

City of Port St. Lucie

City Council Workshop

Meeting Minutes

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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Tuesday, January 21, 2025

9:00 AM

Council Chambers, City Hall

Addition of Item 7A

1. Meeting Called to Order

A Workshop of the City Council of the City of Port St. Lucie was called to order by Mayor Martin at 9:01 AM on January 21, 2025, at Port St. Lucie City Hall, 121 SW Port St. Lucie Boulevard, Port St. Lucie, Florida.

2. Roll Call

Council Members Present:
Mayor Shannon M. Martin
Councilwoman Morgan
Councilman Pickett

Council Members not Present:
Vice Mayor Caraballo
Councilman Bonna

3. Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Martin led the assembly in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. Public to be Heard

Mayor Martin opened Public to be Heard.

1. Diane Goldberg, 6470 NW Volucia Drive, spoke to item 5.a and discussed the importance of conservation lands, including anticipated concerns and opportunities.

There being no further comments, Mayor Martin closed Public to be Heard.

5. Special Presentations

5.a Conservation Lands Program Update

[2025-074](#)

Mary Savage-Dunham, Director Planning and Zoning, provided a PowerPoint presentation and update on the Conservation Lands Program. She reviewed the background of the program, showed the location map of the eight City-owned conservation properties, and discussed the status of Torino Park and Westmoreland. Ms. Savage-Dunham spoke to the opportunities in the Commerce Centre North Preserve area, land acquisition, and Peacock parcel. She also explained the opportunity of adding a budget line for conservation management and increasing the mitigation fees for upland habitat removal. Ms. Savage-Dunham concluded her presentation by reviewing Staff's recommendations.

Councilman Pickett inquired about a stormwater retention area, since the location is in an industrial area. Ms. Savage-Dunham stated that Staff could research the pros and cons. Kate Parmelee added that she has been speaking with IRSC regarding a potential partnership but nothing has been solidified.

Councilwoman Morgan asked about the piece of land off Commerce, owned by the PGA Village POA, as it is land locked open space and could be donated to the City. Ms. Savage-Dunham indicated there was a conversation with the PGA Village regarding the wetlands, but as part of the PGA DRI, the POA is responsible for maintaining it. She stated they were currently in conversations with the PGA Village and South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD), because the POA has not been maintaining the area and the SFWMD has been after the City about potential non-compliance. Ms. Savage-Dunham explained the City was currently focusing on the maintenance issue and putting the piece of open space to the side for the moment for leverage.

Councilwoman Morgan suggested forming a partnership with PGA Village, as a trail would be a health benefit to the IRSC students. She also recommended a land swap to eliminate or reduce funding.

Councilwoman Morgan indicated she supported the mitigation fees and having this matter come back to Council for further discussion.

Mayor Martin stated she was for acquiring the properties and spoke to the potential benefits of the Peacock property in partnership with IRSC. She recalled that a question was added to the community survey that asked the residents if they would be in favor of the City spending taxpayer dollars or

other funds on acquiring preservation land or open space recreation land, to which the residents supported. Mayor Martin explained she wanted to stay on that path and noted that some parcels should remain undeveloped. She indicated she was for looking at the mitigation fees/funds and for everything on the list of Staff's recommendations, including the addition of signage for the conservation lands.

City Manager Merejo stated this opportunity gives the City the ability to aggressively move forward and pursue some of these lands.

There being no further discussion, Councilman Pickett moved to approve Staff Recommendations for the Conservation Land Program with Council's comments. Councilwoman Morgan seconded the motion, which passed unanimously by voice vote. (Clerk's Note: Vice Mayor Caraballo and Councilman Bonna were not present at the meeting.)

6. New Business

6.a Mural at the Wall at City Hall Public Art Project

[2024-1130](#)

Mary Savage-Dunham reviewed the status of the public art mural for the wall at City Hall and Staff's requests of Council.

Bethany Grubbs, Planning and Zoning, provided a PowerPoint presentation, discussed the RFQ/RFP process and outlined the timeframe for the call for artists. She explained the first murals were rejected and the artists were provided with additional context packages, more parameters, and helpful links. Ms. Grubbs showed Council the revised mural options and provided the Public Art Advisory Board's/Staff's recommendations.

Councilwoman Morgan stated she was not excited about any of the options, as the birds look like swans and ducks and not cranes. She spoke to the diversity aspect and Port St. Lucie being a City for all. She suggested not using humans in the mural to reduce any negative comments.

Councilman Pickett opined that the murals did not refer to the sandhill crane or "The Heart of the Treasure Coast." He indicated he does not want peoples' faces in the mural, as they almost look cartoonish. Councilman Pickett suggested refreshing the existing mural and adding the City's sandhill crane or logo to it, since the City just went through the rebranding process.

Mayor Martin indicated she did not love the mural options and thought they could rework the current mural. She stated she likes one flowing picture that is not too busy. Mayor Martin explained that the original artist asked

about reworking the mural, but the City was already involved with the current RFP process. She inquired if they could work with the original artist and suggested including local art students. (Clerk's Note: Council was provided with a copy of the proposed City Center mural at this time.)

City Attorney Berrios suggested the Council complete the current process, reject the current options/proposals via motion, and then direct Staff to explore other options, including contacting Mr. Wiley.

Ms. Grubbs indicated that Mr. Willey is an art teacher, has students readily available, and has expressed great interest in restoring the mural. City Manager Merejo noted that the display time or the changing of the mural be clarified going forward. City Attorney Berrios explained that Mr. Wiley's current mural would be encapsulated and placed with the Historical Society, to which Mr. Wiley agreed. Ms. Grubbs indicated the contract has been amended to include "the mural will be installed for at least a minimum of one year."

