

ORDINANCE 25-65

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF PORT ST. LUCIE, FLORIDA, AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR, OR HER DESIGNEE, TO EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO A DEVELOPMENT AND FUNDING AGREEMENT WITH THE CITY OF PORT ST. LUCIE'S COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY AND EBENEZER STADIUM CONSTRUCTION, LLC, FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A STADIUM ON A PORTION OF REAL PROPERTY LOCATED WITHIN WALTON & ONE; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICT; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, through extensive market analysis, including but not limited to a comprehensive evaluation of demographic trends, youth soccer participation, economic growth indicators, regional sports demand, and stadium potential, the United Soccer League ("USL") has identified Port St. Lucie as a viable and compelling market to support a professional soccer franchise; and

WHEREAS, Ebenezer Partnership, LLC, a Florida limited liability company ("TeamCo"), holds exclusive franchise rights to own and operate both men's and women's USL professional soccer teams in Port St. Lucie; and

WHEREAS, TeamCo is the owner and operator of the USL Franchise Team club known as the Port St. Lucie Sports Club; and

WHEREAS, Ebenezer Stadium Construction, LLC, a Florida limited liability company (the "Developer"), desires to design, develop and construct a 6,000-seat multiuse stadium facility, with potential for future expansion, designed to meet USL specifications and to accommodate other field sports at all competitive levels, concerts, festivals and other community events (the "Stadium"); and

WHEREAS, the City of Port St. Lucie ("City") is the fee simple owner of that certain real property described as Lots 33, 34, 35 and 36, City Center 1st Replat, according to the map or plat thereof, as recorded in Plat Book 60, Pages 16 through 20, of the Public Records of St. Lucie County, Florida, together with that portion of SE Founders Lane extending from the easterly right of way line of SE First Street to the westerly right of way line of SE Main Street ("Stadium Land"), all being located within Walton & One; and

WHEREAS, the Developer has proposed to construct the Stadium on the Stadium Land to serve as a catalyst for economic development within Walton & One, thereby enhancing the overall economic vitality of the region; and

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WHEREAS, the Stadium is anticipated to create a significant number of jobs, both during the construction phase and through ongoing operations, thereby contributing to the reduction of unemployment and the promotion of workforce development within the community; and

WHEREAS, the Stadium is expected to attract increased tourism to the area, drawing visitors from outside the Treasure Coast, which will result in increased revenue for local businesses and a boost to the hospitality and service industries; and

WHEREAS, the Stadium will serve as a venue for a variety of community events, including sports, concerts and cultural activities, thereby fostering community engagement and providing residents with access to diverse forms of entertainment and cultural enrichment; and

WHEREAS, the development of a Stadium is aligned with several of the City's strategic goals, enhances the quality of life for residents and contributes to the long-term sustainability of the City; and

WHEREAS, the Developer has agreed to design, develop, and construct the Stadium on the Stadium Land pursuant to the terms and conditions set forth in the Development and Funding Agreement attached hereto and incorporated herein as Exhibit "A"; and

WHEREAS, after considering the factors set forth herein, the City Council has determined that the construction and operation of the Stadium on the Stadium Land serves a paramount public purpose by promoting economic growth, job creation, increased tourism, and community engagement thereby advancing the public interest and welfare of the City as a whole; and

WHEREAS, the City Council hereby desires to authorize the Mayor, or her designee, to execute and enter into the Development and Funding Agreement in substantially the same form as attached hereto as Exhibit "A".

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY OF PORT ST. LUCIE HEREBY ORDAINS:

Section 1. Ratification of Recitals. The foregoing recitals are hereby ratified and confirmed as true and correct and are hereby made a part of this Ordinance.

Section 2. Authorization. The City Council of the City of Port St. Lucie, after considering the factors set forth herein, has determined that the construction and operation of the Stadium on the Stadium Land serves a paramount public purpose by promoting economic growth, job creation, increased tourism, and community engagement, thereby advancing the public interest and welfare of the City as a whole and hereby authorizes the City to enter into the Development and Funding Agreement in substantially the same form as attached hereto as Exhibit "A".

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Section 3. Execution. The City Council of the City of Port St. Lucie authorizes the Mayor, or her designee, to execute the Development and Funding Agreement in substantially the same form as attached hereto as Exhibit “A”.

Section 4. Conflict. If any ordinances, or parts of ordinances, are in conflict herewith this Ordinance shall control to the extent of the conflicting provisions.

Section 5. Severability. The provisions of this Ordinance are intended to be severable. If any provision of this Ordinance is determined to be void or is declared illegal, invalid, or unconstitutional by a Court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of this Ordinance shall remain in full force and effect.

Section 6. Effective Date. This Ordinance shall become effective immediately after final adoption on second reading.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of Port St. Lucie, Florida, this _____ day of _____, 2025.

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF PORT ST. LUCIE

By: _____
Shannon M. Martin, Mayor

ATTEST:

Sally Walsh, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Richard Berrios, City Attorney