

# City of Port St. Lucie

## Special City Council

### Meeting Minutes

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, October 16, 2023**

**9:30 AM**

**Council Chambers, City Hall**

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**\*Request to Table Item 6c\***

1. Meeting Called to Order

A Special Meeting of the CITY COUNCIL of the City of Port St. Lucie was called to order by Mayor Martin on October 16, 2023, at 9:32 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

3. Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Martin led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. Public to be Heard

There was nothing to be heard under this item.

5. Special Presentations

**5.a** Presentation of the National Procurement Institute 2023  
Achievement of Excellence in Procurement Award.

[2023-944](#)

OMB Assistant Director Nathaniel Rubel presented to the Council and thanked the OMB Department.

- 5.b** Communications Awards for Solid Waste Educational Campaign [2023-779](#)

Communications Director Sarah Prohaska presented to the Council and thanked the various departments that contributed to Solid Waste efforts. Jennifer Trefelner, past president of the Florida Public Relations Association Treasure Coast Chapter presented to the Council on the history of the award and thanked the Communications team and all involved.

- 5.c** Presentation of Agency Award for Excellence (Small Agency) Received from the Public Sector Human Resources Association [2023-957](#)

Human Resources Director Natalie Cabrera presented to the Council and exhibited a video of the award given. (Clerk's Note: A video was played at this time.)

6. New Business

- 6.a** Public Works Special Presentation of the 10-Year Mobility Funded Project Plan [2023-827](#)

(Clerk's Note: A PowerPoint presentation was shown at this time.) Frank Knott, Public Works Manager/Engineer, presented to the Council on various infrastructure projects, funding planning recommendations, available bond funding, and bond funded projects. Mayor Martin expressed concern about staff making their own priority decisions, stating that they should be using data to determine the priorities. The Council, Mr. Knott, and City Manager Merejo held a discussion on utilizing data and funding.

Mr. Knott continued presenting on Mobility Funded Projects for Fiscal Years 23/24 through 32/33. Vice Mayor Caraballo expressed her opposition for additional on-street parking for Submarine Park, and it was the consensus of the Council to hold further discussion on this topic at a later time. Mr. Knott continued his presentation, and City Manager Merejo noted that city projects have been taking too much time, and they need to look into how to get the projects done faster. Discussion was held on utilizing data to move traffic faster, and it was the consensus of the Council to have staff research the addition of a flashing yellow traffic signal at Floresta Dr and Crosstown Pkwy.

Mr. Knott continued presenting on the schedule for Funded Projects including Mobility, Half-Cent Sales Tax, and Grants. He also exhibited a map of the future projects.

Finance Director Stephen Okiye informed the Council that they had

reached out to the Bond Council, of whom had advised that the City was able to fund approximately \$53 million over 20 years for \$ 4 million, and \$64 million over 30 years for \$4 million. He stated that they had halted this task so as not to go after projects that they could not start yet, and City Manager Merejo elaborated it was done this way so that they did not borrow money that they did not need right away. The Council, Mr. Okiye, and City Manager Merejo further discussed bonds and funding.

Deputy City Manager Teresa Lamar-Sarno discussed Mobility Fees and stated that the Ordinance allows for annual adjustments which they had not always done in the past. She requested that Council allow for staff to do research on increasing the Mobility Fee by 3%, noting that this would be their recommendation. It was the consensus of the City Council to allow staff to research a Mobility Fee increase of 3%.

Councilman Pickett inquired if the Ordinance could be enacted to have an increase every year to match the CPI, to which Attorney Berrios advised that he would look into this. The council then discussed the Ordinance and having discussion/notification with stakeholders, and it was noted not to have separate workshops, and just have meetings to bring the stakeholders up to date. Regarding the project map, Councilwoman Morgan inquired about the school bus stops, to which Mr. Knott advised that they worked with the School Board for this.

There being no further discussion, Councilwoman Morgan moved to approve the 10-Year Mobility Funded Project Plan. Vice Mayor Caraballo seconded the motion, which passed unanimously by voice vote.

**6.b** Multilane Resurfacing Presentation

[2023-881](#)

(Clerk's Note: A PowerPoint presentation was shown at this time.) Thomas Salvador, Public Works, presented to the Council on the Multilane Roadway Network, multilane resurfacing progress, and pavement condition indexes. Mr. Salvador noted that the design was not funded and recommended obtaining funding for a design. It was the consensus of the City Council to have staff obtain a design to be able to move forward.

Mr. Salvador continued presenting on preservation and resurfacing, total miles estimated in the annual 10-year plan updates, actual miles resurfaced per fiscal year. Regarding funding, City Manager Merejo advised that they would evaluate and provide recommendations to the Council. Mr. Salvador noted that trees would also be addressed, and that the determination was currently being made on if it would be the developer's responsibility.

**6.c** Interim City Attorney Contract

**2023-985**

(Clerk's Note: Attorney Berrios provided an update regarding the due process for the Ordinance in item 6a.) Attorney Berrios advised that they could only increase once every 4 years, but there was a way around this, and that a study/justification would need to be provided for an increase.

There being no discussion, Vice Mayor Caraballo moved to table item 6c. Councilman Pickett seconded the motion, which passed unanimously by voice vote.

Vice Mayor Caraballo inquired if anything that was owed to Attorney Berrios would be backdated to the Council meeting upon which he was made Interim City Attorney, to which Mayor Martin responded in the affirmative.

## 7. Resolutions

- 7.a** Resolution 23-R116, Authorizing Mitigation Agreement  
between Oak Ridge Ranches, LLC, and the City of Port St.  
Lucie.

[2023-994](#)

Mayor Martin advised that she and Councilman Pickett attended the County Commission meeting, and she spoke on the cooperation between the City & County and the Oak Ridge Ranch development team. She stated that she had addressed the residents' concerns. Vice Mayor Caraballo inquired if a date had been sent for the joint meeting, to which City Manager Merejo responded in the negative and informed that he had a meeting with the County Administration this week. Ms. Lamar-Sarno advised that discussions with the County and noted that other items outside of city limits were being reviewed as well.

There being no further discussion, Councilman Pickett moved to approve Resolution 23-R116. Vice Mayor Caraballo seconded the motion, which passed unanimously by voice vote.

## 8. Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

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Sally Walsh, City Clerk

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Jasmin De Freese, Deputy City Clerk