

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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Wednesday, April 27, 2022

4:00 PM

Council Chambers, City Hall

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 April 27, 2022, at 4:00 p.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 (via Zoom)

3. Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Martin led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. Public to be Heard

There was nothing heard under this item.

5. New Business

- 5.a** Approve Shortlisted Firms and Begin Negotiations for Solid Waste Collection Services Contract #20220061

[2022-399](#)

City Manager Blackburn made an opening statement and discussed that the City had created a Solid Waste Task Force, of whom made recommendations to City Council, and that the City had sent out

proposals for a new vendor.

(Clerk's Note: A PowerPoint presentation was shown at this time.)
Caroline Sturgis, OMB Director, presented to the Council on the background of the Procurement assignment as well as the Procurement timeline and process. Vice Mayor Caraballo informed that the City was going to be split into an Eastern and Western Zone with the Florida Turnpike being the dividing line for the zones. Ms. Sturgis then discussed the tabulated vendor scores and final rankings. FCC Environmental Services Florida, Inc. was ranked in first place for the Western Zone followed by Coastal Waste & Recycling of Florida ranking second and Ryland Environmental Services ranking third. Republic Services of Florida was ranked in first place for the Eastern Zone, followed by Good Companies, Inc. ranking second, FCC Environmental Services Florida, Inc. ranking third, and Coastal Waste & Recycling of Florida ranking fourth.

Ms. Sturgis stated that the response to RFP #20220061 would become a public document either once the City provided notice of an intended decision or 30 days after the proposal. She then announced the staff recommendations.

Vice Mayor Caraballo enhanced discussion on transparency and pricing, stating that the process was executed to keep the integrity of the project maintained. She also provided suggestions for topics for discussion during negotiations. Councilman Pickett asked if the vendors were going to be able to meet the City's September timeline, to which Ms. Sturgis replied that 4 vendors confirmed that they would be able to, and one was unable to start until January. Councilman Pickett questioned why the City would resume negotiations with that vendor if they were unable to meet the timeline as it would be wasting staff's time, to which City Manager Blackburn replied that the vendors all know the rankings now, so they would be circling back with that vendor to see if they were able to accommodate the timeline. Mayor Martin agreed with Councilman Pickett, and Councilman Bonna stated that it was important to keep all options on the table and that he did not see the harm in giving staff the option to negotiate with that vendor.

Carmen Capezzuto, Neighborhood Services Director, provided an overview of the main points and issues the City may come across going forward, and City Manager Blackburn discussed the difference between a negotiation and an awarded contract per the request of Vice Mayor

Caraballo. Councilwoman Morgan stated that the West had 3 proposals, but only 2 were going to have negotiations, and asked why they would not negotiate with the third, and likewise for the 4 East proposals as they were only negotiating with 3. Councilman Bonna asked for clarification on the rankings. Ms. Sturgis addressed Councilman Bonna's question and explained the final ranking scores. She stated that the technical scores had a different ranking from the Committee's ranking which was more comprehensive. City Manager Blackburn addressed Councilwoman Morgan's question and explained that the third vendor for the West was the vendor that may not meet the timeline, but they did not want to rule them out.

Vice Mayor Caraballo asked for more clarification on the rankings and asked if the price had affected the technical scores, to which Ms. Sturgis responded in the affirmative and stated that if a company was more transparent and in depth with their proposal, the Committee found that to be of more value. She added that the Committee ranked based on overall value and cost was only one of the factors. Councilman Bonna stated that he did not think what was described to Vice Mayor Caraballo was accurate and that he had difficulty understanding the ranking due to FCC being shown as ranking higher in score in multiple categories but coming in second in total points. City Manager Blackburn stated that price had carried the heaviest weight for the technical aspect, so if a vendor had weighed in higher in other categories, it may be different in the total ranking due to price.

Mayor Martin opened the Public Hearing. Brad Avery of Coastal Waste & Recycling, Inc. spoke to the Council and stated that as of that date, they had about 70% of what it would take to make up a fleet to service the City. He also stated that they had prepared their bid to anticipate staffing issues and that they had looked forward to working with the City.

Steve Carroll advised the Council to refrain from 4 p.m. meetings to accommodate more of the public. He asked the Council what insurance policies they had in place in case this project failed and asked various questions about procedures and services. Mayor Martin stated that all of Mr. Carroll's points had been contemplated and that staff had been working diligently. Councilman Pickett informed that he had sent an email to Mr. Carroll addressing all concerns and provided additional information. Mayor Martin added that the Evaluation Committee was made up of City Staff.

There being no further discussion, Vice Mayor Caraballo moved that the Council waive any irregularities in the expedited process relating to the request for Proposal #20220061 for solid waste collection services, approve the short list, and authorize staff to begin negotiations with Republic Services of Florida Limited Partnership, Goode Companies, Inc., FCC Environmental Services Florida, Inc. for the Western Service Zone, and Coastal Waste and Recycling of Florida for the Western and Eastern Service Zones, and giving staff the authority to negotiate simultaneously. Councilman Pickett seconded the motion, which passed unanimously by roll call vote.

City Manager Blackburn stated that they hoped to have the negotiations completed and contracts brought to Council within 30 days and wanted to give as much time as possible to the vendors to be ready for service. Mayor Martin addressed the topic of one of the vendors having an issue publicly announced for not providing service and she wanted that to be vetted out. Vice Mayor Caraballo put forth questions for future negotiations. Councilwoman Morgan and Mayor Martin provided their closing statements.

6. Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:09 p.m.

Sally Walsh, CityClerk

Jasmin De Freese, Deputy City Clerk