

City of Port St. Lucie

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, May 8, 2023

6:30 PM

Council Chambers, City Hall

1. Meeting Called to Order

A Regular Meeting of the City Council of the City of Port St. Lucie was called to order by Mayor Martin on May 8, 2023, at 6:30 PM, at Port St. Lucie City Hall, 121 SW Port St. Lucie Boulevard, Port St. Lucie, FL.

2. Roll Call

Council Members Present:

Mayor Shannon M. Martin
Vice Mayor Jolien Caraballo
Councilwoman Stephanie Morgan
Councilman Dave Pickett
Councilman Anthony Bonna

3. Invocation & Pledge of Allegiance

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

4. Proclamations and Special Presentations

4.a Proclamation: Lupus Awareness Day

[2023-385](#)

Mayor Martin read the proclamation for Lupus Awareness Day and presented it to Pamela Milazzo, an ambassador for the Lupus Foundation of America. Ms. Milazzo spoke to Lupus awareness and the need for more accurate information about the disease. She thanked the Council for recognizing and supporting Lupus Awareness Day.

4.b Proclamation: Police Week | Peace Officers Memorial Day[2023-386](#)

Mayor Martin read the proclamation for Police Week and Peace Officers Memorial Day, and presented it to Chief Del Toro and the officers in attendance. Chief Del Toro commented on the Police Department and announced that memorial services will be held in remembrance of their fallen officers. He thanked the Council and the community for their support.

4.c Discuss the 2023 State Legislative Update[2023-430](#)

Ella Gilbert with the City Attorney's Office updated Council on the legislative session, which ended May 5, 2023. She discussed the appropriation requests for Tom Mackie Boulevard and the Public Works administration/EOC facility, and indicated Lobbyist GrayRobinson would provide a report on the other policy issues.

At the suggestion of Vice Mayor Caraballo, there was Council consensus to have the City's legislative partners present to Council, once the governor approves the budget, as well as thank the partners for their efforts.

5. Public to be Heard

Mayor Martin called on those who wished to speak:

1. Sophie Carter, 1231 SE Mendavia Avenue, asked if residents could just leave their name and number with the City when calling in a complaint rather than making the information public.
2. Richard Lawton, 1129 SE Oriental Avenue, spoke to the riot at the United States Capitol Building on January 6, 2021, and deaths of five officers.

There being no further comments, Mayor Martin closed Public to be Heard.

Councilwoman Morgan commented on the State taking away the right to be anonymous and indicated she is working with others on a bill towards this issue. City Attorney Stokes explained if the call generates the City going to an address, the caller's name would still be in the public record. He stated his department is looking at the City's code to address this issue. Vice Mayor Caraballo suggested that Councilwoman Morgan reach out to the Florida League of Cities to be placed on their Policy Committee agenda to present the bill. Mayor Martin indicated Senator Gayle Harrell's bill, providing for an exemption for personal identifying information for public records, did not make it through this year but recommended the City continue working with her as she may file it again next year. Vice Mayor

Caraballo thought it would be good to have a House sponsor as well.

6. Additions or Deletions to Agenda and Approval of Agenda

Vice Mayor Caraballo moved to approve the Agenda. Councilman Pickett seconded the motion, which passed unanimously by voice vote.

7. Approval of Consent Agenda

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

- 7.a** Approval of March 27, 2023 Regular City Council Meeting Minutes [2023-392](#)

This Consent item was approved upon approval of the Consent Agenda.

- 7.b** Approve Appointments to Planning and Zoning Board [2023-390](#)

This Consent item was approved upon approval of the Consent Agenda.

- 7.c** Appointment to Serve on the Infrastructure Surtax Citizens Oversight Committee. [2023-395](#)

This Consent item was approved upon approval of the Consent Agenda.

- 7.d** Authorize the City Manager to Enter into a Right of Entry Agreement with Crown Castle South, LLC for the Public Works Compound Located at 450 SW Thornhill Drive. [2023-408](#)

This Consent item was approved upon approval of the Consent Agenda.

- 7.e** Approve 2023 Freedomfest Event License Agreement with the Port St. Lucie Downtown Lions Foundation [2023-417](#)

This Consent item was approved upon approval of the Consent Agenda.

