

# City of Port St. Lucie

## City Council Workshop

### Meeting Minutes - Draft

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 20, 2024**

**9:00 AM**

**Council Chambers, City Hall**

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**\*Request to Withdraw Item 6B\***

1. Meeting Called to Order

A Workshop Meeting of the CITY COUNCIL of the City of Port St. Lucie was called to order by Mayor Martin on May 20, 2024 at 9:07 a.m., at Port St. Lucie City Hall, 121 SW Port St. Lucie Boulevard, Port St. Lucie, Florida & via Zoom.

2. Roll Call

Council Members

Present:

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

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. Special Presentations

**5.a** New Gateway Design Concepts

[2024-373](#)

(Clerk's Note: This item was heard after Item 5 b. & a PowerPoint was shown at this time.)

Jennifer Perkey and Sheresse Snagg, Public Works Department, presented the proposed phasing plan, which included four unique phases along with three gateway design concepts, location, and cost; digital sign concepts were also provided for Council consideration. The signage concepts were presented offering a variety of options from which to select or consider a blend of some or all of them. They explained that the timeline to execute the plan would commence in FY25/26 through FY29/30, dependent upon funding availability.

Councilman Bonna questioned the fiscal impact of the new gateway design concepts, to which the City Manager responded that there would be minimal impact. Sarah Prohaska, Communications Director, stated that there would be a \$10k to \$15k difference, which was still in the budget. Councilman Bonna added that he preferred Concept #1.

Vice Mayor Caraballo agreed with the phasing, preferred Concept #1 as neighborhood monument signs, and suggested removing the logo on the Becker Bridge.

Councilman Pickett stated that Concept #2 or #3 would be best for the highway signs.

Councilwoman Morgan favored Concept #3 and inquired where the funding was coming from, to which the City Manager responded that there was funding within the Planning and Zoning Fund, as well as the General Fund.

Mayor Martin stated that she liked the phasing design but was concerned about the funding and suggested utilizing the Public Art Fund. She stated that she would also like to update the mural along with cleaning the concrete wall in front of City Hall.

Vice Mayor Caraballo requested that the City Manager provide a detailed list so that Council may review it holistically and requested that Kate Parmelee research any available grants. The City Manager requested that the Council identify their number one priority location and concept, to which Mayor Martin responded that they agreed with the phasing plan provided by staff. The City Manager inquired as to which concept the Council would like to see on the highway, to which Mayor Martin responded that it would depend on the location and requested that staff provide recommendations for each location. Vice Mayor Caraballo added that she would like staff to provide traffic counts as well.

- 5.b** Hear a Presentation on St. Lucie Tourism: 2023 Visitor Tracking & Economic Impact Study Results

[2024-386](#)

(Clerk's Note: This item was heard after Item 6 d.) & a PowerPoint was shown at this time.)

Charlotte Bireley, Director of Tourism and Marketing, St. Lucie County, provided a presentation and explained that there was a 5% Tourist Tax collected by the County on accommodations (hotels, motels, vacation rentals, RV sites, etc.) rented for six months or less. Councilman Pickett inquired as to how many total accommodation sites there were and out of that number inquired as to the amount located within the City limits, to which Ms. Bireley replied that out of the total 5,000 sites around 2,000 were located within the City, she added that she was estimating the numbers as she did not have an exact figure. Vice Mayor Caraballo inquired about private rentals, like Airbnb, to which Ms. Bireley replied that those numbers were hard to track but she would research it further.

She added that the funds generated by the tourist tax had restricted uses per Florida Statutes and County Ordinances. Ms. Bireley stated that Florida did not have a state income tax due to the tourism industry and added that visitors who traveled to St. Lucie County in 2023 spent just over \$700 million in St. Lucie County on accommodations, restaurants, groceries, transportation, attractions, entertainment, and shopping.

Vice Mayor Caraballo asked if the Tourism Development Council tracked which small St. Lucie County attractions tourists were visiting, to which Ms. Bireley responded in the affirmative and added that it was a new feature they were utilizing to track data.

Mayor Martin requested that Ms. Bireley share the attraction list with the City Council. Mayor Martin also clarified that the City of Port St. Lucie did not receive a portion of the 5% Tourist Tax and stated that she would like to discuss the issue at the upcoming joint meeting with St. Lucie County.

(Clerk's Note: This item was for discussion only and no vote occurred.)

## 6. New Business

### 6.a Discuss and Provide Direction on the Tradition Parkway and Village Parkway Conceptual Plan and Alternatives

[2024-503](#)

(Clerk's Note: This item was heard after Item 5 a.) & a PowerPoint was shown at this time.)

Antonio Balestrieri, Transportation Engineer, provided the modeling results, and build alternatives noting protected crossings & improved signalization, benefits evaluation, and project timeframes. He also provided

traffic trip data, including hazard information with current conditions.

Vice Mayor Caraballo inquired as to where the traffic, bikers, and walkers were coming from, to which Mr. Balestrieri responded that they were in the process of tracking that data and would provide the results to the Council. Councilman Pickett recommended that the lights be adaptive. Mayor Martin stated that they needed to look at who would be traveling and which method they would be utilizing. The consultant recommended removing the east crosswalk as it would be safer. The City Council discussed the growth of the city, the need for pedestrian traffic data, motorized versus non-motorized pathways as well as taking a holistic view on the topic. The City Manager discussed the need for an I-95 and Marshall Parkway interchange and stated that the City could not let developers dictate when roads come online.

It was the consensus of the City Council to bring the item back along with a holistic approach on traffic (both vehicular and pedestrian) in the Western Annexation Area with data on level of service and a golf cart policy decision for Tradition/Village corridors with a cost factor.

A break was called at 11:12 a.m., and the meeting resumed at 11:18 a.m.

- 6.b** Approve Torino Regional Park Conceptual Master Plan and Phase 1 Funding and Phasing Recommendation [2024-492](#)

This item was withdrawn.

- 6.c** Approve the McCarty Ranch Recreation Conceptual Master Plan [2024-496](#)

Kelly Boatwright, Parks & Recreation, introduced the consultant Nick Kuhn from Kimley Horn.

(A PowerPoint was shown at this time.) Mr. Kuhn presented the findings and recommendations for eventual expansion of uses at McCarty Ranch.

Brad Keen, Parks & Recreation, discussed the caretaker concepts for McCarty Ranch, as there were security issues at night, but added that there was no current funding in the budget. Mayor Martin voiced the need for grants to help with funding for expansion. The City Council discussed how McCarty Ranch was a destination point but noted that the sewer expansion component should be the primary consideration for proceeding.

(Clerk's Note: This item was for discussion only and no vote occurred.)

(Clerk's Note: This item was added to the agenda.) Vice Mayor Caraballo

presented the 2024 Florida League of Cities Home Rule Hero award to Councilwoman Morgan.

- 6.d** Discuss Proposal for the City to Participate in the Attorney General's YouCanStopHT 100% Club.

[2024-510](#)

(Clerk's Note: This item was heard after Item 4.) Toby Overdorf requested the City's participation in the 100% Club, which raises awareness and training on human trafficking.

It was the consensus of the City Council to include a one-hour Human Trafficking Presentation for City University participants.

Councilwoman Morgan moved to approve Item 6 d. Councilman Pickett seconded the motion, which passed unanimously by voice vote.

7. Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:20 p.m.

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Sally Walsh, City Clerk

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Calleigh Nazario, City Clerk Administrator

Typed By:

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Shanna Donleavy, Deputy City Clerk