City Manager Merejo stated there was a suggestion to place the City logo throughout the City and that it would be costly, but this could be a solution. Councilman Pickett suggested putting a mural on the building where it states, "The Port St. Lucie Municipal Complex," to which Council offered some ideas.

There being no further discussion, Councilman Pickett moved to reject the mural options and current Staff Recommendations as presented. Councilwoman Morgan seconded the motion, which passed unanimously by voice vote. (Clerk's Note: Vice Mayor Caraballo and Councilman Bonna were not present at the meeting.)

Councilwoman Morgan liked the idea of refreshing Mr. Wiley's mural and including local art students. Mayor Martin suggested including a crane in the mural.

There being no further discussion, Councilwoman Morgan moved to approve negotiating with Mr. Wiley regarding refreshing/renewing his mural and having the art students of Port St. Lucie participate in the project if possible, as well as incorporating a design that is similar to the City Center parking garage mural on the fake seawall. Councilman Pickett seconded the motion, which passed unanimously by voice vote. (Clerk's Note: Vice Mayor Caraballo and Councilman Bonna were not present at the meeting.)

- 6.b** Discussion Update: Proceeding with the Call to Artists for
City Hall

[2025-078](#)

Bethany Grubbs, Planning and Zoning, stated she did not have a formal presentation, as this would be a conversation to provide direction regarding the Call for Artists for a permanent art piece at City Hall, a budget of up to \$200,000 in public art funds, and the size and scale of the art piece.

Councilwoman Morgan stated she likes the photo of the key at Columbia, Missouri City Hall, but it would be a heart for the City of Port St. Lucie. She also likes the photo of the National City, CA Civic Complex with the different walk-throughs, which would be in the shape of a heart for Port St. Lucie. Councilwoman Morgan shared some information regarding her visit to the Jackson Hole Airport where there is an arch with antlers and suggested a walk-through heart at the Community Center. She indicated she liked the ideas provided by Staff.

Councilman Pickett stated he likes the City Hall in Las Vegas, NV, as they have public art throughout their building and parking garage. He also likes the City Hall in Columbus, IN. He stated he is interested to see what comes back.

Mayor Martin stated the City needs to keep their murals and signage consistent throughout the City Hall campus. She indicated that City Hall belongs to the citizens and she would like that feel when the residents enter City Hall.

There being no further discussion, Councilwoman Morgan moved to approve Proceeding with the Call to Artists for City Hall. Councilman Pickett seconded the motion, which passed unanimously by voice vote. (Clerk's Note: Vice Mayor Caraballo and Councilman Bonna were not present at the meeting.)

6.c Hear an Update on Naturally PSL: Green Spaces and Places Program

[2025-008](#)

Kate Parmelee, Deputy City Manager, and Nikki Zheng, Bloomberg Fellow, provided a PowerPoint presentation and update on the Naturally PSL Green Spaces and Places program, which was resident driven. Ms. Parmelee reviewed the data from the 2023 Citizen Summit and recent National Community Surveys.

Councilwoman Morgan questioned why the residents' satisfaction of green space decreased. Ms. Parmelee explained how the residents are polled and spoke to some of the residents' potential concerns and the City's constraints.

Ms. Parmelee discussed the initiatives of the program and Ms. Zheng spoke to the City's natural areas and parks, ongoing grants and policy efforts, and how to participate in the Naturally PSL movement. Ms. Parmelee also discussed the other actions being brought forward as part of Naturally PSL.

Mayor Martin inquired about the location of the Village Green Drive street festival, to which Ms. Parmelee explained it would be held near the ponds at the Event Center. She noted the Hogpen Slough boardwalk will be located near the industrial area in a few years. City Manager Merejo stated this was an active project and the City needs to consider linking these two projects together.

Ms. Zheng presented the new trail map to Council. She stated it is interactive and located on the City's website where residents can search for trails and parks near them as well as access additional information.

Mayor Martin called on those who wished to speak:

1. Diane Goldberg, 6470 NW Volucia Dr., stated she thought these ideas were wonderful. She indicated she was aware of the local County and State preserves, but not aware of the City preservation locations. She stated the map on the website needs to identify whether the property is a preserve, green space, or hardscape.

Regarding Item 5.a, Ms. Goldberg stated the mitigation fees need to be increased to at least cover the purchase costs, upkeep, and clearing of the land. Ms. Goldberg indicated trees need to be planted in groups of three wherever possible, according to the University of Florida. Ms. Goldberg also provided recommendations on which plants to utilize throughout the City and stated she would be willing to provide more information.

There being no further discussion, Councilwoman Morgan moved to approve Staff's plan for the Naturally PSL Green Spaces and Places program. Councilman Pickett seconded the motion, which passed unanimously by voice vote. (Clerk's Note: Vice Mayor Caraballo and Councilman Bonna were not present at the meeting.)

7. Resolutions

- 7.a** Resolution 25-R05, Approve Resolution of The City of Port St. Lucie, Florida, Designating the City Officials Authorized to Withdraw Funds from the Depository Accounts; Providing for Conflict; Providing for Severability; Providing an Effective Date.

[2025-100](#)

There being no discussion, Councilman Pickett moved to approve Resolution 25-R05, Designating the City Officials Authorized to Withdraw Funds from the Depository Accounts. Councilwoman Morgan seconded the motion, which passed unanimously by voice vote. (Clerk's Note: Vice Mayor Caraballo and Councilman Bonna were not present at the meeting.)

8. Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:33 AM.

Sally Walsh, City Clerk

Traci Mehl, Deputy City Clerk