- 7.f** Approve Declaration of Surplus of Department Fixed Asset Item. Auction #3250019- 2000 Case L-580 Loader Backhoe. [2023-404](#)

This Consent item was approved upon approval of the Consent Agenda.

- 7.g** Approve Declaration of Surplus of Department Fixed Asset Item. Auction #3249223 - 2003 416D Caterpillar Backhoe. [2023-405](#)

This Consent item was approved upon approval of the Consent Agenda.

- 7.h** Approval to Participate in the Omnia Partners Cooperative Contract #3341 for Trane Products, Installation, Labor Based Solutions and Related Products & Services. [2023-416](#)

This Consent item was approved upon approval of the Consent Agenda.

- 7.i** Approval to Participate in Region 4 Education Service Center's (ESC) Contract #R220601, in partnership with OMNIA Partners, for Scoreboards, Electronic Signs, Installation, Related Products and Services from Daktronics. [2023-414](#)

This Consent item was approved upon approval of the Consent Agenda.

- 7.j** Approve Amendments to Contract #20220016 for Suppliers of Water and Sewer Products. [2023-410](#)

This Consent item was approved upon approval of the Consent Agenda.

- 7.k** Ratify Amendments #1, #3 and #4 and Approve Amendment #5 to Contract #20200077 for the Port St. Lucie Blvd. Segment #3 Roadway Improvement Project from Darwin Blvd. to Gatlin Blvd. [2023-409](#)

This Consent item was approved upon approval of the Consent Agenda.

8. Second Reading of Ordinances, Public Hearings

- 8.a** Ordinance 23-23, Public Hearing, Amending and Restating the City of Port St. Lucie Code of Ordinances Chapter 159, Article IV, Entitled "Public Buildings Impact Fee Schedule". [2023-222](#)

The City Clerk read Ordinance 23-23 aloud by title only.

Bethany Grubbs, Planner, Planning and Zoning, indicated staff provided a presentation at the first reading and requested that the presentation be entered into the record, to which the Council agreed.

Mayor Martin called on those who wished to speak:

1. Julio Sanchez, Chairperson of the Government Affairs Committee on behalf of the Board of Realtors, 3005 SE Woodring Lane, spoke in opposition of the methodology and data used to raise the impact fees.

2. Richard Lawton, 1129 SE Oriental Avenue, spoke in support of the studies and increase in impact fees.

3. Sophie Carter spoke to the outrageous impact fees in Port St. Lucie as she has been trying to build a home.

There being no further comments, Mayor Martin closed the Public Hearing.

Mayor Martin noted that when looking at the overall total, there would be a reduction with the proposed impact fees. Vice Mayor Caraballo suggested Mr. Sanchez work with the Florida League of Cities regarding the mobility impact fees. She also explained the City's population growth and how it affects the dollar amount in impact fees. Councilman Bonna indicated he was in favor of this item.

There being no further discussion, Councilwoman Morgan moved to approve Ordinance 23-23. Councilman Bonna seconded the motion, which passed unanimously by voice vote.

8.b Ordinance 23-26, Public Hearing, Amending and Restating the City of Port St. Lucie Code of Ordinances Chapter 159, Article I, Entitled "Law Enforcement Impact Fee Schedule".

[2023-316](#)

The City Clerk read Ordinance 23-26 aloud by title only.

Bethany Grubbs, Planner, Planning and Zoning, indicated this was the second reading of the Law Enforcement impact fee ordinance. She stated staff would like to enter the previous presentations by staff and consultant TischlerBise into the record, to which the Council agreed.

Mayor Martin called on those who wished to speak:

1. Julio Sanchez, Chairperson of the Government Affairs Committee on behalf of the Board of Realtors and St. Lucie Realtors, 3005 SE Woodring Lane, spoke in support of the City's law enforcement and in opposition of the methodology used to demonstrate extraordinary circumstances, but stated they believe the proposed amount is satisfactory. He also indicated the Florida Realtors Advocacy Team has been initiated to begin the process of defining extraordinary circumstances.

There being no further comments, Mayor Martin closed the Public

Hearing.

