

City of Port St. Lucie

Special City Council

Meeting Minutes

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

Please visit www.cityofpsl.com/tv for new public comment options as a result of COVID-19.

NOTICE: INDIVIDUALS ARE SUBJECT TO MEDICAL SCREENING PRIOR TO ENTERING ANY CITY BUILDING AND ENTRY MAY BE DENIED IF ANY INDICATOR OF ILLNESS OR PRIOR EXPOSURE IS IDENTIFIED.

Monday, September 14, 2020

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 Mayor Oravec on September 14, 2020 at 6:33 PM, 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
Councilwoman Stephanie Morgan (Virtual)

Council Members

Not Present: Councilman John Carvelli

3. Pledge of Allegiance

The City Clerk gave the Invocation, and Mayor Oravec 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 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.

[2020-653](#)

The City Clerk read Ordinance 20-49 aloud by title only and Mayor Oravec opened the Public Hearing.

Jeff Snyder, CFO, gave a presentation and stated that they were proposing to increase staffing by 27 FTE's, which brought the total number of FTE's to 1,173. He stated that they were asking for a total budget of \$533,900,434, which increased by \$84 million in capital. Mr. Snyder stated that they were also recommending a decrease in the aggregated millage at .1735.

Mr. Snyder explained the objectives achieved, which included ensuring that each municipal service was properly staffed to function in an efficient and pro-active manner, focusing on the City Council's long-term Strategic Plan, reducing operating millage rate and debt service millage, including Half-Cent Sales Tax projects and addressing the top twenty-four City Council priorities.

Mr. Snyder stated that the desired outcomes included the Council formally adopting the millage rate ordinance, which represented a 0.1735 reduction over last year, formally adopt the operating budget ordinance for Fiscal Year (FY) 2020-21 and formally adopt the Capital Improvement Program resolution for FY 2020-21. Mr. Snyder stated that changes would not be requested for the Street Lighting Fee, Permit & Inspection Fees or Solid Waste Fees.

Mr. Snyder stated that they were increasing the General Fund Budget by \$13.7 million and that a majority of the increase was accelerating Port St. Lucie Boulevard South. He stated that they were reducing the operating millage by \$268 thousand. Mayor Oravec clarified that they were loaning the State the money to complete Port St. Lucie Boulevard South, to which Mr. Snyder responded in the affirmative and stated that once they get the funds back, they can accelerate the next program. Mr. Snyder stated that they were adding staff due to demand for high quality services, which included 4 Officers for Neighborhood Policing Bureau, 1 Traffic Sergeant, 1 Traffic Sergeant (Gang's Grant) 3 Detectives (Gang's Grant), 1 Grant/Budget Analyst, 1 Police Aide, 1 Office Manager (Parks and Recreation), 1 Security Technician (IT), 1

Code Compliance Specialist and 1 Code Compliance Specialist/Solid Waste Specialist. Mayor Oravec asked if there were any deviations from the Retreat, to which Mr. Snyder responded in the negative. Councilwoman Caraballo pointed out that most of the positions were for the Police Department, except for the 2 Code Officers and 1 IT Officer.

Mr. Snyder stated that the Building Fund was increasing by \$1.2 million with no increase in fees and adding five new employees, including 1 Building Plans Examiner, 2 Building Inspectors, 1 Building Chief Plans Examiner and 1 Office Assistant. Mayor Oravec inquired as to if the Building Fund could be used to build a park or pay for the Police Officers, to which Mr. Snyder responded in the negative and explained that it was dedicated revenue for the Building Department.

Mr. Snyder stated that the Utility Systems Fund was increasing by \$11.3 million with no increase in water or sewer rates and adding ten new employees to help keep up with growth, which includes 2 Maintenance Workers, 1 Cross Connection Technician, 1 Assistant Safety & Training Coordinator, 1 Preventive Maintenance Technician, 1 Compliance Coordinator, 1 Inspector, 2 Water Meter Technicians and 1 Construction Coordinator. Mr. Snyder stated that the Stormwater Fund was decreased from the current year to \$4.6 million, which related to CIP Projects and that no additional staff was needed.

