter-Bodkin, Acting City Clerk

Camden Mills, Public Services Director

Laura Canary, Community Development Director

Mandy Edmunds, Acting Recreation Director

Jill Sassone, Human Resources Director

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

1. PRESENTATIONS

a. March 11, 2025 Election Results

Acting City Clerk Keeter-Bodkin read the Pinellas County Supervisor of Elections Canvassing Board Certified Results for the March 11, 2025 Municipal Election for District 2 into the record. A copy of the results is part of the record. Vice Mayor Moholland ran unopposed in District 4.

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

City Manager Fran Robustelli requested to remove Consent Item 4.d. as CABA is contemplating a different event, and to add, under the Declaration of Local Emergency, an Action Item to approve a Service Agreement with Cotton Global Disaster Solutions in the amount of \$2,155,702.81 for various city repairs and damage from Hurricane Milton and authorize the City Manager to execute (would become 6.a.).

Mayor Petrila asked to postpone action items 6. a., b., and c. to April 8, 2025, when the full Commission is present.

Commission Robinson asked to add four discussion items - extending the end date of the waiver of permit fees, Code Enforcement working on weekends or being on call, the highest and best use of Finance and Budget Committee, and Lobbyist Reporting from the City's hired lobbyist, Shumaker, as discussion items 7 b. – e.

Interim City Attorney Ralf Brookes announced that he will have three shade meetings to announce in Reports.

Motion: Commissioner Marriott moved, Commission Rzewnicki seconded, and the motion carried 5-0 to approve the March 25, 2025 City Commission Agenda as amended.

3. HELENE AND MILTON RECOVERY EFFORTS – STANDING AGENDA ITEM

a. Presentation: Helene and Milton Recovery Efforts

Laura Canary, Community Development Director provided an update on Hurricane Helene and Milton Recovery Efforts; her presentation is part of the meeting record.

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Commissioner Rzewnicki provided the due date for applications for Elevate Florida as April 11, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. EST. There will be additional webinars by the State. Commissioner Robinson asked for clarification on HVAC elevation requirements for storm damage and stressed the urgency; Ms. Canary will follow up. Vice Mayor Moholland inquired about permitting and Pinellas County HUD funding. City Manager Frances Robustelli reported attending a County presentation at the Big C meeting and learned that CDBG funding does have income restrictions and that infrastructure is an included category. Community Development is organizing a group to attend a County community meeting.

b. Capital Improvements and Infrastructure Maintenance

Camden Mills, Public Services Director, provided an update on Capital Improvements and Infrastructure Maintenance. His presentation is part of the meeting record.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

Resident John Kurzman of Bahia Honda Way commented on the beach ordinance.

Resident Deborah Schechner commented on storm recovery visibility and pump stations.

Resident Linda Lewallen of 2802 Pass-a-Grille Way commented on the Comprehensive Plan Community meeting, home sizes, and the density and scale at the Corey Landings property.

4. CONSENT

- a. Commission Meeting Minutes: March 10, 2025, Executive Session and 6:00 p.m. Regular Meeting
- b. Proclamations - Renewal State of Local Emergency – Hurricane Helene Approval of Extension 26
- c. Proclamations - Renewal State of Local Emergency - Hurricane Milton Ratify Extension 24 and Approval of Extension 25
- d. ~~Approval of the Special Event permit request with street closure and alcohol consumption for the Corey Avenue Business Association Seafood Festival on May 16 May 18, 2025 removed~~
- e. Approve the contract with TK Elevator in the amount of \$418,028.92 for the modernization of the elevators at Fire Station 23 and Community Center and authorize the City Manager to execute the agreement.
- f. Approve Change Order 1 to add the Public Services elevator Modernization to the scope of work with TK Elevator in the amount of \$152,342.80 and authorize the City Manager to execute the agreement.
- g. Motion to approve Grant Agreement No. L0110 with the State of Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) in the amount of \$625,000.00 for Don CeSar neighborhood stormwater outfall structures and authorize the City Manager to execute the Agreement.

