

City of Port St. Lucie

Special City Council

Meeting Minutes - Final

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

Shannon Martin, Vice Mayor, District III

Stephanie Morgan, Councilwoman, District I

Dave Pickett, Councilman, District II

Jolien Caraballo, Councilwoman, District IV

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Monday, June 21, 2021

9:30 AM

Council Chambers, City Hall

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 Oravec on June 21, 2021, at 9:30 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 Gregory J. Oravec
Vice Mayor Shannon Martin
Councilwoman Jolien Caraballo
Councilman Dave Pickett
Councilwoman Stephanie Morgan

3. Pledge of Allegiance

The City Clerk gave the Invocation, and Mayor Oravec led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. Public to be Heard

Richard Lawton spoke regarding reciprocity & thanked Brad Keen & Sherman Conrad for their memo on signs.

5. Approval of Consent Agenda

Vice Mayor Martin moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Councilwoman Caraballo seconded the motion, which passed unanimously by voice vote.

- 5.a** Reappointment of Deb Beutel to Serve on the Planning and Zoning Board

[2021-501](#)

Vice Mayor Martin moved to approve agenda item 2021-501.

Councilwoman Caraballo seconded the motion. The City Clerk restated the motion as follows: to approve 2021-501. The motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

6. Special Presentations

6.a Residential Street Areawide Speed Limit Analysis

[2021-495](#)

Laura Dodd, Planner II, stated that this item was initiated through the City's multimodal plan and she introduced Stewart Robertson of Kimley Horn. (Clerk's Note: A PowerPoint was shown at this time.) Mr. Robertson stated that the study was consistent with State Statutes related to establishing speed limits that allowed for a default speed limit of 30 mph, if not posted. He listed the exclusions and explained the data collection with the results. He informed the City Council that studies were looking at different ways of establishing speed limits other than the 85th percentile and 10 mph pace; one recommended to use the 50th percentile speed on streets with high conflict density. He explained that the average 85th percentile speed was calculated to be 31 mph and that 24 local residential streets meet the criteria for a posted speed limit of 25 mph with the exceptions of Fairgreen Crossing, Northport Village, and Tulip Park. He listed comparable studies and explained the signage options. He stated that the word "area" could be added to the sign which means that a sign would not be needed on every block; "residential" could be added to the top of the pole as well as "unless otherwise posted"; and showed a customary sign.

Mr. Robertson & staff recommended that the City proceed with the speed reduction & install new signs at neighborhood entrances with the standard FDOT round aluminum posts. He explained that the signs would not be posted throughout neighborhoods and recommended that the work be completed by a contractor. He stated that the work was not funded and when funded it would take three to four months to secure a contractor, therefore installation was estimated to be four months.

Councilman Pickett inquired as to why there were four neighborhoods that did not meet the speed criteria, to which Mr. Robertson replied that the 85th percentile on those roads were more than eight miles an hour above 25 mph and the 10 mile pace was more than three miles per hour; therefore, 30 mph was appropriate in those areas. Mayor Oravec stated that the drivers were going too fast and inquired as to what the speed was, to which Mr. Robertson replied that the 85th percentile speed in that area was 34-36 mph. Councilman Pickett

stated that traffic calming was installed at Fairgreen Crossing. Mr. Robertson responded by saying that traffic calming reduced the actual speeds traveled rather than the signs; the signs allowed for the regulatory enforcement and communication. Mayor Oravec stated that drivers may have been speeding in-between the speed tables. Mr. Robertson replied by saying that further data collection may yield a different result but he had used random street samplings within the communities. The City Council requested a map showing the locations of speed tables and the locations of where speeds were collected. Councilwoman Caraballo requested that Public Works and the Police Department work together to enforce changes in the three neighborhoods. She supported the signage as part of the Strategic Plan. Mayor Oravec stated that staff should evaluate a cost effective decorative pole and if it was too expensive, he suggested that it be rolled out neighborhood by neighborhood. Vice Mayor Martin voiced her concerns for Fairgreen Crossing and Tulip Park and requested more suggestions from staff to implement the change. Councilwoman Morgan agreed and added concerns for Northport Village since it was residential. She did not agree with the collectors/arterials staying at 30-35 mph & hoped that the poles could be reused. Councilwoman Caraballo inquired if FDOT should be involved in making a decision, to which Mr. Robertson replied that FDOT did not have any recommendations on this study. He reiterated that staff used the State Statute and criteria to create the recommendations.

