

City of Port St. Lucie
Special City Council
Meeting Minutes - Final

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

Shannon Martin, Vice Mayor, District III

Stephanie Morgan, Councilwoman, District I

Dave Pickett, Councilman, District II

Jolien Caraballo, Councilwoman, District IV

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Monday, September 13, 2021

6:30 PM

Council Chambers, City Hall

Budget Hearing

1. Meeting Called to Order

A Special Virtual Meeting of the CITY COUNCIL of the City of Port St. Lucie was called to order by Vice Mayor Martin on September 13, 2021, at 6:30 p.m., at Port St. Lucie City Hall, 121 SW Port St. Lucie Boulevard, Port St. Lucie, Florida.

2. Roll Call

Council Members

Present: Vice Mayor Shannon Martin
Councilwoman Jolien Caraballo
Councilman Dave Pickett
Councilwoman Stephanie Morgan

3. Pledge of Allegiance

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

4. Public to be Heard

There was nothing heard under this item.

5. First Reading of Ordinances, Public Hearings

- 5.a** Ordinance 21-89, Public Hearing, An Ordinance Adopting the
Ad Valorem Millage Rate for the Fiscal Year (FY) October 1,
2021 to September 30, 2022; Providing an Effective Date.

[2021-738](#)

The Assistant City Clerk read Ordinance 21-89 aloud by title only. Vice Mayor Martin opened the Public Hearing. The City Manager introduced

Caroline Sturgis, Budget Manager. (Clerk's Note: A PowerPoint was shown at this time.) Ms. Sturgis gave a brief presentation on the City's Budget which is based around the Strategic Plan. She explained that the millage rate had a total reduction of 0.3000 which reduced the property tax revenue by \$367,846 & explained taxes on a median home with a homestead exemption. She gave a breakdown of the St. Lucie County/ Port St. Lucie Tax Bill and explained that two out of 16 taxing authorities were for the City of Port St. Lucie. She stated that the Stormwater user fee was increased due to construction projections since an independent analysis by a consulting firm was completed which determined the fees collected did not cover the cost of repairs. She stated that there was also an adjustment of \$2.82 for Solid waste fees due to CPI inflation and mandatory contractual obligations.

She explained that the City decreased the General Fund budget by \$1.1 million and had also reduced operating millage by \$1.3 million in ad valorem tax revenues. She explained the needed FTE's for each department. She stated that the Golf Course fund would not see changes, the Building Fund was increasing by \$3 million, the Utility Systems Fund was increasing by \$10 million, and the Stormwater Utility Fund was increasing by \$3 million. She stated that the Capital Project Funds budget was \$164,078,491 and listed all projects funded within the budget. She explained that the rolled-back rate was 4.6620 mills, with a percentage of increase over the roll back rate of 4.69%. She stated that the millage rate would bring the same amount of ad valorem tax revenue as prior year, adjusted for new construction and dedicated increment value (i.e. CRA Districts). She advised that on September 27, 2021 the City Council would hear the Second Public Hearing for adoption of the final millage rate and budget. She requested that the City Council adopt the Millage Rate Ordinance operating 4.8807 which was a 0.1000 reduction over current year rate of 4.9807 and a Debt Service Millage of 0.7193 which was less than the current year by 0.2000, adopt the Budget Ordinance for FY 2021-22, appropriating \$610,594,228, and adopt the Capital Improvement Program Resolution for FY 2021-22.

Steven Carroll had questions regarding Tradition Regional Park and the Golf Course. Sherman Conrad, Parks & Recreation Director explained the location of the park. The City Manager stated that the golf course was covering the operating costs.

Anthony Rubino spoke regarding St. Lucie County's high taxes. Vice

Mayor Martin replied that the City could only control the City's two line items on the tax bill.

Thomas Sabato spoke in opposition of increasing the solid waste assessment.

Trevor Miller had questions regarding increases on his TRIM.

The City Manager clarified that the total tax rate for the City of Port St. Lucie was a reduction of \$38.27 and informed the Public that staff would be available to answer questions regarding their tax bills after the meeting. There being no further public to be heard, Vice Mayor Martin closed the Public Hearing and Councilwoman Caraballo moved to approve Ordinance 21-89. Councilwoman Morgan seconded the motion, which passed unanimously by roll call vote.

- 5.b** Ordinance 21-88, Public Hearing, An Ordinance Adopting the Budget and Making an Appropriation for the Fiscal Year (FY) October 1, 2021 to September 30, 2022; Providing an Effective Date.

[2021-739](#)

The Assistant City Clerk read Ordinance 21-88 aloud by title only. Vice Mayor Martin opened the Public Hearing. Vice Mayor Martin asked if there was anyone who wished to speak on the item, to which there was no one, therefore the Public Hearing closed. Councilwoman Morgan moved to approve Ordinance 21-88. Councilwoman Caraballo seconded the motion, which passed unanimously by roll call vote.

Vice Mayor Martin informed the Public that the City Council received a letter supporting the Budget from the Budget Advisory Committee.

6. Resolution, Public Hearing

- 6.a** Resolution 21-R107, Public Hearing, Adopting the Capital Improvement Program for the City of Port St. Lucie for the Fiscal Year (FY) October 1, 2021 to September 30, 2022; Providing an Effective Date.

[2021-740](#)

The Assistant City Clerk read Resolution 21-R107 aloud by title only. Vice Mayor Martin entered the previous PowerPoint into the record and opened the Public Hearing. She asked if there was anyone who wished to speak on the item, to which there was no one, therefore the Public Hearing closed. Councilman Pickett moved to approve Resolution 21-R107. Councilwoman Morgan seconded the motion, which passed unanimously by roll call vote.

7. Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Bryan Pankhurst, Assistant City Clerk

Shanna Donleavy, Deputy City Clerk