

# **City of Port St. Lucie**

## **City Council Workshop**

### **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, Sr., Councilman, District III

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**Monday, October 20, 2025**

**9:00 AM**

**Council Chambers, City Hall**

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**1. Meeting Called to Order**

A Regular Meeting of the CITY COUNCIL of the City of Port St. Lucie was called to order by Mayor Martin on October 20, 2025, at 9:01 a.m., at Port St. Lucie City Hall, 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, Sr.

**3. Pledge of Allegiance**

Mayor Martin led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**4. Public to be Heard**

There was no public to be heard.

**5. Special Presentations**

**5.a** Hear Presentation on the Special Events Study and Approve  
Staff Recommendation

**2025-802**

Nan Krushinski, Special Events Director, provided an introduction and discussed multiple accolades of City events.

(Clerk's Note: A PowerPoint presentation was shown at this time.) Jack

Kardys, J Kardys Strategies, LLC, introduced his co-worker Kevin Kerwin, who presented to the Council and discussed the Special Events Study. He discussed the purpose of the study, study methodology, why special events matter, first class Special Events checklist, and challenges. He also provided data for Strategic Survey data, findings & recommendations of City policies & practices, and existing event evaluation.

Vice Mayor Caraballo highlighted that the City currently hosts events that have more than 6,000 attendees, which is more than the new stadium. Councilman Bonna inquired if the premium events were considered a part of the revenue for Freedom Fest in this part of the presentation, to which Assistant City Manager Kristina Ciuperger replied that it was separate from the outside event. It was suggested by Councilman Bonna and Vice Mayor Caraballo to discuss adding the additional revenues to the budget, and Mayor Martin agreed. Ms. Ciuperger stated that in the future, if there was something being held separately but related to the event, they could track the data together and for accounting purposes, they'll have the numbers from both ends and report it together. Mr. Kardys noted that within their recommendations, the pre-event planning and the post-event reports will account for this.

Mr. Kardys continued the presentation and discussed revenue & cost recovery, non-profit partnership cost recovery, benchmark considerations, non-profit benchmarks & strategies for transitions, and non-profit's contract reviews. Councilman Pickett stated that they already had a contract with a third-party vendor and inquired if they had to use this vendor, to which Ms. Krushinski responded in the negative, noting that it was strictly for inside, and that they had offered the vendors to come outside, but the vendors wanted to charge the City to serve outside.

Mr. Kardys continued the presentation and discussed a Cost Recovery Policy, case study for soliciting partners, Florida Festival & Events Association (FFEA) benchmarking, curating vendors at large events, and potential revenue enhancements. Vice Mayor Caraballo inquired if the City should already have potential revenue enhancements in place considering their size, to which Mr. Kardys responded in the affirmative. Mayor Martin suggested enhancing the events if the City was going to start charging fees.

Mr. Kardys discussed economic development and capital considerations. He then discussed 6 recommendations: empowering the Special Events Department, adopting the best practices approach, improving cost recovery, focusing on economic development, exceeding customer expectations, and enhancing event venues.

Mayor Martin inquired as to how long a Special Events Master Plan would take, to which Ms. Krushinski replied that it would take approximately 4 to 6 months. Ms. Ciuperger added that they had already spoken to Mr. Kardys and Carlos Perez, of whom had already done a lot of the initial work that comes from the Parks & Recreation Master Plan, so that would reduce the amount of time it would take to do one of the Special Events. Mayor Martin inquired if the Master Plan would need to be in effect before they had discussions on what things would look like, to which Ms. Ciuperger responded in the affirmative.

Vice Mayor Caraballo inquired if it would be a 5-year or a 10-year Master Plan, to which Ms. Krushinski replied that they had mainly talked about a 5-year, but some aspects would have a 10-year. Mayor Martin suggested blending events together for a better Return on Investment (ROI), to which Ms. Krushinski replied that this would be the goal, and it should be sooner rather than later.

Mayor Martin recommended that when Special Events comes back with the Master Plan, they discuss what has already been implemented based on what is approved today so they can have a better understanding of what's been in process versus what needs to happen going forward.

Vice Mayor Caraballo recommended that the capabilities of each event space be clear in the Master Plan so that they can put out Requests for Proposals (RFPs) for private companies to host smaller events. She stated that she did not want to get rid of ideas but rather pass them along to someone that could perform them better than government can.

Councilman Pickett stated that he was in favor of turning over a few of the signature larger events to a third party so they could charge for people to come, and then the City will assist with the smaller events.

Councilman Bonna accepted this report, and he stated that if the event was the same location back-to-back on the same venue it should be considered as one event. He suggested having information on the premium data from the Freedom Fest/MidFlorida Event, and he also stated that he was in favor of curating vendors, but that they needed to ensure that by doing this they do not lose the community vendors. Regarding increased revenue, he was in favor of getting food & beverage deals for the City and Premium VIP packages, but he wanted to look more into parking because it might not be worth the capital. He also noted that they needed guardrails for Council to give feedback on the events, and that they should consider umbrella insurance policy for the vendors.