The City Council requested the calculation of the total lane miles of road as well as the calculation of the lane miles of the three proposed excluded neighborhoods to understand if that was less than 5% of the total residential roadways in the City. The City Manager stated that the City Council could discuss funding options at the Summer Retreat. Vice Mayor Martin voiced her opposition of phasing the implementation and inquired if there was a more cost effective way to purchase the posts. Heath Stocton, Public Works Interim Director, stated that the price included the current two-inch posts, but staff was now requiring the standard FDOT 3.5-inch posts because they were crash tested and durable. He added that this would be a Citywide upgrade and did not support reusing the posts. Councilwoman Caraballo voiced that there should be an educational/communication piece through various forms of the media and added that staff should start implementing the speed limit change prior to the sign installation. Vice Mayor Martin added that the education piece needed to start as soon as possible. The City Attorney voiced that the ordinance could be changed, and then staff

could work with the Police Department on enforcement. John Bolduc, Police Chief, stated that as the signs changed, they would give warnings to residents. Mayor Oravec suggested using a decorative sign at each neighborhood entrance. The City Council requested that staff provide a list of the major collectors to prioritize traffic calming at the Summer Retreat. Mayor Oravec stated that the ordinance should be brought back before the City Council as soon as possible.

Councilwoman Caraballo moved to approve the implementation of the Residential Street Areawide Speed Limit Analysis and requested that staff provide details of the plan (locations of signs, different options, and costs of the signs, as well as funding, etc.) at the Summer Retreat. Vice Mayor Martin seconded the motion, which passed unanimously by voice vote.

7. New Business

7.a Review and Accept the City Manager's Strategic Plan Update

[2021-216](#)

(Clerk's Note: A PowerPoint was shown at this time.)

Kate Parmelee, Director of Strategic Plan Initiatives & Innovation, explained the current and updated priority projects in the Strategic Plan. Under Goal 1, Safe, Clean & Beautiful, the new priority projects were a Police Training Facility, implementation of body worn cameras, and the Port St. Lucie Beautification Plan. Under Goal 2, Vibrant Neighborhoods, the new priority projects were community engagement projects and the Neighborhood Parks/Preserves development. Under Goal 3, Education, the new priority project was to develop a Wi-fi Master Plan. Mayor Oravec urged staff to partner with schools to "do better" since education priorities had been lower than the national benchmark. The City Manager stated that schools' achievements were available on the City's social media sites. Mayor Oravec suggested that staff hold a monthly TV show with the School Board to promote programs and suggested that they reach out to Indian River State College to discuss Senior Auditing.

Under Goal 4, Economy and Employment, Mayor Oravec stated that the land was not sold under the Cleveland Clinic project so the verbiage should be changed. Ms. Parmelee continued with the updated priorities projects; under Goal 4, construct Hegener Drive, acquire City Center, develop a Master Plan for City Center, implement the Small Business plan, and create an Office of Business and roadmap. Vice Mayor Martin inquired about the tax authority agreements, to which the City Manager replied that all the agreements would be approved. He

said that the closings won't occur until all the agreements were signed & entered by the court and would be subject to the receiver accepting the proposal. He added that funding was included in FY 2022 budget for master planning.

