

# City of Port St. Lucie

## Special City Council

### Meeting Minutes - Final

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

Gregory J. Oravec, Mayor

Stephanie Morgan, Councilwoman, District I  
John Carvelli, Councilman, District II  
Shannon Martin, Vice Mayor, District III  
Jolien Caraballo, Councilwoman, District IV

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**Monday, September 28, 2020**

**6:30 PM**

**Council Chambers, City Hall**

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#### **Budget Hearing**

**1. Meeting Called to Order**

A Special (Virtual) Meeting, Budget Hearing, of the CITY COUNCIL of the City of Port St. Lucie was called to order by Mayor Oravec on September 28, 2020, 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: Mayor Gregory J. Oravec  
Vice Mayor Shannon Martin  
Councilwoman Jolien Caraballo  
Councilman John Carvelli (virtual)  
Councilwoman Stephanie Morgan

**3. Pledge of Allegiance**

The pledge was said at the 5:00 p.m., GFC meeting.

**4. Public to be Heard**

There was nothing heard under this item.

**5. Second Reading of Ordinances, Public Hearings**

- 5.a** Ordinance 20-49, Public Hearing, An Ordinance Adopting the Ad Valorem Millage Rate for The Fiscal Year (FY) October 1, 2020 to September 30, 2021; Providing an Effective Date.

[2020-732](#)

The City Clerk read Resolution Ordinance 20-49 aloud by title only. Mayor Oravec opened the Public Hearing. (Clerk's Note: A PowerPoint was shown at this time.) Jeff Snyder, CFO, stated that he was proposing to increase the Budget by \$82 million in Capital which totaled \$533,894,776. He also proposed reducing the millage by .1740; proposed to add 27 new employees in the Budget and informed the City Council that the Budget met all five objectives. He stated that the reduction in Millage would reduce the City taxes for a median home with a Homestead Exemption. He stated that the City Council had reduced taxes by .73 for the past five years and broke down a tax bill while explaining that the City Council could only impact two lines, which accounted for 23% of the bill. He explained that there were no changes for street lighting, permit & inspection fees, and the solid waste fees. He stated that the General Fund stayed the same with the exception of the proposed FTE's, the Building and the Utility Systems Funds were growing strong, and added that the Stormwater Utility Fund had decreased due to a reduction in the CIP. He listed the seven major Capital Improvement Plans and explained the Trim Public Announcements. He stated that the name of the Taxing Authority was City of Port St. Lucie with a rolled-back rate of 4.7546 mills and the percentage of increase over the rolled-back rate was 4.76%. He requested that the City Council adopt the Budget Ordinance and adopt the Operating Millage Rate Ordinance of 4.9807 which was a 0.0740 reduction over current year rate of 5.0547 and a Debt Service Millage of 0.9193 which was less than the current year by .1000.

There being no discussion, the Public Hearing closed, and Vice Mayor Martin moved to approve Ordinance 20-49. Councilwoman Morgan seconded the motion. Mayor Oravec thanked the City Council, City staff and the residents for fulfilling the Strategic Plan and for lowering the property taxes in the City for the fifth year in a row. He stated that he was proud that the team continued to work with unforeseen circumstances. The City Clerk restated the motion as follows: for approval of Ordinance 20-49. The motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

- 5.b** Ordinance 20-50, Public Hearing, An Ordinance Adopting the Budget and Making an Appropriation for The Fiscal Year (FY) October 1, 2020 to September 30, 2021; Providing an

[2020-733](#)

Effective Date.

The City Clerk read Resolution Ordinance 20-50 aloud by title only. Mayor Oravec opened the Public Hearing. Mayor Oravec thanked Mr. Snyder for adding the tax bill into the presentation and explained that a resident had called him, and he had to break down the resident's taxes. He informed the Public that the County usually had one of the highest tax rates in the state and encouraged them to speak to the County Commission or the Fire District regarding the County taxes. Councilwoman Caraballo stated that the City Council had Strategic Planning Sessions, and multiple Retreats throughout the year to discuss the Budget. Mayor Oravec urged the Public to visit [www.cityofpsl.com/strategicplan](http://www.cityofpsl.com/strategicplan) or attend the Citizen Summit to learn how the Budget and Planning processes worked.

There being no discussion, the Public Hearing closed, and Councilwoman Caraballo moved to approve Ordinance 20-50. Councilwoman Morgan seconded the motion. The City Clerk restated the motion as follows: for approval of Ordinance 20-50. The motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

The City Manager stated that the Budget process worked well because the City Council adopted a thought-out Strategic Plan to provide a road map for staff to follow. He informed the City Council that the City won the Distinguished Budget Award from the GFRA 29 times. He thanked staff and the City Council for their hard work.

#### **6. Adjourn**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:47 p.m.

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Karen A. Phillips, City Clerk

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Shanna Donleavy, Deputy City Clerk