

**COMMISSION MEETING
CITY OF ST. PETE BEACH**

SEPTEMBER 15, 2010

MINUTES

ROLL CALL

PRESENT:

Commissioner Shavlan
Commissioner Halpern
Commissioner Garnett
Vice Mayor Parent
Mayor Finnerty

ALSO PRESENT:

City Attorney Mike Davis
City Manager Mike Bonfield
City Clerk Theresa McMaster

1. Changes to the Agenda

Commissioner Halpern asked that parasails be added to the agenda; it was agreed that it will be added as item 5.c.

Attorney Davis asked that item 5.b. be pulled from the agenda; all were in agreement.

City Manager Bonfield asked that item 3.b. be changed to: Ratify the City Manager's decision to enter into an agreement with the Tax Collection of Pinellas County, Florida, for collection of non-ad valorem assessment due to the fact that there was a 5:00 pm deadline on September 15, 2010 for approval.

Mayor Finnerty asked that items 4.c., d., & e. be removed from the agenda. After discussion, it was agreed.

2. Audience Comments

Ann Tibbets, Harborside, spoke to the proposed budget regarding Christmas decorations.

Chris Self, Pass a Grille, spoke to the proposed budget.

Mayor Finnerty asked the audience to limit their comments to items not on the agenda, specifically.

Harry Metz, 504 Pass a Grille Way, brought up the subject of the City Commission Meeting on March 25, 2008.

Joe Caruso, 1301 Gulf Way, owner of the Coconut Inn, asked the Commission for help to conclude the project in the rear of his property.

Takvor Evrikoz, 1307 Gulf Way, spoke in support of Mr. Caruso.

Hearing no further comments, Mayor Finnerty closed the Meeting to Audience Comments.

Commissioner Shavlan asked about the ongoing lawsuit which Mr. Metz referred to. Mr. Davis will provide a status report on the pending litigation.

Commissioner Halpern asked about the status of the Coconut Inn project.

Mr. Davis gave a brief explanation of the case. It was suggested that Mr. Caruso go to the Board of Adjustment and request a variance.

3. Consent

Commissioner Garnett made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda, as written, with the requested change to item b. requested by Mr. Bonfield. The motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Parent and approved by unanimous roll call vote.

4. Ordinances

a. Ordinance 2010-24, First Reading and Public Hearing setting the millage rate for Fiscal year 2011.

City Manager Bonfield briefly explained the Ordinance. If the current millage rate is kept the same, the budget would be funded and there would be \$24,000 going into reserves. If the millage rate is raised to the roll-back rate, the budget would be funded and there would be \$410,000 going into reserves.

Mayor Finnerty asked for audience comments.

Jean Andrews, 172 Mark Street, representing the Library Advisory Committee, spoke in support of sufficient funds to re-open the Library on Mondays.

Bill Pyle, 6600 Sunset Way, commented on the term “roll-back” rate and asked what will be shifted from the ad valorem tax to special assessments

Rosemary Manning, 200 First Avenue, Pass a Grille, spoke about the budget in general terms, specifically the Christmas decorations and opening the Library on Monday. She is also concerned about reserves.

Mimi Gewanter, 265 South Tessier Drive, spoke in favor of opening the Library on Mondays.

Chris Self, Pass a Grille, spoke to the \$50,000 discretionary money which is to be spent; she also brought up “wants” versus “needs” in stressful times.

Mike Davis stated that the term “roll-back rate” is defined in Florida Statutes, which in essence means they collect the same revenues from year to year which could be an increase or decrease, depending on property values.

Commissioner Halpern stated that he had a conversation with Steve Hallock about the cost of Christmas decorations.

Mayor Finnerty referred to a letter from the Florida League of Cities wherein they stated they are going to refund 25% of the dues paid last year by the City.

The Mayor asked the Commission to refrain from raising the millage rate here in St. Pete Beach.

