

# City of Port St. Lucie

## Special City Council

### Meeting Minutes - Draft

121 SW Port St. Lucie  
Blvd.  
Port St. Lucie, Florida  
34984

Shannon M. Martin, Mayor

Jolien Caraballo, Vice Mayor, District IV  
Stephanie Morgan, Councilwoman, District I  
Dave Pickett, Councilman, District II  
Anthony Bonna, Councilman, District III

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<b>Monday, April 17, 2023</b>	<b>9:30 AM</b>	<b>Council Chambers, City Hall</b>
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**1. Meeting Called to Order**

A Special Meeting of the CITY COUNCIL of the City of Port St. Lucie was called to order by Mayor Martin on April 17, 2023, at 9:30 AM, at Port St. Lucie City Hall, Council Chambers, 121 SW Port St. Lucie Boulevard, Port St. Lucie, Florida.

**2. Roll Call**

Council Members Present:

Mayor Shannon Martin  
Vice Mayor Jolien Caraballo  
Councilwoman Stephanie Morgan  
Councilman Dave Pickett  
Councilman Anthony Bonna

**3. Pledge of Allegiance**

The City Clerk gave the Invocation and Mayor Martin led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**4. Public to be Heard**

Mayor Martin acknowledged and thanked the 4th and 5th grade students from Morningside Elementary Student Council.

No one from the public signed up to speak for this portion of the Agenda.

**5. New Business**

- 5.a** Invoke the Waiver Privilege and Waive Section No. 9 of City Council Directed Policy #19-04ccd Authorizing the

[2023-295](#)

Development of a Memorial to Lost U.S. Navy Submarines and Crews at the City of Port St. Lucie U.S. Submarine Veterans Park.

Brad Keen, Parks and Recreation Assistant Director, provided a brief presentation to the City Council regarding the proposed memorial project at the United States Submarine Veterans Park. (Clerk's Note: A PowerPoint Presentation was shown at this time.) He also discussed the nearing capacity at the Veterans Memorial Park for memorials and monuments, possible expansion of Veterans Memorial Park, the City Council directed policy #19-04ccd and Staff's recommendation for action by the City Council.

All members of the City Council expressed their support for the proposed memorial project at the United States Submarine Veterans Park. There being no further discussion, Councilwoman Morgan moved to approve the proposed memorial project at the United States Submarine Veterans Park. Councilman Pickett seconded the motion, which passed unanimously by voice vote.

There was a discussion regarding the possible expansion of Veteran's Memorial Park between Vice Mayor Caraballo and Staff.

Mayor Martin spoke regarding the potential policy change regarding the Waiver of Section 9 of the City Council Directed Policy #19-04ccd. She also discussed the possibility of adding memorials at the Stars and Stripes Park. The Council provided their individual opinions regarding memorials at the Stars and Stripes Park.

It was the consensus of the City Council to have the Stars and Stripes Park remain patriotic in nature and geared towards First Responder Recognition, agree to explore the option of expanding Veteran's Memorial Park; and that it be included in the Updated Master Plan and Strategic Planning Process.

Vice Mayor Caraballo moved to approve the amendment of Section 9 of the City Council Directed Policy #19-04ccd to include "or any City Park that the City Council shall designate." Councilman Pickett seconded the motion, which passed unanimously by voice vote.

City Manager indicated they would bring this item back before the City Council at the next Summer Workshop.

- 5.b** Tentatively Approve the Proposed Fiscal Year (FY) 2023-24  
Capital Improvement Program.

[2023-355](#)

Caroline Sturgis, Director of the Office of Management and Budget, provided an overview of the FY 2023-2024 Proposed CIP, Capital Budget Process, Proposed Capital Projects & Funding Recommendations, Council Priorities and Council Action to tentatively approve the FY 2023-2024 Capital Improvement Program. (Clerk's Note: A PowerPoint Presentation was shown at this time.)

Mayor Martin inquired if Volucia Trail was separate from the planification of Regional Park, to which Director Sturgis responded in the affirmative. Sherman Conrad, Director of Parks and Recreation, stated he was unable to answer the question and would follow up via memo to the Council. Frank Knott, Engineer Manager, Public Works, stated the project was originally in the sidewalk program, then it was converted to a trail and reported that there is now funding for the program which made two separate projects to try to coordinate with the timing of the park.

