

# City of Port St. Lucie

## Special City Council

### Meeting Minutes - Draft

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, September 11, 2023**

**6:00 PM**

**Council Chambers, City Hall**

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#### **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 Martin on September 11, 2023 at 6:00 p.m., at Port St. Lucie City Hall, 121 SW Port St. Lucie Boulevard, Port St. Lucie, Florida & Zoom.

2. Roll Call

Council Members  
Present:

Mayor Shannon Martin  
Vice Mayor Jolien Caraballo  
Councilman Dave Pickett  
Councilwoman Stephanie Morgan  
Councilman Anthony Bonna

3. Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Martin 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

**5.a** Ordinance 23-55, Public Hearing, An Ordinance Adopting the  
Ad Valorem Millage Rate for the Fiscal Year (FY) October 1,  
2023 to September 30, 2024; Providing an Effective Date.

**[2023-755](#)**

The City Clerk read Ordinance 23-55 aloud by title only.

(Clerk's Note: A PowerPoint was shown at this time.) Caroline Sturgis, Office of Management and Budget Director requested that the City Council adopt the millage rate ordinance operating at 4.7057 which is a 0.0250 reduction and a Debt Service Millage of 0.4943 which is 0.0750 less than the current year, adopt the Budget Ordinance for FY23-24 appropriating \$709,326,449 and adopt the Capital Improvement Program Resolution for FY23-24. She explained the impact of millage reduction on City taxes for homes with a Homestead Exemption. She explained the different tax authorities listed on the tax bill and added that two were controlled by the City Council or 22% of the bill.

Mayor Martin opened the Public Hearing. Blake Angle spoke regarding the millage rate and spoke in opposition of the ordinance.

Billy Gilbert spoke in opposition of the ordinance.

Thomas Jean-Baptiste spoke about high taxes and spoke in opposition of the ordinance.

Tiffany Williams spoke about high taxes and questioned the changes to account for higher taxes.

Ryan Mock spoke about high taxes and trash service.

Rosemary Jean spoke about high taxes.

Robert Vera spoke about high taxes, trash service and street lights.

Happy Miller spoke about trash service.

Loren Careri spoke about high taxes & assessments.

John Keck spoke about trash service.

Nancy Healy spoke about trash service & charges.

Alice Jones spoke about high taxes and assessments.

Dave Cortes spoke about trash service.

Karen Rivas stated that if taxes were increased there needed to be more amenities for families and children in the area.

Manny Chapman spoke regarding trash service and spoke against the higher assessments.

Mayor Martin closed the Public Hearing. The City Council thanked the public for attending the meeting and responded to the questions/concerns that were raised. Council explained that they were lowering the milage rate while maintaining high levels of service. They explained the difference between the 16 line item tax bill (County, School District, Fire, etc.), the value assessed by the Property Appraiser Office & the issues that the City had with Waste Pro.

Councilman Pickett moved to approve Ordinance 23-55. Councilman Bonna seconded the motion, which passed unanimously by voice vote.

- 5.b** Ordinance 23-54, Public Hearing, An Ordinance Adopting the Budget Ordinance for the Fiscal Year (FY) October 1, 2023 to September 30, 2024; Providing an Effective Date.

[2023-756](#)

The City Clerk read Ordinance 23-55 aloud by title only.

Mayor Martin opened the Public Hearing. Blake Angle spoke on the tax bill, the budget, and the City's Police Department. Thomas Jean-Baptiste spoke about property tax and property owners' responsibilities.

Ray Gencsy spoke about stormwater & issues with her swale, crime and garbage. Vice Mayor Caraballo requested that staff contact Ms. Gencsy regarding the basin.

Ryan Mock spoke about the difference in tax rates between residents and better amenities in the parks.

Cecile Renna spoke about thinking differently for the future with regard to increases and growth.

Laverne Williams spoke about the increase in taxes as well as the garbage service.

Mayor Martin closed the Public Hearing. The City Council responded to the residents' questions and concerns. They differentiated between the City and County responsibilities, explained the job corridor & the tax abatement.

Councilman Bonna moved to approve Ordinance 23-54. Vice Mayor

Caraballo seconded the motion, which passed unanimously by voice vote.

6. Resolutions

- 6.a** Resolution 23-R89, Public Hearing, Adopting the Capital [2023-757](#)  
Improvement Program for the City of Port St. Lucie for the  
Fiscal Year (FY) October 1, 2023 to September 30, 2024;  
Providing an Effective Date.

The City Clerk read Resolution 23-R89 aloud by title only.

Mayor Martin opened the Public Hearing, there being no one to speak, she closed the Public Hearing.

Councilman Pickett moved to approve Resolution 23-R89. Councilwoman Morgan seconded the motion, which passed unanimously by voice vote.

7. Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

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Sally Walsh, City Clerk

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Shanna Donleavy, Deputy City Clerk