

# City of Port St. Lucie

## Special City Council

### 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, Councilman, District III

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**Monday, September 19, 2022**

**9:30 AM**

**Council Chambers, City Hall**

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**1. Meeting Called to Order**

A Special and Virtual Meeting of the City Council of the City of Port St. Lucie was called to order by Mayor Martin on September 19, 2022, at 9:29AM, at Port St. Lucie City Hall, Council Chambers, 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 (via Zoom)

**3. Pledge of Allegiance**

The Assistant City Clerk delivered the Invocation, and Mayor Martin led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**4. Public to be Heard**

No one from the public signed up to speak under this Item.

**5. Proclamations and Special Presentations**

No one from the public signed up to speak under this item.

- 5.a** A Presentation to the City Council of the City of Port St. Lucie  
Regarding Support for Small Business Programs Provided by

[2022-748](http://www.cityofpsl.com/tv)

the Office of Economic Development, the St. Lucie Chamber of Commerce, the Florida Small Business Development Center, and the U.S. Department of Commerce Minority Business Development Agency Business Center.

Elijah Wooten, Economic Development Administrator, provided an overview to the Council of the support small business programs events provided by the Office of Economic Development. (Clerk's Note: A PowerPoint Presentation was shown at this time.)

Terissa Aronson, President of the St. Lucie County Chamber of Commerce, provided an overview to the Council regarding the small businesses they have assisted. (Clerk's Note: A PowerPoint Presentation was shown at this time.)

Tom Kendrick, Florida Small Business Development Center at Indian River State College, provided an overview to the Council regarding the center's community outreach programs. (Clerk's Note: A PowerPoint Presentation was shown at this time.)

Star Chambers, Business Development Specialist for the Minority Business Development Agency, presented an overview to the Council regarding their minority business programs. (Clerk's Note: A PowerPoint Presentation was shown at this time.)

- 5.b** Hear the Port St. Lucie Boulevard South Corridor Planning Study Findings and Provide Recommendation.

[2022-783](#)

(Clerk's Note: This item was heard after Item 5c.)

Dr. Kim Delaney, Director of Strategic Development and Policy for the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council, provided the Council with an overview of the Port St. Lucie Boulevard South Corridor Planning Study results. (Clerk's Note: A PowerPoint Presentation was shown at this time.) She discussed the corridor's maximization of infrastructure, improvement of safety, access, and mobility, enhancing the corridor's aesthetics and air quality and support of infill and redevelopment.

Councilwoman Morgan suggested working with the school board to remove school bus stops away from Port St. Lucie Boulevard and other arterials.

Vice Mayor Caraballo suggested updating the lighting throughout the corridor.

Mayor Martin expressed support for high performing public space featured in the presentation and the high performing stormwater locations; however, she voiced it would be difficult to force homeowners to plant a tree in their front yard for the sake of the corridor.

Mayor Martin requested she receive a list of city-owned parcels on or around the corridor, have visuals of those parcels and incorporate high performing stormwater areas to have the Council come up with a plan to address the areas to elevate the corridor. She requested that the information be provided at a future meeting.

Dr. Delaney thanked the Council for their direction and indicated there would be a future report presented to them in the next couple of months.

A recess was called at 10:54 AM, and the meeting resumed at 11:10 AM.

- 5.c** The City of Port St. Lucie Public Works Department Earns 6th Re-accreditation by the American Public Works Association (APWA) [2022-822](#)

(Clerk's Note: This Item was heard after Item 5a.)

Michael Enot, Assistant Public Works Director, introduced Mr. Robert Garland, Professional Engineer, APWA Director for Region 4.

Mr. Garland recognized the City of Port St. Lucie Public Works Department in their 6th year Re-Accreditation. (Clerk's Note: Photographs were taken at this time.)

- 5.d** Hear an Investment Review Regarding the City's Investment Portfolio. [2022-818](#)

(Clerk's Note: This Item was heard after Item 7.a.)

Karen Russell, Finance Investment Manager, provided an overview of the City's investment Portfolio. (Clerk's Note: A PowerPoint Presentation was shown at this time.) She discussed the unemployment rates and the current CPI. Ms. Russell spoke regarding the City's portfolio diversification and portfolio management.

- 5.e** Provide Review of the City's Debt Portfolio. [2022-821](#)

Stephen Okiye, Finance Director, provided a short overview of the

City's Debt Portfolio. (Clerk's Note: A PowerPoint Presentation was shown at this time.) He discussed the City's debt policy, major reasons for debt issuance and the City's population growth. Director Okiye discussed bond ratings for fiscal year 2021 and the bond refunding for fiscal year 2022. He discussed the various bond types and the debt roll forward for fiscal year 2022.

**6. First Reading of Ordinances**

- 6.a** Ordinance 22-87, Amending the City's Mobility Plan and Mobility Fee and Providing for an Update to the Technical Report.

[2022-781](#)

The Assistant City Clerk read Ordinance 22-87 aloud by title only.

City Manager Blackburn introduced the ordinance to the City Council and advised it would be up to the Council to hear the presentation today or during the second reading on September 26, 2022 Regular City Council Meeting.

City Manager Blackburn stated the City has met with the developers several times; however, he explained that not everyone was happy with the conversations had especially as it related to credits. He reported the final version of ordinance was published on Friday afternoon and possibly not everyone had the time to read the final version. City Manager Blackburn explained that even after the 26th of September they will continue to work on a revision to the 2nd phase of the mobility ordinance.

