

# City of Port St. Lucie

121 SW Port St. Lucie Blvd.  
Port St. Lucie, Florida 34984



## Meeting Agenda

**\*Addition of Item 6C\***

**Wednesday, January 15, 2025**

**1:30 PM**

**Room 366, City Hall**

## **Citizen's Advisory Committee**

*Michael Bernard, Chair*

*Lynette Lockwood, Vice Chair*

*Jack Jennings, Chair Pro-Tem*

*Raymond Pezzi, Member*

*Christy Romano, Member*

*Melony Zavelis, Member*

*Ingrid Sarmiento, Member*

*James Abbott, Alternate Member*

1. **Call to Order**
2. **Roll Call**
3. **Determination of Quorum**
4. **Approval of Minutes**
  - 4.a November 20, 2024 Citizen's Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes. [2025-056](#)
5. **Public to be Heard**
6. **New Business**
  - 6.a Election of the Committee Chair and Vice-Chair. [2025-052](#)
  - 6.b Citizens Advisory Assignments [2025-054](#)
  - 6.c Oath of Office for the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) [2025-084](#)
7. **Unfinished Business**
  - 7.a Special Transmittal of Documents regarding the St. Lucie River from Committee Member Jennings. [2025-053](#)
8. **Adjourn**

Notice: No stenographic record by a certified court reporter will be made of the foregoing meeting. Accordingly, any person who may seek to appeal a decision involving the matters noticed herein will be responsible for making a verbatim record of the testimony and evidence at said meeting upon which any appeal is to be based.

Notice: In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, persons needing special accommodation to participate in this proceeding should contact the City Clerk's office at (772) 871-5157 for assistance.

As a courtesy to the people recording the meeting, please put your cell phone on silent.



Agenda Summary  
2025-056

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**Agenda Date:** 1/15/2025

**Agenda Item No.:** 4.a

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Placement: Minutes

Action Requested: Motion / Vote

November 20, 2024 Citizen’s Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes.

Submitted By: Jasmin Padova, Executive Assistant.

Executive Summary: November 20, 2024, meeting minutes.

Presentation Information: N/A.

Staff Recommendation: Move that the Committee review and approve the November 20, 2024, meeting minutes.

Alternate Recommendations:

1. Move that the Committee amend the recommendation and approve the meeting minutes.
2. Move that the Committee not approve the minutes and provide staff direction.

Attachments: November 20, 2024, minutes.

*NOTE: All of the listed items in the “Attachment” section above are in the custody of the City Clerk. Any item(s) not provided in City Council packets are available upon request from the City Clerk.*

# City of Port St. Lucie

## Citizen's Advisory Committee

121 SW Port St. Lucie  
Blvd.  
Port St. Lucie, Florida  
34984

### Meeting Minutes - Draft

Michael Bernard, Chair  
Lynette Lockwood, Vice Chair  
Jack Jennings, Chair Pro-Tem  
Raymond Pezzi, Member  
Christy Romano, Member  
Melony Zaravelis, Member  
Ingrid Sarmiento, Member  
James Abbott, Alternate Member

### CAC

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**Wednesday, November 20, 2024**      **1:30 PM**      **The Saints Golf Course, 2601 SE  
Morningside Blvd, Port St. Lucie, FL  
34952**

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1. Call to Order

A Regular Meeting of the CITIZEN'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE of the City of Port St. Lucie was called to order by Ketih Bradshaw on November 20, 2024, at 1:30 p.m., at The Saints Golf Course, 2601 SE Morningside Blvd, Port St. Lucie, FL 34952.

The Committee headed outside at 1:33 p.m., to view the new golf carts, as well as the new driving range. The Committee continued the meeting at 1:52 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Members Present:

Michael Bernard, Chair  
Lynette Lockwood, Vice Chair  
Jack Jennings  
Raymond Pezzi  
Ingrid Sarmiento  
Melony Zaravelis

Members Not Present:

Christy Romano  
James Abbott, Alternate

3. Determination of Quorum

It was determined that there was a quorum.

4. Approval of Minutes

- 4.a** October 16, 2024 Citizen's Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes. [2024-1166](#)

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

There being no discussion, Mr. Jennings moved to approve the meeting minutes. Ms. Sarmiento seconded the motion, which passed unanimously by voice vote.

5. Public to be Heard

(Clerk's Note: This item was heard after Item 6a.)

Charlie D'Agata voiced that the golf course was under great management and was moving in the right direction.

6. New Business

- 6.a** Saints Quarterly Report - Q4 [2024-1155](#)

(Clerk's Note: A PowerPoint presentation was shown at this time.) Keith Bradshaw, Golf Course Administrator, introduced Mark Gerstung, Golf Course Manager, and David O'Kelly, Golf Course Pro-Shop Manager. He provided a brief presentation to the Committee. Mr. Jennings inquired about stormwater runoff, to which Mr. Gerstung replied that the drainage project was completed to ensure that the water was cleaned before it headed into the river. He stated that the water only left the property on the 15th hole, but he was unsure of where it went.