There being no further discussion, Vice Mayor Caraballo moved to approve Ordinance 23-26. Councilman Pickett seconded the motion, which passed unanimously by voice vote.

- 8.c** Ordinance 23-27, Public Hearing, Amending and Restating the City of Port St. Lucie Code of Ordinances Chapter 159, Article III, Entitled "Parks and Recreation Fee Schedule".

[2023-317](#)

The City Clerk read Ordinance 23-27 aloud by title only.

Bethany Grubbs, Planner, Planning and Zoning, indicated this was the second reading of the Parks & Recreation impact fee ordinance. She stated she would like to enter into the record the April 24, 2023, presentations by staff and consultant TischlerBise.

Mr. Griffin, TischlerBise, presented a Powerpoint presentation via Zoom to discuss the following options:

- Option 1 - Base Scenario
- Option 2 - 75% of Base (Maximum Justifiable)
- Option 3 - 30-Year Allocation

He also reviewed the 4-Year Single-Family Fee Comparison and 4-year Revenue Comparison by Park Option.

Vice Mayor Caraballo explained the mobility fee was the first step to ensure City funds collected in City limits were utilized for City improvements. She also discussed the importance of talking to the County regarding their current plan for future parks, as most of the County parks are within the City of Port St. Lucie.

At this point, Councilwoman Morgan indicated Mr. Griffin's presentation was not part of the packet in iLegislate, but it was later found to be attached to the item. Vice Mayor Caraballo suggested that any late changes/attachments be provided in hard copy to the Council Office.

Vice Mayor Caraballo questioned what would happen if Council adopted the fees and the growth projected did not happen. Mr. Griffin explained the City would be short on revenue and they would have to make up the difference over the next four years, when they update their population projections.

Vice Mayor Caraballo inquired if Parks & Recreation was consulted when Option 3 was considered and if it was feasible or viable. Mr. Griffin stated he worked with staff on stretching it to 30-years. Kelly Boatwright, Parks & Recreation, indicated the 10-Year Parks & Recreation Master Plan was taken into consideration regarding the larger items, such as Traditional Regional Park and Torino Regional Park, for which they will have some funding but not enough to completely develop those plans.

Mayor Martin called on those who wished to speak:

1. Barry Dietz, Realtors Association, 2061 SE Crawberry Drive, spoke to extraordinary circumstances for Law Enforcement versus Parks & Recreation impact fees, the 10-Year Parks & Recreation Master Plan, the Port St. Lucie millage rate, and SB170.
2. Richard Lawton, 1129 SE Oriental Avenue, spoke in support of the impact fees as the towns out west will require amenities.

There being no further comments, Mayor Martin closed the Public Hearing.

In response to Mayor Martin's memo, Councilman Bonna read his prepared remarks into the record regarding the accuracy and methodology of the impact fee study, the public buildings and police impact fees, determining the cost of impact fees, and the affordability of housing. He also indicated his preference/compromise for Option 3.

Councilman Pickett stated he read the 10-Year Parks & Recreation Master Plan, which indicates the City needs more parks. He explained why he was in support of Option 2.

Mayor Martin read her memo of May 3, 2023, addressed to the Vice Mayor and City Council, into the record as it was not included in the backup information. She commented on consultant TischlerBise, data for all three impact fees, 10-Year Parks & Recreation Master Plan and citizen survey, and who should pay the impact fees and why. She reviewed the questions and explained the charts attached to her memo, indicating an overall increase in City fees of \$809 and an overall decrease in City and County fees of \$287. She also discussed her reasons for compromising and choosing Option 2.

Vice Mayor Caraballo discussed the 30-year option/allocation and questioned how the number decreased. Mr. Griffin explained the \$309 million represents the original costs from the Master Plan, adjusted for inflation, and the land costs were adjusted based on what the City actually paid for land in 2022. He stated they allocated that amount to 20 or 30 years of development, to shift more of the cost away from existing residents.

Vice Mayor Caraballo inquired as to what would happen if the growth occurred before 30 years. Mr. Griffin explained the City would be collecting a lot faster than projected, so they could spend a lot faster. He indicated the City has already issued that debt, so that would not change. He stated they will look at it again in four years and make adjustments, so it could shift the balance either way.