Vice Mayor Parent expressed his concern about the amount in reserves. He raised the issue of the \$50,000 in the budget and suggested spending \$30,000 for Christmas decorations out of that amount. He supports the roll-back rate.

Commissioner Garnett is opposed to the \$50,000 surplus in the budget and she would allocate a portion of that to Christmas decorations. She approves of the roll-back rate.

Commissioner Halpern stated that he agrees with Commissioner Garnett and Vice Mayor Parent.

Commissioner Shavlan spoke in favor of the roll-back rate and spending a portion of the \$50,000 surplus on Christmas decorations.

Vice Mayor Parent supports the roll-back rate and using \$30,000 from the surplus for Christmas decorations.

Commissioner Garnett made a motion that Ordinance 2010-24, an ordinance of the City of St. Pete Beach, Florida; establishing the ad valorem tax levy and debt service levy for the General Fund for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2010 and ending September 30, 2011; providing for an effective date be approved on first reading.

ORDINANCE NO. 2010-24

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ST. PETE BEACH, FLORIDA; ADOPTING A FINAL MILLAGE RATE FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2011; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

THE CITY OF ST. PETE BEACH, FLORIDA, DOES ORDAIN:

Section 1. That a millage levy of 2.6718 general and operating levy and 0.0796 debt service levy is hereby fixed and adopted for the fiscal year of the City ending September 30, 2010 and shall be placed upon the total taxable assessed valuation of property of any kind liable for and subject to taxation by the City of St. Pete Beach, Florida, including real and personal property, lying within the City of St. Pete Beach, Florida.

Section 2. Said monies as raised by the levy of 2.6718 mills, estimated at \$5,481,845 shall be used for the general operation of the City of St. Pete Beach including, but not limited to, salaries, insurance and energy costs and transfer for capital projects for the afore-mentioned fiscal period.

Section 3. Said monies as raised by the levy of 0.0796 mills, estimated at \$169,150 shall be used to pay debt service on the general obligation bonds issued by the City for the Police Building.

Section 4. the operating millage rate is equal to the rolled-back rate, computed pursuant to the TRIM Act (Section 200.065(1) Florida Statutes) which represents an equivalent amount in property tax collections as the previous year.

Section 5. That a certified copy of this ordinance shall be forwarded to the Tax Assessor of Pinellas County, Florida, together with a request that the aforementioned levies be made by his/her office on behalf of the City of St. Pete Beach for the Fiscal Year 2010-2011.

Section 6. This ordinance shall become effective immediately upon its final passage.

The motion was seconded and passed by individual roll call vote of 4 to 1, Mayor Finnerty voting no.

b. Ordinance 2010-25, First Reading and Public Hearing, adopting a Budget for Fiscal year 2011.

City Manager Bonfield gave a brief outline of the Budget for FY 2011. Overall, revenues are decreased by \$60,000 and expenditures are decreased by approximately \$580,000.

Mayor Finnerty commended Mr. Bonfield for a job well done. The Mayor expressed his frustration at the newspaper article regarding the budget, when most of the projects written about are paid for with grants.

Mayor Finnerty opened the Meeting for audience comments.

Elaine Young, 425 Blind Pass Road, complimented the Mayor, the Commissioners and the City Manager for their work on the budget.

Ann Tibbetts, Harbourside spoke about letting the residents know about the grants that the City is receiving.

Bill Pyle, 6600 Sunset Way

Rosemary Manning, 200 1st Avenue, Pass a Grille

Mimi Gewanter

Bob Manning, 1st Avenue

Mary Fernandez, 110 12th Avenue

The Mayor then closed the Meeting to Audience Comments.

A motion was made by Commissioner Halpern that Ordinance 2010-25, an ordinance of the City of St. Pete Beach, Pinellas County, Florida adopting a budget for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2010 and ending September 30, 2011 providing appropriations and providing an effect date be approved on first reading, including the changes that were outlined by the City Manager. The motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Parent and unanimously approved by roll call vote.