City Manager Robustelli read into the record five questions and answers regarding the elevator modernizations that had been shared with the Commissioners via email; the email is part of the meeting record.

Motion: Commissioner Marriott moved, Commissioner Rzewnicki seconded, and the motion carried 5-0 to approve the amended March 25, 2025, City Commission Consent Agenda.

Vice Mayor Moholland recessed the meeting at 7:09 p.m. and reconvened at 7:15 p.m.

6. ACTION ITEMS

a. Election of Vice Mayor

Continued to the April 8, 2025 City Commission meeting.

b. Appointments/Re-appointments to the City of St. Pete Beach Advisory Boards and Committees

Continued to the April 8, 2025 City Commission meeting.

c. Appointments to Outside Agencies

Continued to the April 8, 2025 City Commission meeting.

a. Hurricane Milton Facility Repairs - Agreement with Cotton Global Disaster Solutions (added)

City Manager Robustelli read into the record the text of the agenda report for this added item, which seeks approval for a Service Agreement with Cotton Global Disaster Solutions in the amount of \$2,155,702.81 for various city repairs and damage from Hurricane Milton. The agenda report is part of the meeting record. City staff has worked with Cotton Global Disaster Solutions under the current Executive Order for mitigation and remediation, damage assessment, FEMA site inspections, insurance coordination, and construction scopes of work for all damages facilities. City staff requested approval of the facilities repairs service agreement prior to the expiration of the Executive Order extension for Hurricane Milton on March 31, 2025 to avoid further delays in restoring internal operations.

Public Services Director Mills answered Commission questions.

Motion: Commissioner Marriott moved, and Vice Mayor Moholland seconded to a to approve the service agreement with Cotton Global Disaster Solutions, in the amount of \$2,155,702.81 for various City facilities repairs damaged by Hurricane Milton and authorize the City Manager to execute the service agreement. The motion carried 5-0.

6. RESOLUTIONS

a. Adoption of Resolution 2025-07

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF ST. PETE BEACH, FLORIDA, AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH PASS-A-GRILLE COMMUNITY CHURCH, INC., DOING BUSINESS AS THE MONTESSORI BY THE SEA SCHOOL, FOR THE PURPOSE OF ACCEPTING PARTIAL FUNDING FROM THE SCHOOL TOWARDS THE PURCHASE OF PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT AT HURLEY PARK, LOCATED AT 1501 PASS-A-GRILLE WAY WITHIN THE CITY OF ST PETE BEACH AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH PROJECT INNOVATIONS, INC FOR CONSTRUCTION OF THE PLAYGROUND.

Acting Recreation Director Mandy Edmunds reviewed a presentation on the agreement, which is part of the meeting record. Ms. Edmunds answered Commission questions.

Resident Denise Chase of 46th Avenue expressed her gratitude for this project.

Resident Deb Schechner commented favorably about the project and the need for green space.

The Commissioners shared their opinions.

Motion: Commissioner Rzewnicki moved, Commissioner Marriott seconded, and the motion carried 5-0 to adopt Resolution 2025-07.

b. Resolution 08-2025 Limited Duration Temporary Agreement for the purpose of hiring 7 Permit Technicians

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF ST. PETE BEACH, FLORIDA, AMENDING THE PERSONNEL RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR LIMITED DURATION TEMPORARY EMPLOYEES; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Human Resources Director Jill Sassone explained the proposed classification for Limited Duration Temporary Employees; she read the policies and financial implications, which were included in the meeting packet. Ms. Sassone and Ms. Robustelli answered Commission questions.

Motion: Commissioner Marriott moved, Commissioner Rzewnicki seconded, and the motion carried 5-0 to adopt Resolution 2025-08: Limited Duration Temporary Employment.

7. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

a. Report on City Clerk Vacancy (with possible action)

City Manager Robustelli reviewed the search process to date and provided an update on candidates. The position remains posted. The recruiter continues to take applications. She asked the Commission for direction and proposed options to choose a candidate to move forward with or continue interviews.