Vice Mayor Caraballo and Councilman Bonna each commented on their decisions and willingness to go with Option 2.

Vice Mayor Caraballo confirmed with City Attorney Stokes that the City was not allowed to look at fees for four years after adopting them, and requested that the City involve the stakeholders and share the methodology earlier in the process to allow ample time for discussion.

Mayor Martin agreed with starting the process in year 3, to which there was Council consensus to start the Parks and Recreation impact fee discussion and process in year 3 in preparation for year 4. She explained they started the current conversation early, but the methodology for the extraordinary circumstances became an issue. Mr. Griffin indicated the study was started in 2020, but was paused for mobility fees. He stated the City should begin the process a year in advance for a complete study and adoption.

Councilwoman Morgan discussed why she would only support the statutory limit of \$1,173.00. She also discussed turning the stormwater ponds into parks or neighborhood pockets. Vice Mayor Caraballo commented on the stormwater and water quality at McCarty Ranch as well as the need for parks and amenities on the west side. Councilwoman Morgan also spoke to the parks within the gated communities and being developed on the west side.

There being no further discussion, Vice Mayor Caraballo moved to

approve Ordinance 23-27 with Option 2. Councilman Pickett seconded the motion, which passed (4-1) by roll call vote, with Councilwoman Morgan dissenting.

(Clerk's Note: The meeting recessed at 8:17 PM and reconvened at 8:30 PM.)

- 8.d** Ordinance 23-31, Public Hearing, An Ordinance Amending Chapter 33, Elections, of the City of Port St. Lucie Code of Ordinances

[2023-332](#)

The City Clerk read Ordinance 23-31 aloud by title only.

Mayor Martin called on those who signed up to speak:

1. Richard Lawton, 1129 SE Oriental Avenue, spoke against the proposed increase in fees to register to run for office in the City of Port St. Lucie.
2. Sue Lawton, 1129 SE Oriental Avenue, spoke against an increase in the proposed election fees, inquired about the actual cost to the Clerk's Office, and discussed charging a reasonable fee.
3. Ann Johnson, 2310 SE Maniton Terrace, spoke against the proposed increase in the election qualifying fee for candidates and asked that Council only increase the fee to the amount it actually costs the City Clerk or leave it at \$25.00.

There being no further comments, Mayor Martin closed the public hearing.

Vice Mayor Caraballo stated for the record that she received information from the City Clerk that it costs approximately \$200 to process a candidate for an election. Vice Mayor Caraballo indicated she agreed with the residents and asked that the City charge \$200 versus the \$25.00, plus the 1% by statutory requirement. She explained the fee increases every year, as their wages are based upon the CIP, and when the State reevaluates and increases the county commissioner salaries. Vice Mayor Caraballo stated she cannot support the item in its current form.

Councilman Bonna explained he did not bring this item forward to compensate the City Clerk for the cost of processing the candidates.

He stated he brought it forward because he believes that running for office is a great responsibility. He indicated that candidates can pay the fee by either investing in themselves with personal funds, going out and telling people why they would make a difference in the community and raise the funds, or collecting petitions. He noted, if this is not possible, anyone can still run for office by completing the Undo Burden Form. Councilman Bonna reviewed the fees to run for a local office in the county as well as data indicating how many candidates have paid a fee versus opting to petition. He stated he believed the City was entitled to collecting a qualifying fee.

Councilman Pickett shared how he ran for office in the past and how he is now running for office in 2024. He stated he was not in favor of raising the qualifying fee.

Mayor Martin stated she agreed with Councilman Bonna's comments and supported increasing the qualifying fee.

Councilwoman Morgan indicated she supported raising the fee. She stated if one has the passion to run for office, they will do what it takes and not worry about the cost to qualify and run. She thought the cost to the Clerk's Office was a bit higher than stated, as a lot of work is involved in the election process.

There being no further discussion, Councilwoman Morgan moved to approve Ordinance 23-31. Councilman Bonna seconded the motion, which passed by voice vote (3-2), with Councilman Pickett and Vice Mayor Caraballo dissenting.

