

City of Port St. Lucie

Special City Council

Meeting Minutes - Final

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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Monday, May 15, 2023

9:30 AM

Council Chambers, City Hall

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 May 15, 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

Mayor Martin led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. Public to be Heard

Richard Lawton, spoke against the Moms for Liberty organization.

5. Special Presentations

- 5.a** A Presentation for the Florida Development Finance Corporation Regarding a Citywide Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy Program in the City of Port St. Lucie.

[2023-358](#)

Ryan Bartkus, Senior Director of Programs, Florida Development Finance Corporation (FDPC), provided the City Council with a PowerPoint Presentation and explained the Property Assessed Clean

Energy (PACE) Program.

Councilwoman Morgan asked if there were additional companies that provide this program, to which Mr. Bartkus responded in the affirmative and explained that three other districts offer the program.

Councilwoman Morgan inquired if the City would be able to sign an interlocal agreement with various companies that offer the program, to which Mr. Bartkus stated he would work with Administrator Wooten.

Vice Mayor Caraballo asked if there was an expiration or re-authorization for the program, to which Mr. Bartkus responded in the negative. She inquired about any potential negative impacts/liabilities that may arise from the City allowing this type of Commercial PACE program, to which Mr. Bartkus clarified that the program was not funded by the City. Vice Mayor Caraballo stated she was not in support of the residential program for the PACE program; however, she vocalized support for the commercial program.

Councilman Bonna expressed support for the PACE program.

Councilman Pickett asked if there was a monetary cap of funds for the business, to which Mr. Bartkus explained and answered in the affirmative.

Mayor Martin expressed support for the PACE program.

There being no further discussion, Vice Mayor Caraballo moved to approve Item 5.a to include the Florida Development Financing Corporation along with any other program. Councilman Pickett seconded the motion, which passed unanimously by voice vote.

5.b Present PSLPD's Recruitment and Retention Plan

[2023-438](#)

Acting Chief of Police Richard Del Toro, provided an overview of the Port St. Lucie Police Department Recruitment and Retention Plan to the City Council. (Clerk's Note: A PowerPoint Presentation was shown at this time.) He discussed the challenges the Department faced at the current growth rate for the City. Acting Chief of Police Del Toro spoke about the plan to streamline the hiring process for the Department and the need to create additional positions. Mayor Martin pointed out the need for additional support staff within the Department.

Vice Mayor Caraballo inquired about the number of additional support staff positions, to which Acting Chief Del Toro responded the

Department needed 22 additional support staff positions, 32 sworn positions and 20 civilian positions.

Mayor Martin stated she would like to see a phased approach for the Police Department and for the comprehensive plan to include the additional support staff and sworn officers. She expressed the need to address the Department's staffing issues and for it to be considered a City priority.

Vice Mayor Caraballo stated she wished to see 3/5/7- year plans for the Police Department.

City Manager Merejo advised the City was committed to District 5 and the hiring of the 18 new employees for the Fiscal Year 2023/2024.

Acting Chief of Police Del Toro discussed the five strategic initiatives the Department identified and their implementation.

Vice Mayor Caraballo asked about the challenges with the recruitment of experienced officers, to which Acting Chief of Police Del Toro stated that it was necessary to recruit outside of the state. She suggested offering a higher bonus for those officers that have experience.

Councilman Pickett inquired if the Department recruited officers from the local academy, to which Acting Chief of Police Del Toro responded in the affirmative and explained that sometimes the City sponsors folks to go into the academy, but it was a rare occurrence.

Acting Chief of Police Del Toro discussed the improved streamlined hiring process and the recruitment plan for the Department. He announced the formation of a subcommittee to update the Department's outer vests.

Mayor Martin expressed concern over the lack of use of polygraphs for the hiring process; however, Acting Chief of Police Del Toro confirmed they would continue the use of polygraph testing.

Mayor Martin asked about the consulting firm and how it would be used, to which Acting Chief of Police Del Toro stated it would be used for Out-of-State recruitment marketing. She suggested that the Department timelines to their goals.

It was the consensus of the City Council that a Comprehensive Plan including a succession plan, strategic plan, recruitment plan, retention plan, and quarterly updates be provided by the Port St. Lucie Police Department.

6. New Business

6.a Discuss and Provide Direction on Traffic Calming Projects

[2023-195](#)

Proposed for Dalton Circle and Dreyfuss Boulevard.

Frank Knott, Public Works Engineer, provided a PowerPoint Presentation to the City Council regarding the two additional Traffic Calming Projects, Dalton Circle and Dreyfuss Boulevard.

Mayor Martin asked City Manager Merejo if there was \$200,000 to fund these two additional Traffic Calming projects, to which he confirmed he would find the additional funds.

There being no further discussion, Vice Mayor Caraballo moved to approve with the addition of providing an additional \$200,000 in funding to complete the two additional calming projects, Dalton Circle and Dreyfuss Boulevard. Councilwoman Morgan seconded the motion, which passed unanimously by voice vote.

Mr. Knott advised the City Council that there were two Traffic Calming Projects in the queue for next year, Volusia Drive and Whitmore Drive.

Mayor Martin requested that the Traffic Calming delineators located at Community and Tradition Parkway Circle be addressed by Mattamy.

6.b Approve Purchase and Installation of the “Whorl” Sculpture

[2023-433](#)

Proposed by the Texas Based Artist Team RE:site, Made Up of Artists Shane Allbritton and Norman Lee, for the Roundabout at Torino Parkway and Turtle Dove Lane.

Josh Lapp, Certified Planner, Designing Local LTD, provided the City Council with a PowerPoint Presentation regarding the “Whorl” Structure at Torino Parkway and Turtle Dove Lane.

Mayor Martin reiterated the project was funded by the Public Art Fund that was developer funded and not taxpayer funded.

Vice Mayor Caraballo inquired about the height of the “Sail” project and the “Whorl” project as a comparison, to which Mr. Lapp responded he believed the “Sail” project may be higher than the “Whorl” project. She

discussed the base of the project and asked that further research be completed to determine if there was a scaled-down version of the base for the project.

Mayor Martin discussed Roundabout Art being consistent throughout the City.

There being no further discussion, Councilman Pickett moved to approve the “Whorl” Sculpture. Councilman Bonna seconded the motion, which passed unanimously by voice vote.

7. Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:20 AM.

Daisy Ruiz, Deputy City Clerk

Sally Walsh, City Clerk