Mayor Martin stated it would be difficult to have everyone in agreeance but appreciated the fact that everyone had been met with. She stated she will continue to support what was in the best interest of the City of Port St. Lucie. She agreed to have the presentation during the second reading on September 26th, 2022.

Mary Savage-Dunham, Planning and Zoning Director, indicated Jonathan Paul responded to the several correspondences the City received over the weekend. She expressed this was a very complex matter and they will continue to meet with all interested parties as they move forward.

Vice Mayor Caraballo asked if it would be possible to have the responses from Mr. Paul forwarded to her to be able to understand the consultant's position.

Vice Mayor Caraballo moved to approve Ordinance 22-87. Councilman Pickett seconded the motion, which passed unanimously by voice vote.

(Clerk's Note: Mayor Martin held a brief discussion regarding Tradition Regional Park after Item 6.a)

Mayor Martin spoke regarding Tradition Regional Park and clarified it was a City park. She stated she recently found out the park is being marketed with a nickname "As We Grow Park". Mayor Martin stated that while the City was working in conjunction with the developer, a final agreement had not yet been finalized. She advised that it continued to be a City park and it does not belong to a developer. Mayor Martin stated she did not appreciate the naming or nicknaming of the park. She also expressed concern over the park signs located in Tradition that do not include a City logo in them. Mayor Martin asked that the developers be reminded that the naming of parks without the Council approval or a final agreement was unfair and inappropriate.

Vice Mayor Caraballo indicated she was not aware of these actions from the developer and asked that the City Manager brief her on the matter. She inquired on the amount of money that was being contributed by the developer, to which the City Manager indicated it was somewhere between 4 to 7 million dollars.

Mayor Martin stated she would forward the marketing information she received to the City Manager and City Attorney. She expressed disappointment and that she had previously had a conversation with the developer regarding this subject matter and was advised they were an oversight.

Vice Mayor Caraballo expressed the developer has been a great partner to the City; however, the City's contribution will be greater than their contribution. She clarified the park will be maintained with City taxpayer funds and City employees. Vice Mayor Caraballo stated the park would be a City park in perpetuity and will belong to all taxpaying residents. She stated she hoped that the developer ensures that this does not occur again.

Mayor Martin asked the City Manager to please have a discussion with the developer. City Manager Blackburn stated he had not been previewed to the marketing information.

**7. New Business**

- 7.a** Hear a Request from The Iraq and Afghanistan War Memorial Foundation regarding a Proposed Memorial

[2022-815](#)

(Clerk's Note: This Item was discussed after Item 5.b.)

Brad Keen, Assistant Director, Parks and Recreation Department, introduced the item to City Council and advised the Founder of the Iraq and Afghanistan War Memorial Foundation, Steve Udovich would be presenting the request to Council.

Steve Udovich advised he was a resident of Dunedin, Florida and that his idea started in 2013. He presented the request for a monument to honor Floridians who served in the Iraq and Afghanistan Wars. (Clerk's Note: A PowerPoint Presentation was shown at this time.) Mr. Udovich provided an overview of the design and the anticipated location for the memorial.

Mayor Martin inquired if there was adequate spacing for this new memorial at Veteran's Memorial Park, to which Assistant Director Keen responded in the affirmative and explained there were two sites that may also accommodate the memorial. He cautioned the park was filling up with monuments.

Councilman Pickett asked if it was appropriate for the City to bear the financial responsibility for the base of the monument, to which Assistant Keen advised the City did not pay for the base of the monument for the Gold Star; however, he indicated the City helped pay for the base for the World War II Memorial and Purple Heart.

Vice Mayor Caraballo inquired if the City built the foundation, to which City Manager Russ Blackburn answered in the affirmative. Assistant Director Keen also confirmed the City provided the foundation for the public art located at the Botanical Garden.

Martin Motherway, 2nd Vice of American Legion Post 318, spoke in support of the Iraq and Afghanistan War Memorial monument.

Karen Zook, Mother of fallen Marine Corporal Ian Thomas Zook, spoke in support of the Iraq and Afghanistan War Memorial monument.

Clay Schumann, Father of fallen US Army Specialist Jordan

Christopher Schumann, spoke in support of the Iraq and Afghanistan War Memorial monument.

Wayne Keygarden, Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter #566, spoke in support of the Iraq and Afghanistan War Memorial monument.

Mike Kipper, President of the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter #566, spoke in support of the Iraq and Afghanistan War Memorial monument.

Jose Capellan, St. Lucie County Veteran's Services Officer, spoke in support of the Iraq and Afghanistan War Memorial monument.

The City Council thanked Mr. Udovich and those present in support and expressed support for the request.

Mayor Martin requested that Mr. Blackburn provide Staff support to help look for the perfect location and provide a cost estimate to the Council for the monument foundation.

Councilman Pickett thanked those present in support of the monument and moved to approve the request from The Iraq and Afghanistan War Memorial Foundation Memorial to be placed at the Veteran's Memorial Park. Vice Mayor Caraballo seconded the motion, which passed unanimously by voice vote.

**8. Adjourn**

(This Item was heard after Item 6.a.)

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:28 PM.

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Bryan Pankhurst, Assistant City Clerk

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Daisy Ruiz, Deputy City Clerk