Caroline Sturgis, Office of Management & Budget Director, explained that the "admin fees" in Mr. Bradshaw's PowerPoint, was simply a cost allocation that was to be paid back to the City.

- 6.b** 2025 Meeting Schedule [2024-1161](#)

(Clerk's Note: This item was heard after Item 4).

Jasmin Padova, Executive Assistant, informed the Committee that in 2025 the meetings would be held on the third Wednesday of each month at 1:30 p.m., except for the March meeting, which would be held a week earlier.

7. Unfinished Business

Mr. Jennings discussed implementing a Water Quality Task Force and requested a tour of the Saints Course drainage system.

The Committee requested a copy of the projects assigned to them by the City Council.

Assistant City Manager Graham announced his retirement to the Committee and advised them that he may continue to work with them as a part-time Special Assistant with the City.

8. Adjourn

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

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Michael Bernard, Chair

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Shanna Donleavy, Deputy City Clerk



Agenda Summary  
2025-052

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**Agenda Date:** 1/15/2025

**Agenda Item No.:** 6.a

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Placement: New Business

Action Requested: Motion / Vote

Election of the Committee Chair and Vice-Chair.

Submitted By: Jasmin Padova, Executive Assistant, City Manager's Office.

Strategic Plan Link: The City's Mission to be responsive to our community.

Executive Summary (General Business): The membership is requested to nominate and elect a Committee Chair and Vice-Chair for 2025.

Presentation Information: N/A.

Staff Recommendation: Move that the Committee recommend and approve the election of the Committee Chair and Vice-Chair.

Alternate Recommendations:

1. Move that the Committee amend the recommendation and elect a Committee Chair and Vice-Chair.
2. Move that the Board not elect and provide staff direction.

Attachments: N/A.

*NOTE: All of the listed items in the "Attachment" section above are in the custody of the City Clerk. Any item(s) not provided in packets are available upon request from the City Clerk.*



Agenda Summary  
2025-054

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**Agenda Date:** 1/15/2025

**Agenda Item No.:** 6.b

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Placement: New Business

Action Requested: Discussion

**Citizens Advisory Assignments**

Submitted By: Summary by Jasmin Padova, Executive Assistant. Discussion to be led by Special Assistant to the City Manager David Graham.

Executive Summary: Review the assignments presented at the City Council Workshop and the updated Committee responsibilities.

Presentation Information: N/A.

Staff Recommendation: Move that the Committee discuss the assignments and responsibilities.

Alternate Recommendations:

1. Move that the Committee amend the recommendation and discuss the assignments.
2. Move that the Committee decline to hear the presentation and provide staff direction.

Attachments: Assignment slide.

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# Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC)

## Assignment Recommendations FY2023-24

- **Solid Waste Services (Continuation of current assignment):**
  - Joint venture with some previous Solid Waste Task Force members to explore the feasibility to build the required infrastructure and equipment with associated personnel costs to operate a City-operated Solid Waste Collection service.
- **Continue Special Revenue Funds Review:**
  - Street Lighting Program.
- **Future Program Review:**
  - Business Tax Program.
  - Others as assigned by City Council.

# Committee By-Laws 2023

## Duties and Responsibilities

- Section 3. Duties and Responsibilities: The duties and responsibilities of the Citizens Advisory Committee shall include, but not be limited to, the following:
  - A. Review of the City Manager's proposed budget, capital improvements plan, and budget update following the presentation of same to the City Council;
  - B. If directed by the City Council review and advise the City Manager and the City Council on up to three (3) service areas or revenue sources each budget year, i.e. Solid Waste Fund, Gas Tax Revenue, and Saints Golf Course operations;
  - C. If directed by the City Manager review and provide recommendations on specific expenditures, revenues, services, and policies;
  - D. Provide recommendations to the City Manager on methods and tools to engage citizens in the budget process;
  - E. Upon recommendation of the City Manager, City staff may provide appropriate support to the Citizens Advisory Committee; and
  - F. Provide any and all recommendations in writing to the City Manager prior to making any recommendations to the City Council.



## Agenda Summary

2025-084

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**Agenda Date:** 1/15/2025

**Agenda Item No.:** 6.c

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Placement: New Business

Action Requested: Discussion

Oath of Office for the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC)

Submitted By: Jasmin Padova, Committee Liaison.

Executive Summary: In order to conduct business on behalf of the Port St. Lucie City Council, Alternate members being reappointed shall be required to take the Oath of Office prior to conducting formal business.

Presentation Information: The City Clerk shall issue the Oath of Office.

Staff Recommendation: N/A

Attachments: N/A



Agenda Summary  
2025-053

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**Agenda Date:** 1/15/2025

**Agenda Item No.:** 7.a

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Placement: Unfinished Business

Action Requested: Discussion

Special Transmittal of Documents regarding the St. Lucie River from Committee Member Jennings.

Submitted By: Summary provided by Jasmin Padova.