Mayor Martin & Vice Mayor Caraballo agreed with ensuring that the RFP includes the local community, and Vice Mayor Caraballo stated that when they build the garage, they need to look at opportunities for open-space parking.

Councilwoman Morgan agreed with the Council Member's statements, and she noted that some of the information was already available at the Tourist Development Council, so the City should partner with them. She also suggested partnering with the St. Lucie Mets Stadium for events.

There being no further discussion, Councilman Pickett moved to approve the Special Events report and authorize the City Manager & Special Events Division to implement recommendation considerations. Vice Mayor Caraballo seconded the motion, which passed unanimously by voice vote.

## 6. New Business

### 6.a Update on the Aquatic Vegetation Maintenance Program

[2025-1004](#)

(Clerk's Note: A PowerPoint presentation was shown at this time.) John Dunton, Public Works Deputy Director, presented to the Council. (Clerk's Note: A video was played at this time.) Mr. Dunton discussed Public Works maintenance, history of the aquatics program, 3 sections of the Aquatics Program, herbicide use & pest management, herbicide safety & regulations, IPM treatment options, chemical control & managing invasive plants, and mechanical control (use of equipment). He also discussed the pros and challenges of physical plant removal, biological control (grass carps), research of aquatic programs throughout the state, maintenance, and moving forward. He also noted that pesticide spray is rarely used, and pesticides are not usually the one that kills fish first, it's usually oxygen levels. He also stated that test results were coming that week but recommends a new presentation to be able to talk about it, to which Council agreed.

Vice Mayor Caraballo stated that she does not question if the herbicides used are safe or unsafe and reiterated that the oxygen levels were to blame for the Fishkill. She also recommended looking at a complete canal and stormwater system to identify what could be done to complete the stormwater project.

Councilman Pickett inquired if there were any canals identified that have been ready for piping, to which Mr. Dunton replied that they did an inspection of all canal systems in 2023 and found that there were several canals identified, but nothing put together for cost association because the canals haven't failed yet.

Councilman Bonna emphasized that herbicides should only be used when necessary and the research on the cancerous effects should be followed closely, and Vice Mayor Caraballo and Mayor Martin expressed agreement.

The meeting recessed at 10:45 a.m., and resumed at 12:23 p.m.

**6.b** St. Lucie County Transportation Planning Organization (TPO)

[2025-1005](#)

Project Prioritization

(Clerk's Note: A PowerPoint presentation was shown at this time.) Colt Schwerdt, Public Works Director, stated that the Transportation & Planning Organization (TPO) had been working on their Long-range Transportation Plan and wanted to know the top 10 priority projects for each municipality. He exhibited a map of 13 projects that they believe to be beneficial. Mayor Martin inquired if Savona Blvd would be a Half-Cent Sales Tax project in the future, to which Mr. Schwerdt replied that there was not one source of funding for all projects, as they could utilize funding from various sources as need be. He also noted that by adding projects to the TPO, they have the potential to get grant funding which would maximize the funding sources.

Councilwoman Morgan expressed concerns for Range Line Rd and Glades Cutoff Rd needing repairs, and she and Mayor Martin discussed that the County had not made repairs to any roads after they've requested it for many years.

Councilman Pickett stated that he would like to see the California Blvd project moved up on the list, as well as doing a study to elevate Walton Rd, to which Mayor Martin stated that they needed to keep pressing the County for Walton Rd to be done. Mr. Schwerdt clarified if they would like Glades Cut-Off Rd included on the list, to which the Council responded in the affirmative.

Vice Mayor Caraballo stated that she would like TPO to have a conversation about obtaining the funding and how the current County Commission feels about phasing Walton Rd. She also agreed that they needed the County's help with St. James. Mr. Schwerdt noted that there was an old Interlocal Agreement that they were starting to look at the terms for. Vice Mayor Caraballo also added that there should be future conversations regarding roads with potholes, to which Mr. Schwerdt stated that there would be a Payment Plan update coming to Council soon, and they were also waiting for appropriate weather for some repairs.

Mr. Schwerdt noted that there was a visual error for Project #3 that would be revised to show it going down Savage Blvd.

There being no further discussion, Vice Mayor Caraballo moved to approve the Project Prioritization List with the inclusion of Glades Cutoff Rd. Councilman Pickett seconded the motion, which passed unanimously by voice vote.

**6.c** Recap of Half-Cent Sales Tax Projects from 2019 through 2025. Proposed Sales Tax Extension Project List [2025-1003](#)

It was the consensus of the Council to move this item to the October 27, 2025 meeting.

It was the consensus of the Council to hold a discussion at the next Council Workshop regarding the January 14th Joint City/County meeting. Mayor Martin suggested having a map, and Councilman Pickett suggested altering the meeting, so it was not only a PowerPoint presentation.

7. Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:41 p.m.

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Sally Walsh, City Clerk

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Jasmin De Freese, Deputy City Clerk