The Commission shared their opinions. Consensus was to keep the position open longer.

b. Extending the end date of the waiver of permit fees (added)

City Manager Robustelli recommended placing this on the April 8th agenda to have data and projections available.

c. Code Enforcement working on weekends or being on call (added)

Commissioner Robinson has received resident complaints regarding the Sheriff's Office staff handling noise complaints. The City Manager will circle back with staff regarding this and report back in an upcoming meeting.

d. Finance and Budget Review Committee (added)

Commissioner Robinson suggested that with a new Finance Manager on board, there may be an opportunity to better utilize this Committee. The City Manager will follow up.

e. Shumaker, City Lobbyist Reporting (added)

Commissioner Robinson expressed disappointment upon seeing HB 943 from the Legislature and would appreciate more timely reports from City lobbyist Shumaker. The City Manager has requested monthly reports and more frequently when the Legislature is in session.

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

Ginny Keeter-Bodkin, Acting City Clerk - Reminders of City Commission Priority Workshop on Saturday, April 12th at 9:00 a.m. and a Community Meeting from 5:30 – 7p.m. on Monday, April 14th, both in Chambers.

Frances Robustelli, City Manager - commented that based upon previous productive meetings which allowed dialogue between the elected officials and community, she proposed community meetings vs. workshops for items such as noise and freebee ordinances, to be more casual and less structured and asked for feedback. Community meetings might be more productive than workshops so that community may add comments. There were no objections.

Interim Attorney Brookes – informed the Commission of proposed HB 1535 which would prohibit local governments within 100 miles of Hurricane Helene and Milton landfall from adopting Comp Plan amendments or land development regulations that are more restrictive or burdensome and would prohibit moratoriums. The Bill would be retroactive back to August 2024 until 2027.

Attorney Brookes requested three Executive Sessions on three litigation cases for Tuesday, April 8, 2025 at 4:30 p.m., pursuant to 286.011(8)(a), which he read, related to settlement negotiations or strategy sessions related to litigation expenditures for cases:

SEAMARK, INC., and PROTECT ST. PETE BEACH ADVOCACY GROUP, and KEN BARNES v. CITY OF ST. PETE BEACH, FLORIDA and CP ST. PETE, LLC, 6th Judicial Circuit Case Number 24-000008-AP

SEAMARK, INC., and PROTECT ST. PETE BEACH ADVOCACY GROUP, and KEN BARNES v. CITY OF ST. PETE BEACH, FLORIDA and 5500-5600 GULF BLVD. IG LLC,; 5700 GULF BLVD. BR LLC; 5750 GULF BLVD. CR LLC,; REEF RESORT CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION, INC., and 6000 GULF BLVD. SP LLC 6th Judicial Circuit Case Number 24-000012-AP

Red, White & Booze, LLC, a Florida limited liability company, Charles L. Collom, and Helen Collom v. City of St. Pete Beach, Florida, Middle District of Florida, Tampa Division, Federal Case No. 8:23-cv-2704-KKM-AAS

The Mayor and Commissioners indicated their availability for that date and time.

Vice Mayor Moholland - no report.

Commissioner Rzewnicki - shared dates for neighborhood/community meetings: 3/27 at 6:00 p.m., Lido Beach and Boca Ciega Communities; neighborhood 4/10 Belle Vista neighborhood at 7 p.m.; 4/24 at 6:00 p.m. Don CeSar neighborhood to discuss seawalls and resiliency.

Commissioner Robinson – announced that she is working with the Library on her meeting hours.

Commissioner Marriott – reported on positive comments from tourists; staff has done a good job making the City look better despite remaining damage and slow progress. Residents are slowly returning.

Mayor Petrila - no report.

Vice Mayor Moholland adjourned the meeting at 8:24 p.m.

MINUTES APPROVED: 4/8/2025



GINNY KEETER-BODKIN
ACTING CITY CLERK



ADRIAN PETRILA
MAYOR