- 8.e** Ordinance 23-32, Public Hearing, Abandoning a Portion of a Twenty (20) Foot Wide Rear Utility and Drainage Easement Affecting Lot 22, Block 2406, Port St. Lucie Section Thirty-Four, as Recorded in Plat Book 15, Page(s) 9, 9A through 9W, of the Public Records of St. Lucie County, Florida.

[2023-367](#)

The City Clerk read Ordinance 23-32 aloud by title only.

Mayor Martin opened the Public Hearing. There being no comments, she closed the Public Hearing.

There being no discussion, Councilman Pickett moved to approve Ordinance 23-32. Councilwoman Morgan seconded the motion, which

passed unanimously by voice vote.

- 8.f** Ordinance 23-33, Quasi-Judicial, Public Hearing, An Ordinance Approving a Conceptual Plan for Approximately 2.37 Acres of Property Located Northeast of the Intersection of Port St. Lucie Boulevard and SW Greco Lane Within the LMD (Limited Mixed-Use) Zoning District for a Project Known as Greco Park 18, LLC (aka Greco Park) (P22-337)

[2023-374](#)

At this time, City Attorney James Stokes reviewed the Quasi-Judicial Hearing process and procedures for Items 8.f and 11.a. The City Clerk swore in those individuals who wished to speak on these items.

The City Clerk read Ordinance 23-33 aloud by title only.

Mayor Martin inquired if the Council had any ex parte communications to disclose, to which each member responded in the negative.

Francis Forman, Planner, Planning & Zoning, provided a Powerpoint presentation and reviewed the request to reconfigure the Limited Mixed Use conceptual site plan for 2.37 acres of vacant land. He indicated the Owner/Applicant is Greco Park 18, LLC, and the Applicant Agent is StoryBook Holdings, LLC, Jose Chaves. Planner Forman presented maps of the subject property as well as discussed the zoning, surrounding uses, and future land use compatibility. He also reviewed the conceptual plan and justification. Planner Forman stated the Planning & Zoning Board recommended approval of the reconfiguration of the conceptual plan on April 4, 2023.

Applicant Chaves stated he and the owners agreed with staff's presentation. Council indicated they had no questions of the applicant.

Vice Mayor Caraballo stated she supported this item, asked the applicant for more housing, and welcomed a discussion regarding commercial growth. She thanked the applicant for their high quality work and for listening to Council's suggestions. She stated she hoped to see more projects from the applicant and his company.

Mayor Martin opened the Public Hearing. There being no comments, she closed the Public Hearing.

There being no further discussion, Vice Mayor Caraballo moved to approve Ordinance 23-33. Councilman Pickett seconded the motion,

which passed unanimously by voice vote.

- 8.g** Ordinance 23-34, Public Hearing, Approve the First Budget
Amendment to Fiscal Year (FY) 2022-23

[2023-338](#)

The City Clerk read Ordinance 23-34 aloud by title only.

Caroline Sturgis, Director of OFMB, provided a PowerPoint presentation on the first amendment to the FY 2022-23 Budget indicating an increase of \$24.6 million. She reviewed and discussed the projects as well as the change in funds for the General Fund, Capital Funds, Special Revenue Funds, Stormwater Fund, Road & Bridge Fund, and Internal Service Fund (Medical Fund). Ms. Sturgis also presented the budget amendment revenue sources and discussed the designated/undesignated reserves. She stated staff is recommending City Council adopt the amending budget ordinance for the FY 2022-23 Budget.

Vice Mayor Caraballo inquired if the artwork for the Port District restroom facilities was still going forward, to which Kelly Boatright with Parks & Recreation responded in the affirmative.

Mayor Martin opened the Public Hearing. There being no comments, she closed the Public Hearing.

There being no further discussion, Vice Mayor Caraballo moved to approve Ordinance 23-34. Councilman Pickett seconded the motion, which passed unanimously by voice vote.

- 8.h** Ordinance 23-35, Public Hearing, Partial Abandonment &
Termination of Flowage Easement, as Recorded in Official
Record Book 2902, Page 1177, of the Public Records of St.
Lucie County, Florida.

[2023-383](#)

The City Clerk read Ordinance 23-35 aloud by title only.

Mayor Martin opened the Public Hearing. There being no comments, she closed the Public Hearing.

