

# **City of Port St. Lucie**

## **City Council Workshop**

### **Meeting Minutes - Final**

121 SW Port St. Lucie  
Bld.  
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, May 19, 2025**      **9:00 AM**      **Council Chambers, City Hall**

## 1. Meeting Called to Order

A Workshop Meeting of the CITY COUNCIL of the City of Port St. Lucie was called to order by Mayor Martin on May 19, 2025, at 9:00 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

Councilman Anthony Bonna

Councilwoman Stephanie Morgan

#### Council Members Not Present:

Councilman Dave Pickett

### 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. New Business

**5.a** Tentatively Approve the Proposed Capital Improvement Program for Fiscal Years 2026-2030.

2025-351

Teresa Lamar-Sarno, Chief Assistant City Manager, explained that the CIP needed to serve the residents and future generations. She stated that

there were 140 projects within the CIP over the next five years. She introduced Caroline Sturgis, Office of Management and Budget Director.

(Clerk's Note: A PowerPoint was shown at this time.) Ms. Sturgis gave an overview of the Capital Budget Process, the proposed Capital projects & funding recommendations along with Council priorities. Mayor Martin inquired as to why the City was funding a gazebo for the Botanical Gardens, to which Brad Keen, Parks & Recreation Director, replied that it was part of the original concept plan for the gardens and was scheduled under Year 3 of the CIP. He explained that the City had paid for other amenities within the City, to which Vice Mayor Caraballo replied that fiscal changes may need to be made to ensure that 501(c)(3)'s are self-sustaining and not utilizing City funds. She added that some amenities may be needed to preserve the property as the Gardens leased the property from the City. The direction of the City Council was to have the Legal Department discuss the Charter and older Resolutions pertaining to 501(c)(3)'s future expenditures at a Workshop meeting. Councilman Bonna inquired if the renovations were needed at the MidFlorida Event Center as changes were coming to the area, to which David Stonehouse, MidFlorida Event Center Acting Director, replied that the ballrooms & gallery would not be altered during the expansion and added that the lighting/tiles in the rooms had to be replaced. The City Council and staff discussed proposed legislative changes to CRA funding. Ms. Sturgis informed the City Council that staff would closely watch the proposed State Legislative changes and would advance certain projects. The City Council and staff discussed sponsorship & donation policies. Kristina Ciuperger, Assistant City Manager, informed the City Council that she would provide the Superlative Group's report. The City Council requested that discussions on the MidFlorida Event Center expansion projects and sponsorship & donation policies take place at a future Workshop Meeting. Jennifer Davis, CRA Director, stated that certain agreements and legal documents for Project Duvet were cumbersome; staff was hoping to bring something forward in mid-July. Mayor Martin urged staff to prepare shovel ready projects to be ready for funding under commercial papers. The City Council requested a Special Workshop update on Mobility Plan projects along with their revenue source. Stephen Okiye, Finance Director, informed the City Council that the projects were identified but most projects had been covered with the reserves carry-over. Assistant City Manager Ciuperger stated that she would share the half-cent sales tax results with the City Council and added that staff was working with the partners (St. Lucie County, Fort Pierce, etc.) regarding communication to the public. Vice Mayor Caraballo suggested that staff have a five-year strategy as well as a ten-year strategy.

The City Attorney stated that staff were waiting on the gas tax agreement but he believed that the County would be passing the gas tax tomorrow at a Public Hearing. Councilwoman Morgan inquired about the preemption lights under traffic signalization & Mayor Martin inquired if they would be completed under bond financing, to which Colt Schwerdt, Public Works Director, replied that it was not under bond financing. He explained DOJ policy which required pedestrian signalization. The City Council requested that the 111 light signalization projects (\$12.8 million) be bonded out as it was a life safety issue. Councilwoman Morgan requested a follow-up on the Public Works Thornhill site to ensure it would not be impacted by the new Turnpike interchanges. Mayor Martin & Vice Mayor Caraballo inquired what the U.S. Submarine Veterans Park on-street parking was, to which Tom Salvador, CIP & Sales Tax Project Group Manager, replied that the project was brought forward by Neighborhood Services since the park was heavily utilized & needed more parking. He added that it was a place holder as staff was reviewing the corridor for parking expansions. Mr. Schwerdt described the stormwater projects that would be included in the Half-Cent Sales Tax. Vice Mayor Caraballo stated that it may be helpful to have a slide at the Retreat to show the inflation costs of infrastructure over the last 50 years. The City Council and staff discussed the golf course and it becoming a full self-sustaining enterprise fund. Mr. Keen discussed the modest modifications made to the course and restaurant.

Vice Mayor Caraballo stated that at the upcoming Summer Workshop she would like a discussion on designing Oak Hammock Park with any funds left over. Vice Mayor Caraballo and staff discussed the concession stand at Jessica Clinton Park. Mr. Keen stated that he offered usage of Tradition Regional Park to the softball league, but he did not have any formal acceptance. Vice Mayor Caraballo suggested moving recognized users to Tradition Regional Park and open Jessica Clinton Park to the public. Mr. Keen suggested that the \$1 million from the concession stand be moved to a drainage project at the Jessica Clinton Park baseball fields. Mayor Martin stressed that staff needed to get ahead and design projects to be shovel ready, to which Mr. Schwerdt replied that big projects were in the design phase, but it was a long process.

Vice Mayor Caraballo moved to tentatively approve the Proposed Capital Improvement Program for Fiscal Years 2026-2030. Councilwoman Morgan seconded the motion, which passed unanimously by voice vote.

Councilwoman Morgan moved to tentatively approve Fiscal Years 2025-2026 Proposed Capital Budget. Vice Mayor Caraballo seconded the motion, which passed unanimously by voice vote.

6. Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:01 a.m.

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Sally Walsh, City Clerk

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Shanna Donleavy, Deputy City Clerk