Ms. Parmelee continued with the new priority projects for Goal 5, High Quality Infrastructure & Facility, the projects included the traffic signal synchronization on Port St. Lucie Boulevard, the design & construct of a Public Works complex, and the design of Village Green Corridor revitalization. Councilwoman Caraballo suggested that staff use Congressman Mast's funding which was awarded to the City for this project. Ms. Parmelee continued with the new Goal 5 projects, which were to implement Septic to Sewer Master Plan projects & education program and to implement Stormwater Master Plan projects & education program. Under Goal 6, Culture, Nature & fun activities, the new priority projects were to implement the Public Art Master Plan, expand cultural offerings/events, and implement the bikeways & trails priority corridors. Under Goal 7, Performing City Government, the updated priority project was to improve performance through innovation.

Ms. Parmelee informed the City Council that a revamped Strategic Plan Dashboard would premiere in July which would include all the data, and the performance measures for City departments. Councilwoman Caraballo suggested using a one page format for the Strategic Plan to bring to the HOA's and public meetings. Councilwoman Caraballo moved to approve the City Manager's Strategic Plan Update. Vice Mayor Martin seconded the motion, which passed unanimously by voice vote. It was the consensus of the City Council to have Councilman Pickett and staff create a multi-cultural fest.

A break was called at 10:39 a.m., and the meeting resumed at 10:52 a.m.

- 7.b** Accept the Half-Cent Sales Tax FY 20/21 Second Quarter
Projects Update

[2021-365](#)

(Clerk's Note: A PowerPoint was shown at this time.)

Heath Stocton, Interim Public Works Director, presented the Half-Cent Sales Tax FY 20/21 Second Quarter Projects Update in which he explained that St. Lucie West Boulevard project & Torino Boulevard Intersection improvements were completed. He stated that Floresta

Drive Phase I was under construction and the speed limit had been lowered to 25 mph. He informed the City Council that there would be benches and exercise equipment around the pond and added that the baffle boxes had been working. He believed that Phase I would be completed in October. He stated that Phases 2 & 3 were under design but explained that the May 11th date had been pushed due to permitting issues but hoped to begin construction in September, pending funding. He added that after a residents' meeting, staff had redesigned the landscaping.

Mr. Stocton informed the City Council that the Torino Eastern Loop sidewalk and NW Selvitz Road sidewalk projects had been completed. He stated that 5.74 miles of roadways had been repaved. He moved on to traffic signal coordination and stated that Crosstown Parkway signalization was completed. He explained that the Port St. Lucie Boulevard signalization would be removed from the Half-Cent Sales Tax projects since it was being funded through a bond issue, therefore the project would begin this year. For the US 1 improvements, Mr. Stocton explained that most of the project fell under FDOT and hoped to start the project in January/February 2022 or as soon as FDOT completed their project.

Mr. Stocton stated that the first phase of the St. Lucie County Prima Vista Boulevard improvements were completed, and the second phase was not programmed as of yet. He added that improvements to the Prima Vista/Floresta Drive intersection would be included in the City's Floresta Phase 3 project and funded through the County. The City Council requested that the City Manager and the City Council send a letter to St. Lucie County to express the importance of Prima Vista Boulevard to ensure that it be added to the County's project list. Mr. Stocton explained the implementation schedule, the budget & expenditures, and revenue summary. He stated that the City was receiving more money than expected. Vice Mayor Martin inquired if the extra revenue was offsetting the higher costs of construction, to which Mr. Stocton responded in the negative. The City Manager stated that there had been inflated prices and for the Floresta projects, the engineer estimates were substantially higher, therefore staff had to explore different options on Phase 2 & 3. The City Council supported a change order with Felix for construction of the Floresta Project. Councilwoman Caraballo inquired if the CIP would reflect the inflated prices, to which the City Manager responded in the affirmative. Mr. Stocton informed the City Council that FDOT was thinking about

change orders for items that were not included in their original escalation clause due to such high inflation costs. The City Council and Mr. Stocton discussed the challenges of low supplies in the area. To save on some construction costs, Mr. Stocton suggested that the bridge over the Elkcam waterway be closed to allow for construction, to which the City Council requested an analysis regarding the detour & closure. Vice Mayor Martin moved to approve the Half-Cent Sales Tax FY 20/21 Second Quarter Projects Update. Councilwoman Caraballo seconded the motion, which passed unanimously by voice vote.