There being no discussion, Councilman Pickett moved to approve Ordinance 23-35. Vice Mayor Caraballo seconded the motion, which passed unanimously by voice vote.

- 8.i** Ordinance 23-36, Public Hearing, Amending and
Supplementing Ordinance 94-29; Authorizing the Issuance of

[2023-380](#)

Not to Exceed \$25,000,000 for Refunding the City's Outstanding Utility System Refunding Revenue Bonds, Series 2014, in Order to Achieve Debt Service Savings.

The City Clerk read Ordinance 23-36 aloud by title only.

Stephen Okiye, Finance Director, provided a PowerPoint presentation on the Utility System Revenue Bonds and indicated Series 2014 is set to mature 2023-2034. He discussed the City's Debt Management Policy and refunding opportunity of approximately \$240,000 in annual savings through 2034. He stated staff is recommending the City issue Utility System Refunding Revenue Bonds, Series 2023, to refund the City's outstanding Utility System Refunding Revenue Bonds, Series 2014, to achieve debt service savings.

Mayor Martin opened the Public Hearing. There being no comments, she closed the Public Hearing.

There being no further discussion, Councilman Pickett moved to approve Ordinance 23-36. Councilwoman Morgan seconded the motion.

Under discussion, Mayor Martin indicated this was a great example of how the City is always looking to save and providing that savings to their citizens over the life of these bonds. She stated she was happy to see the City was continuing with their Strategic Plan and meeting their policy goals regarding the City's debt.

The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

9. Other Public Hearings

There was nothing scheduled for this item.

10. First Reading of Ordinances

There was nothing scheduled for this item.

11. Resolutions

- 11.a** Resolution 23-R43, Quasi-Judicial, Public Hearing, A Resolution Granting A Special Exception to Allow Retail or Personal Service Uses Exceeding 50% of the Buildings' Gross Floor Area and to Allow Any One Use to Exceed 5,000 Square Feet in the Limited Mixed Use (LMD) Zoning District as Per Sections 158.155(D)(4 & 5) of the Zoning Code (P22-338).

[2023-396](#)

(Clerk's Note: Under Item 8.f, City Attorney James Stokes reviewed the Quasi-Judicial Hearing process and procedures for Items 11.a, and the City Clerk swore in those individuals who wished to speak on this item.)

The City Clerk read Resolution 23-R43 aloud by title only.

Mayor Martin inquired if the Council had any ex parte communications to disclose, to which each member responded in the negative.

Francis Forman, Planner, Planning & Zoning, stated he had been sworn in and the packet was given to the City Clerk's Office five days prior to this meeting. He provided a Powerpoint presentation on the Special Exception Use for Greco Park and reviewed the project summary. He indicated the Agent is Jose Chaves of StoryBook Holdings, LLC, and the Owner is Greco Park 18, LLC. Planner Forman presented maps of the subject property as well as discussed the request, surrounding uses, zoning, site plan, and SEU criteria. He stated the Planning & Zoning Board recommended approval of the Special Exception Use at their April 4, 2023, meeting.

Mayor Martin opened the Public Hearing. There being no comments, she closed the Public Hearing.

There being no discussion, Councilwoman Morgan moved to approve Resolution 23-R43. Vice Mayor Caraballo seconded the motion, which passed unanimously by voice vote.

- 11.b** Resolution 23-R49, Authorizing the Acceptance of an Access, Drainage, and Water Management Easement from Martin Memorial Medical Center, Inc.

[2023-278](#)

The City Clerk read Resolution 23-R49 aloud by title only.

There being no discussion, Councilman Pickett moved to approve Resolution 23-R49. Councilwoman Morgan seconded the motion, which passed unanimously by voice vote.

- 11.c** Resolution 23-R50, Authorizing the Acquisition of Real Property Described as Lot 5, Block 1991, Port St. Lucie Section Nineteen, as Recorded in Plat Book 13, Page 19, of the Public Records of St. Lucie County, Florida, for the Savona Boulevard/Alcantarra Boulevard Community Gathering Space.

[2023-412](#)

The City Clerk read Resolution 23-R50 aloud by title only.

