

City Commission Meeting
April 8, 2025
6:00 p.m.

ELECTED OFFICIALS PRESENT:

Adrian Petrila, 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:

Ralf Brookes, Interim City Attorney
Frances Robustelli, City Manager
Ginny Keeter-Bodkin, Acting City Clerk
Devon Schmidt, Finance Director (via Zoom)
Laura Canary, Community Development Director
Jill Sassone, Human Resources Director

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

1. PRESENTATIONS

a. Solid Waste Financial Forecast and Rate Study Update

Paul Sacco of Pinellas County Solid Waste Management appeared and provided an explanation of the proposed rate increase. His presentation had been included in the meeting packet. The Commissioners asked questions.

b. Presentation- Budget Calendar FY25-FY26

Finance Director Devon Schmidt reviewed her presentation, which was part of the meeting packet. Staff is proposing a new budget process, as reviewed. The Commission could provide feedback to staff after each of five work sessions, as proposed. Ms. Schmidt reviewed the staff recommended scope for the Finance and Budget Review Committee and proposed workshop dates.

Commissioner Rzewnicki and Mayor Petrila indicated that they would be unavailable on July 8th for both the Budget Workshop and regular Commission meeting. Vice Mayor Moholland and Commissioners Marriott and Robinson confirmed their availability to ensure quorum on July 8, 2025.

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

City Manager Frances Robustelli explained that the Proclamations renewing the State of Local Emergency for Hurricane Helene were inadvertently removed from the agenda (ratification of Extension 27 and approvals of Extensions 28 and 29) but were printed and provided for the Mayor's signature and are part the meeting record. Agenda item 6.d., Acceptance of Emergency expenditures through February 2025, was intended to be on the April 22nd City Commission agenda, and will be removed until then.

Motion: **Vice Mayor Moholland moved, Commissioner Robinson seconded, and the motion carried 5-0 to approve the April 8, 2025 City Commission Agenda as amended.**

3. HELENE AND MILTON RECOVERY EFFORTS – STANDING AGENDA ITEM

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

of the elements contained in the permitting letters that were recently sent to residents. Various scenarios were discussed. Ms. Canary confirmed that open permits can be withdrawn (not closed) prior to the completion of work.

Discussion followed regarding the budget and the feasibility of extending the waiver of permit fees beyond April 22, 2025, based upon estimates. Hurricane season begins June 1st. Mayor Petrila suggested extending the permit fee waiver at a 50% fee from April 23rd until June 1st. City Manager Robustelli will bring forth a such a Resolution at the April 22nd Commission meeting.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

Resident John Kurzman of Bahia Honda Way S. commented on fee waivers, the Forerunner website, insurance rates, and the workshop for the beach ordinance.

Deborah Schechner of Boca Ciega Isle commented on the City's mission and vision statements

Mayor Petrila called a recess at 7:23 p.m. and reconvened the meeting at 7:39pm

5. CONSENT

- a. Commission Meeting Minutes: March 26, 2025.
- b. Approval of the Special Event permit request with street closure and alcohol consumption for the Corey Avenue Business Association 30th Anniversary Party on May 17, 2025.
- c. Approval of the Special Event permit application request with street closure for Pass-A-Grille Community Church Sunrise service on April 20, 2025.
- d. Move to approve the Services Agreement with Golf Coast Construction, LLC, in the amount of \$459,000 for beach access dune walkovers at 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 6th, 7th, 51st, and 52nd Avenues and authorize the City Manager to execute the Services Agreement.
- e. Proclamations – Renewal State of Local Emergency – Hurricane Milton Ratify Extension 26 and Approval of Extension 27; Renewal State of Local Emergency - Hurricane Helene Ratify Extension 27 and Approval of Extension 28 and 29.

Motion: Vice Mayor Moholland moved, Commissioner Robinson seconded, and the motion carried 5-0 to approve the amended April 8, 2025, City Commission Consent Agenda.

6. ACTION ITEMS

a. Election of Vice Mayor

Commissioner Rzewnicki nominated Karen Marriott for Vice Mayor and Commissioner Robinson nominated Joe Moholland, who stated he will likely be leaving the city in the coming months.

Motion Commissioner Rzewnicki moved, and Commissioner Marriott seconded to appoint Karen Marriott as Vice Mayor; the motion carried 5-0.