Executive Summary: Discuss the documents provided by Committee Member Jennings.

Presentation Information: Staff from Public Works will provide a brief presentation.

Staff Recommendation: Move that the Committee review and discuss the documents provided by Committee Member Jennings.

Alternate Recommendations:

1. Move that the Committee amend the recommendation and discuss the documents provided by Committee Member Jennings.
2. Move that the Committee provide staff direction.

Attachments:

Documents provided by Committee Member Jennings.

Staff presentation.

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For the benefit of our newer members --- our Citizens Advisory Committee invested much time, effort and energy a few years back addressing our city's Septic to Sewer problems. As a result of that process, we became aware of the acute water quality problems in the St Lucie estuary system.

At that time, it was determined our plate was full and we could come back at a later date and address the water quality problems in the St Lucie system.

Because these ever-increasing poor water quality problems are multi-faceted and compounded daily by our city's runaway growth, I respectfully propose we initiate the first step in addressing this multijurisdictional problem by recommending to City Council the following action for their consideration:

I move the Citizens Advisory Committee recommend to City Council a Special Task Force be formed to address the existing water quality problems in the St Lucie estuary system. Such a Task force could be made

up of representatives from the City of Port St Lucie, the City of Stuart, the City of Ft Pierce, the St Lucie County, the Martin County and have as their purpose the development of both short- and long-term plans to improve upon and protect water quality in the St Lucie River.

## **Background**

For too long the water quality problems in our St Lucie River have progressed in the wrong direction as proven in the published water quality reports from Florida Oceanographic. It's common knowledge these problems are primarily attributed to leeching of sewage from septic tanks and storm water runoff into the river. To make matters worse the rapid growth of our city has only exacerbated these problems which have persisted for years and have been passively addressed. What is needed is a clearly defined plan of action which will achieve both qualitative and quantitative results for our river system.

At present the PSL Depts of Utilities and Public Works, the Florida Dept of Health and the St Lucie County Health Dept have an important role to play and are critical to the development of the above-mentioned plan to accomplish the goals of a clean, protected and beautiful St Lucie River.

Respectfully submitted,

Jack Jennings

# WHAT IS BEING DONE TO ADDRESS WATER QUALITY CONCERNS IN THE ST LUCIE RIVER?

Bret Kaiser

NPDES Project Manager

772-344-4128

[bkaiser@cityofpsl.com](mailto:bkaiser@cityofpsl.com)

# THE PROBLEM

- North Fork St. Lucie River is identified as impaired for nutrients, fecal coliform, and dissolved oxygen levels
- These concerns can lead to harmful algal blooms and unfavorable water quality conditions for aquatic flora and fauna residing within the St Lucie River, Estuary, and even the Indian River Lagoon



# THE BROAD SOLUTION

- Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) creates the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Report, establishing the Nutrient and Dissolved Oxygen TMDL for the St. Lucie Basin
  - Establishes limits for pollutants for identified water bodies within St. Lucie Basin
- Use these TMDL thresholds to establish the St. Lucie River and Estuary Basin Management Action Plan (BMAP)
  - Determines required reductions in the nutrient loads to the St. Lucie River and Estuary Basin for all entities identified within the BMAP boundaries
- FDEP establishes National Pollutant Discharge and Elimination System (NPDES) program to monitor Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS<sub>4</sub>)
  - Local entities are required to obtain an MS<sub>4</sub> permit to report illicit discharges and monitor water quality leaving the entity

# THE CITY OF PORT ST LUCIE'S SOLUTION

- The City of Port St Lucie (PSL) is an established entity in the St Lucie River and Estuary BMAP and currently has a Phase 2 MS<sub>4</sub> permit with the FDEP
- Undergoes water quality projects to meet nutrient reduction requirements for BMAP
  - Baffle Boxes, Stormwater Treatment Areas, Control Structures, Septic to Sewer Program, General Water Quality Improvement Projects
- NPDES program and Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination (IDDE) Program formed to monitor and react to illicit discharges.
- Bimonthly Water Quality sampling to monitor surface water that is leaving city into the local receiving bodies of water (C-23 and C-24 Canals, St Lucie River)

# THE ENFORCEMENT

- BMAPs are adopted by Secretarial Order and are legally enforceable under Florida Statutes
  - Section 403.067, 403.121, 403.141, and 403.161
    - Management strategies, including best management practices and water quality monitoring are also enforceable under 403.067
- City has established a large number of enforceable ordinances related to illicit discharges and stormwater procedure in order to enforce the NPDES/IDDE programs
- FDEP compiles a Statewide Annual Report (STAR) where we report all water quality improvement projects towards the BMAP and discuss the cities' current nutrient reduction goals each year

# CONCLUSION

- The City is committed to improving water quality conditions in the St. Lucie River and all bodies of water downstream of city limits.
- This commitment is shown through the city's involvement with the St Lucie River and Estuary BMAP, our NPDES and IDDE program, and all our general water quality initiative efforts we have in place