- c. **Ordinance 2010-26, First Reading and Public Hearing amending and restating Chapter 66, Pensions and Retirement, Article II, General Employees' Retirement System of the Code of Ordinances.**

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Parent that an Ordinance of the City of St. Pete Beach, Florida, amending and restating Chapter 66, Pensions and Retirement System of the Code of Ordinances of the City of St. Pete Beach, Florida, providing for severability of provisions, repealing all ordinances in conflict herewith and providing an effective date. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Garnett and unanimously approved by roll call vote.

- d. **Ordinance 2010-27, First Reading and Public Hearing, amending and restating Chapter 66, Pensions and Retirement, Article III, Police Officers' Retirement System of the Code of Ordinances.**

City Manager Bonfield recommended approval as proposed with the exception of the changes to Section 66-225(b)(5)a.

A motion was made by Commissioner Shavlan to approve Ordinance 2010-27 with the exception of the proposed changes to Section 66-225(b)(5)a, an ordinance of the City of St. Pete Beach amending and restating Chapter 66, Pensions and Retirement, Article III, Police Officers' Retirement System, Sections 66-141 through 66-250 inclusive of the Code of Ordinances of the City of St. Pete Beach by restating the City of St. Pete Beach Police Officers' Retirement System; providing for severability of provisions, repealing all ordinances in conflict herewith and providing an effective date. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Garnett and unanimously approved by roll call vote.

- e. **Ordinance 2010-28, First Reading and Public Hearing, amending and restating Chapter 66, Pensions and Retirement, Article IV, Firefighter's Retirement, Article IV, Firefighters' Retirement System of the Code of Ordinances.**

A motion was made by Commissioner Garnett to approve Ordinance 2010-28 with the exception of the proposed changes to Section 66-335(b)(5)a, an ordinance of the City of St. Pete Beach amending and restating 66, Pensions and Retirement, Article IV, Firefighters' Retirement System, Section 66-251 through 66-338 inclusive of the Code of Ordinances of the City of St. Pete Beach by restating the City of St. Pete Beach Firefighters' Retirement providing for severability of provisions, repealing all ordinances in conflict herewith and providing an effective date. The

motion was seconded by Commissioner Halpern and unanimously approved by roll call vote.

- f. Ordinance 2010-30, First Reading and Public Hearing providing for an amendment to Chapter 82, Article II, Division 1, Section 82-31, One Way Streets, adding the alley between 16th Avenue and 17th Avenue and making it one way southbound.**

City Manager Bonfield briefly explained the ordinance.

A motion was made by Commissioner Garnett to adopt Ordinance 2010-30, an ordinance of the City of St. Pete Beach Florida providing for amendment of Chapter 82, Article II, Division 1, Section 82-31, one way streets; providing for severability; providing for the repeal of ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith to the extent of such conflict; and providing for an effect date. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Halpern and approved by unanimous roll call vote.

5. ACTION ITEMS

- a. Approval of Gulfport Trolley route change in St. Pete Beach.**

City Manager Bonfield presented the request and introduced Brian Van _____, Trolley Coordinator for the City of Gulfport, to summarize the change requested.

A motion was made by Al Halpern to approve the change to the Gulfport Trolley. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Shavlan and approved by unanimous roll call vote.

- c. Parasails**

Commissioner Halpern brought up the subject of parasailing and introduced a regulation that is old but still current. He asked Mr. Bonfield, when licenses are renewed, could the City search for wind instruments. He will check it out and let the Commission know of his findings.

6. REPORTS

City Manager Bonfield presented his report.

Commissioner Barnett presented her report.

Commissioner Shavlan presented his report.

Vice Mayor Parent presented his report.

Commissioner Halpern presented his report.

Mayor Finnerty presented his report

7. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the Meeting was adjourned.

Theresa McMaster, City Clerk

Mike Finnerty, Mayor

Minutes approved on: _____