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

Commissioner Moholland renominated all of his appointees and read their names into the record as was provided in the meeting packet. There were no further appointments or changes, but the Commissioners may contact the Clerk, if necessary. Commissioner Robinson spoke about sunseting the Library Advisory Committee. This topic will be added to a future agenda.

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c. Appointments to Outside Agencies

The Mayor and Commissioners discussed potential changes. The Clerk read the finalized list into the record as follows:

Big C: Mayor Petrila - Representative, Vice Mayor Marriott – Alternate *Florida League of Cities*: Commissioner Rzewnicki – Representative, Mayor Petrila – Alternate *Mayor's Council of Pinellas County*: Mayor Petrila – Representative, Commissioner Moholland – Alternate *Pinellas County Flood Insurance Committee*: Commissioner Robinson – Representative, Commissioner Rzewnicki – Alternate *Suncoast League of Cities*: Vice Mayor Marriott – Representative, Commissioner Rzewnicki – Alternate *Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council*: Commissioner Rzewnicki – Representative, Commissioner Robinson – Alternate

Motion: Vice Mayor Marriott moved, Commissioner Rzewnicki seconded, and the motion carried 5-0 to approve the outside agency appointments as discussed.

d. ~~Acceptance of emergency expenditures through February 2025~~

Will be on the April 22, 2025 agenda.

e. Authorize the City manager to enter into a Federal Lobbyist Agreement with Becker in the amount of \$48,000 per year for the 2 year contract term

Ms. Robustelli recommended the two-year agreement considering how much the City has needed to lean on the Federal government this past year, and it can prove to be beneficial for grants. She explained this would not require a budget amendment for this year.

Resident Deborah Schechner commented on federal funding.

Motion: Commissioner Moholland moved, and Commissioner Rzewnicki seconded to authorize the City Manager to enter into a Federal Lobbyist Agreement with Becker in the amount of \$48,000 per year for the 2-year contract term. The motion carried 5-0.

f. State Lobbyist agreement with Shumaker Advisors in the amount of \$60,000 per year for a 3-year Contract term

Ms. Robustelli commented that this went through an RFP process and her recommendation was to renew the contract with Shumaker Advisors.

Motion: Commissioner Rzewnicki moved, and Commissioner Moholland seconded to authorize the City Manager to enter into an agreement in the amount of \$5,000 per month with Shumaker Advisors to conduct a State Lobbying Activities on behalf of the City of St. Pete Beach. The motion carried 5-0.

7. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

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

Ms. Robustelli reported on the second round of interviews that was held for the City Clerk position. The staff Leadership teamed ranked Renee Rose as their first choice and Cassandra Killgore second. She asked the Commission for their rankings and direction.

Vice Mayor Marriott and Commissioners Robinson, Rzewnicki, and Moholland ranked Renee Rose as their first

choice with Cassandra Kilgore second. Mayor Petrila confirmed his first choice of Renee Rose and directed the City Manager to continue the process and extend an offer.

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

Ginny Keeter-Bodkin, Acting City Clerk – Reviewed the dates that had been provided for the scheduling of the Priority Work Session. By consensus, the Commission chose June 17th and 18th from 4:30 to 7:30 PM as the dates that they would all be available.

Frances Robustelli, City Manager – had no report.

Interim Attorney Brookes – had no report.

Commissioner Moholland – reported that Pass-A-Grille residents have been inquiring about alley trash pickup. He indicated he would happily advocate for them if they could bring forth a logical audit. He had also heard resident concerns about sand washing and blowing over damaged walls from 1st - 8th Avenues. He submitted a detailed explanation with estimates from the Public Services Director to the head of the Pass-A-Grille Community Association. He will continue to give her information when available to share with that community.

Commissioner Rzewnicki – provided reminders of a 4/10 Belle Vista Neighborhood meeting at 7 PM, and a 4/24 Don CeSar Association meeting at 6 PM to discuss resiliency. She apologized to the Boca Ciega and Lido associations for being unable to attend due to illness, but she will look forward to April.

Commissioner Robinson – reminded residents that her Library hours will soon resume.

Vice Mayor Marriott – reminded residents that Beer with a Commissioner will return on Monday 4/14 at Mastry's in District 1 from 6-8 PM.

Mayor Petrila – had no report.

Mayor Petrila adjourned the meeting at 8:15 PM.

MINUTES APPROVED: 4/22/2025



GINNY KEETER-BODKIN
ACTING CITY CLERK



ADRIAN PETRILA
MAYOR