Mr. Snyder stated that the Capital Project Fund was \$107 million, which included Stormwater CIP Projects and that the major projects changed from year to year. He explained that the Road and Bridge Projects were \$19.6 million more while Utility CIP projects were \$39.3 million more in FY 2020-21 than current year. Mr. Snyder stated that there was an Aggressive Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) as growth required additional infrastructure and that the CIP was projected to cost \$279,527,871 million over the next five-year planning horizon. Mr. Snyder presented the major Capital Projects, which included Floresta Drive, SW Port St. Lucie Boulevard, street resurfacing, upgrade Westport Wastewater Plant, The Port, new sidewalk construction, and the Adventure Park.

Mr. Snyder presented the required TRIM public announcements and stated that the name of the Taxing Authority is City of Port St. Lucie. The rolled-back rate is 4.7546 mills and that the Rolled Back Rate was the millage rate that 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). He stated that the percentage of increase over the rolled-back rate is 4.77%, the operating millage to be levied was 4.9812 mills, and that the voted debt service millage was 0.9193 mills.

Mr. Snyder stated that staff recommended that the City Council adopt the Millage Rate Ordinance operating 4.9812, which was a 0.0735 reduction over the current year rate of 5.0547 and a Debt Service Millage of 0.9193, which was less than the current year by .1000, adopt the Budget Ordinance for FY 2020-21 - appropriating \$533,900,434 and adopt the Capital Improvement Program Resolution for FY 2020-21.

Rafael Vallejo spoke against Item 5 a). and stated that the taxes were already too high for retired residents, to which Mayor Oravec explained that the City was only responsible for two line items on the TRIM Notice. Mayor Oravec requested that the City Manager give an overview of the tax bill and explain the different taxing authorities at budget discussions. Mayor Oravec explained the different taxing authorities and offered to meet with Mr. Vallejo to go over his TRIM notice.

Trevor Miller spoke against Item 5 a) and stated that the taxes should not be increased during a pandemic. He also suggested sending correspondence by mail instead of online. Mayor Oravec reiterated that the City only had two line items on the tax bill and informed Mr. Miller that his taxes for the City would decrease by \$70.65.

Mayor Oravec closed the public hearing and stated that he was in favor of rounding 0.0735 mills to 0.074 mills, to which Councilwoman Morgan agreed. Under discussion, Vice Mayor Martin explained that taxes increased, as property values increased. Vice Mayor Martin moved to set the operating millage to 4.9807 and the Port St. Lucie voted debt to .9193 for a total ad valorem millage of 5.9000. Councilwoman Caraballo seconded the motion. The City Clerk restated the motion as follows: set the operating millage to 4.9807 and the Port St. Lucie voted debt to .9193 for a total ad valorem millage of 5.9000. 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 Effective Date.

[2020-678](#)

The City Clerk read Ordinance 20-50 aloud by title only and Mayor Oravec opened the Public Hearing.

Mayor Oravec requested that the previous presentation from 5 a). be entered into the record for item 5 b).

There being no additional discussion, the public hearing was closed. Councilwoman Caraballo moved to approve Ordinance 20-50, pursuant to the adopted millage rate adjustment. Councilwoman Morgan seconded the motion. The City Clerk restated the motion as follows: to approve Ordinance 20-50, pursuant to the adopted millage rate adjustment. The motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

6. Resolution, Public Hearing

- 6.a** Resolution 20-R99, Public Hearing, Adopting the Capital Improvement Program for the City of Port St. Lucie for The Fiscal Year (FY) October 1, 2020 to September 30, 2021; Providing an Effective Date.

[2020-679](#)

The City Clerk read Resolution 20-R99 aloud by title only and Mayor Oravec opened the Public Hearing.

Mayor Oravec stated that there was a capital budget presentation, as part of the budget presentation. The City Manager explained that the total CIP was \$107 million, which included all funds and stated that staff recommended approval of the CIP.

There being no additional discussion, Mayor Oravec closed the public hearing. Councilwoman Morgan moved to approve Resolution 20-R99. Councilwoman Caraballo seconded the motion. The City Clerk restated the motion as follows: to approve Resolution 20-R99. The motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

7. Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Karen A. Phillips, City Clerk

Calleigh N. Myers, Deputy City Clerk