There being no discussion, Vice Mayor Caraballo moved to approve Resolution 23-R50. Councilman Bonna seconded the motion, which passed unanimously by voice vote.

12. Unfinished Business

There was nothing scheduled for this item.

13. New Business

There was nothing scheduled for this item.

14. City Manager's Report

City Manager Merejo reported he appreciated the approval of the budget amendment, as it included the city surveyor as a result of complaints that the City was not getting plats done on time. He indicated the sidewalk on Milner started construction today and that on Monday, May 5, 2023, he attended the Keep Port St. Lucie Beautiful Appreciation Day at Clover Field and he threw the first pitch.

15. Councilmembers Report on Committee Assignments

Vice Mayor Caraballo asked for an update on the Bayshore/Port St. Lucie Blvd corner, as it has been an eyesore. Teresa Lamar-Sarno, Deputy City Manager, and City Attorney Stokes stated the action items from a recent meeting were to reach out and identify the owner of the LLC, as there may be some health issues with the current owner. She indicated staff and Legal were looking at possibly sodding the property as well as working with Public Works on when/if the silk fence can be taken down. Ms. Lamar-Sarno indicated there is an open case on the car wash with Neighborhood Services Code Compliance, so they are pursuing that avenue as well.

City Attorney Stokes noted that when Council approved the Site Plan for the car wash, which will not be built as the property will be sold, the developer agreed to a monument sign for the City. He stated if a new owner presents a new site plan they would have to start over, so the City will try to work with the current owner to preserve and record an easement to lock in those rights.

Vice Mayor Caraballo suggested the City look into purchasing the property, as it is an entry point to the City.

City Manager Merejo inquired if the City could lien the property and provide the improvements of adding sod and beautifying the area, to which City Attorney Stokes indicated that Legal was exploring that option as well as considering an exchange for the easement right for a monument sign, etc. He stated Code Enforcement is moving forward with the violations on the property.

Councilwoman Morgan stated she attended the change of command for the SLC Fire District and congratulated Chief Nate Spera on his retirement and Chief Jeff Lee on his new position.

Councilman Pickett stated he attended the change of command for the SLC Fire District and congratulated both Chiefs as well. He indicated he attended the EDC luncheon and Treasure Coast Council of Local Governments. Councilman Pickett also talked about his recent trip to Indianapolis, IN.

Vice Mayor Caraballo stated she attended the EDC City Manager and County Administrator Meet & Greet. She indicated Cleveland Clinic provided an update that may be similar to what they present at Council's next retreat/workshop, as it included some great information regarding local and country-wide issues within the medical industry. Vice Mayor Caraballo stated she completed her required ethics training via Treasure Coast League of Cities and recommended it to the other members. She indicated she did the Walk for Hospice and will try to support them earlier in the process next year.

Councilman Bonna stated he attended the County meeting on Opioid Abatement well as the Safety Fest.

Mayor Martin reported that she attended the Humane Society Board meeting and change of command ceremony for the SLC Fire District. She spoke to her Townhall presentations at Tradition and Vitalia, and thanked staff for their assistance. She suggested sharing the information regarding the discussion that will take place at Council's Retreat in July on the state of the medical industry, as people are interested and are asking questions. Mayor Martin encouraged everyone to support the Police Department next week at the ceremony for their fallen officers and to celebrate Police Week.

Vice Mayor Caraballo stated she was chosen to be a celebrity coach at an Orange Theory fundraiser for the SLC Humane Society and she will send the flyer to Council. She indicated IRSC will be joining them at Council's Retreat, as IRSC will be aggressively working with the Cleveland Clinic and other healthcare partners to help train the next set of physicians. Vice Mayor Caraballo also suggested having a discussion at the Retreat with IRSC regarding affordable housing for the medical workers and students.

Mayor Martin gave big kudos to Steve Garrett with Lucido & Associates for his knowledge and help with the Townhall PowerPoint presentation. Councilman Pickett, Councilman Bonna, and Vice Mayor Caraballo stated that the community

appreciated the Mayor's presentation as they had received positive feedback.

16. Public to be Heard - (if necessary as determined by City Council at conclusion of public to be heard)

17. Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:35 PM.

Sally Walsh, City Clerk

Traci Mehl, Deputy City Clerk