7.c Tradition Parkway Speed Limit Change Recommendation

[2021-220](#)

The City Manager introduced Joseph DeFronzo, Engineering, CIP & Support Division Director. Mr. Stocton stated that there was a section of Tradition Parkway between Village Drive and Community that had a lower than usual speed limit; the section was 35 mph, east of the section was 45 mph and to the west it was 40 mph. He explained that for consistency, staff as well as the engineering consultant, were recommending increasing the zone from 35 mph to 40 mph. Mayor Oravec clarified that from the first light off I-95 the speed limit would be 40 mph, to which Mr. Stocton responded in the affirmative. Vice Mayor Martin moved to approve the Tradition Parkway Speed Limit change recommendation. Councilman Pickett seconded the motion, which passed unanimously by voice vote. It was the consensus of the City Council to have staff initiate the process for a speed limit change on Selvitz Road.

Mr. Stocton informed the City Council that staff was initiating a six month pilot program for crosswalk flags and believed they would start on Selvitz Road as well as Green River Parkway. Councilwoman Caraballo stated that staff would have to check on the flags and believed communication/education was the key to the success of the program.

7.d Other Business- WastePro

The City Manager stated that WastePro was not maintaining service standards, to which it was the consensus of the City Council to have the City Manager send a letter to WastePro requesting a detailed plan of action and request a meeting with WastePro's COO. They also requested that Legal revise the waste ordinance. Vice Mayor Martin stated that WastePro had to "think outside the box" to find solutions and felt that there were too many complaints from residents. Mayor Oravec stated that the level of service had to change because it was undermining everything that the City Council and staff were accomplishing within the City. He said that the City could work on helping WastePro when it came to move out piles and yard waste

but WastePro had to find employment solutions and had to find equipment that did not leak hydraulic fluid. He said fines should be maxed and an emergency services contract should be used to help pick up yard waste/missed routes. He said that the citizens should be credited for one month in partner with these other recommendations. Councilwoman Caraballo stated that there needed to be better coordination and communication from the City and WastePro, collectively, and as well as to the Public. Mayor Oravec replied that WastePro needed to maintain their vehicles and staff had to research other options to be proactive. Councilwoman Caraballo questioned whether an Ad-Hoc Solid Waste Committee should be formed. Councilman Pickett voiced that a different company may cost more money and the service factor would be reduced. He inquired if Code Compliance staff could identify homes with move out piles, cite them, and then inform WastePro. The City Manager suggested that the Solid Waste Ordinance be revised before enforcing certain rules. Vice Mayor Martin requested that the ordinance revisions be made as soon as possible.

Councilwoman Morgan stated that the problem was nationwide and WastePro had to “help us, help you” and agreed with Vice Mayor Martin’s comments regarding the Solid Waste Ordinance. The City Manager stated that he would be asking for a meeting with WastePro’s COO and Legal would be working on the ordinance but until then, he asked the Public to be patient, to which Mayor Oravec stated that WastePro needed to present a detailed, specific action plan for the meeting. Mayor Oravec added that the fines should be levied to the maximum amount because they may help with the contingency measures and may fund a credit to the residents. Councilwoman Caraballo voiced that the fines could fix the problem and Councilwoman Morgan voiced that the City Council did not hear from the City’s WastePro employee or the Solid Waste liaison. The City Council voiced how important and urgent this issue was. Vice Mayor Martin suggested that the City Council meet with staff to follow up.

8. Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

Sally Walsh, City Clerk

Shanna Donleavy, Deputy City Clerk