Mayor Martin discussed the funding allocated to design and construction of River Place and Paseo Parks. She inquired as to why there were allocated funds set aside for the Paseo Park Security Cameras if the park is not built and existing neighborhood parks do not have cameras. Mayor Martin inquired why existing Neighborhood Parks are not scheduled to get cameras before they are placed in a new park and questioned why Paseo Park was advancing with cameras, to which Mike Kendrick, Deputy Director of Parks and Recreation, explained the Paseo Park had the infrastructure already in place to install security cameras as opposed to the other park sites. Director Conrad advised they would like to add them to most of the Neighborhood parks and added the River Place and Paseo Parks are more like Community parks rather than Neighborhood parks. He explained that they will be including cameras for the Tradition Regional Park. Mayor Martin inquired if there were plans to include and install infrastructure for the Tradition Regional Park, to which Director Conrad advised they were not at that point yet; however, they would ensure cameras can be installed from the beginning. The City Manager advised that the Utility Company requires any new development in the Western part of the City have fiberoptic installed. He advised that there may be a need to install additional fiber to ensure Traditional Regional Park can benefit. Deputy Director Kendrick advised that the infrastructure was currently being installed.

Vice Mayor Caraballo inquired about the ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) Fund Projects included as part of the CIP, to which Director Sturgis responded in the negative and clarified those projects were included in last year's CIP Program. She requested a list indicating when the Grant Funding was received by the City and its utilization, specifically for the infrastructure projects.

Director Sturgis continued to provide her overview of the FY 2023-2024 Proposed CIP. Vice Mayor Caraballo asked if MSTU CIP Fund did not include any potential increase in impact fees, to which Director Sturgis responded in the affirmative. Director Sturgis continued to present to the City Council the Parks Impact Fee CIP Fund and Parks MSTU CIP Fund. Vice Mayor Caraballo expressed concern over St. Lucie County's position in not wanting to renew the MSTU. Mayor Martin stated that the County confirmed they will not be renewing the MSTU. It was the consensus of the City Council that a letter be sent to the St. Lucie County Administrator highlighting the importance of the MSTU Fund for the City and for it to indicate how the City utilizes MSTU funds and if the policy is discontinued to include the challenges it will create for the City's CIP for the Parks Division and encourage a better partnership between the County and City. City Manager Merejo reported he spoke to the St. Lucie County Administrator and agreed that they should send a letter and stated there may be a window of opportunity to have the policy stay in place.

Director Sturgis provided an overview of the Road & Bridge CIP Fund. Mayor Martin requested a breakdown of the received funds per benefit district so that the City Council can have a visual when working on infrastructure projects. Director Sturgis stated they have the breakdown available and it was included on pages 71-23. Heath Stocton, Public Works Director, discussed the breakdown per benefit district. Vice Mayor Caraballo stated she agreed with memorializing the breakdown per benefit district. Director Stocton reported that gas tax is a growing concern for the City and suggested maybe a different funding source to keep up with the road maintenance, as electric vehicles become more popular. Vice Mayor Caraballo asked if the City received a franchise fee from FPL, to which Director Stocton responded in the affirmative. She stated there should be a franchise fee associated to each charging station throughout the City. Vice Mayor Caraballo requested additional information regarding the City potentially having a franchise fee for charging stations. Director Stocton confirmed that the City had the

ability to charge whatever fee they would like on the charging stations; however, the City historically follows the FDOT or Turnpike fee schedule. Councilwoman Morgan stated the Gas Tax conversation will be held at upcoming MPOAC meeting she attends. Mayor Martin expressed concern over the amount of time it will take State Legislature to vote on a bill pertaining to Gas Tax. Vice Mayor Caraballo stated that Senator Gayle Harrell was the head of Transportation and she may be knowledgeable as to any discussions held at the legislature level. She stated it may be beneficial for Senator Harrell to provide a legislative update to the City Council at a future meeting or workshop to discuss the Gas Tax.

Director Sturgis continued to provide an overview of the Road & Bridge CIP Fund, Half-Cent Tax Fund CIP, Stormwater Capital Projects, and Utility Systems CIP Fund.

Vice Mayor Caraballo moved to tentatively approve the proposed Fiscal Year (FY) 2023-2024 Capital Improvement Program. Councilwoman Morgan seconded the motion, which passed unanimously by voice vote.

**5.c** Right-of-Way Infrastructure Review at East Lake Village

[2023-268](#)

Thomas Salvador, Public Works Manager, provided a historical overview of the reason for the Infrastructure Review at East Lake Village. Brandon White and Paul Goulas, Landscape Architectural Services, LLC (LAS), provided the City Council with a presentation of the issues and possible solutions pertaining to the Right-of-Way Infrastructure Review at East Lake Village. (Clerk's Note: A PowerPoint Presentation was shown at this time.) The Council Members discussed their concerns regarding the possible solutions for the infrastructure.

City Manager advised a needed review of the City's Design Standards to prevent these types of issues from happening in the future.

Vice Mayor Caraballo suggested finding out the number of trees that do not have a root barrier and if they were young enough look into adding a root barrier.

Councilman Bonna moved to approve the allocation of funds. Vice Mayor Caraballo seconded the motion, which passed unanimously by voice vote.

**6. Adjourn**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:29 AM.

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Daisy Ruiz, Deputy City Clerk

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Sally Walsh, City Clerk