

City of Port St. Lucie
Citizen's Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes - Draft

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

Lynette Lockwood, Vice Chair
Michael Bernard, Vice Chair
Raymond Pezzi, Member
Christy Romano, Member
Melony Zaravelis, Member
Ingrid Sarmiento, Member
James Abbott, Alternate Member

CAC

Wednesday, January 15, 2025

1:30 PM

Room 366, City Hall

Addition of Item 6C

1. Call to Order

A Regular Meeting of the CITIZEN'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE of the City of Port St. Lucie was called to order by Chair Bernard on January 15, 2025, at 1:30 p.m., at Port St. Lucie City Hall, Room 366, 121 Port St. Lucie Boulevard, Port St. Lucie, Florida.

2. Roll Call

Members Present:

Michael Bernard, Chair

Lynette Lockwood, Vice Chair

Jack Jennings (left at 2:24 p.m.)

Raymond Pezzi

Ingrid Sarmiento

Melony Zaravelis

James Abbott, Alternate (left at 2:37 p.m.)

Members Not Present:

Christy Romano

3. Determination of Quorum

It was determined that there was a quorum.

4. Approval of Minutes

4.a November 20, 2024 Citizen's Advisory Committee Meeting
Minutes.

[2025-056](#)

There being no discussion, Ms. Sarmiento moved to approve the meeting

minutes. Vice Chair Lockwood seconded the motion, which passed unanimously by voice vote.

5. Public to be Heard

There was nothing heard under this item.

6. New Business

6.a Election of the Committee Chair and Vice-Chair.

[2025-052](#)

Mr. Jennings moved to allow James Abbott to be a voting member for the meeting. Vice Chair Lockwood seconded the motion, which passed unanimously by voice vote. Mr. Pezzi informed the Committee that he did not want to run for any position on the Committee.

Carly Fabien, Deputy City Attorney, explained the ballot process to the Committee.

Mr. Jennings inquired about members' unexcused absences, to which Deputy City Attorney Fabien quoted the governing Florida State Statute. Jasmin Padova, Executive Assistant, stated that she would reach out to Ms. Romano to inquire if she was still interested in serving on the board.

Lynette Lockwood was selected as the Chair; Micheal Bernard was selected as the Vice Chair and Jack Jennings was selected as Chair Pro Tem. Ms. Sarmiento moved to approve the ballot selections. Vice Chair Lockwood seconded the motion, which passed unanimously by voice vote.

6.b Citizens Advisory Assignments

[2025-054](#)

(Clerk's Note: This Item was heard after 7a.)

Ms. Padova informed the Committee that the Business Tax Department would be attending the Committee's March meeting; streetlights would be discussed at the April meeting and the Solid Waste Department would be attending the Committee's May meeting. Mr. Graham reminded the Committee that they may receive more assignments from the February City Council Workshop.

Ms. Padova invited the Committee to the Citizen's Summit at the Community Center on February 1, 2025.

6.c Oath of Office for the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC)

[2025-084](#)

(Clerk's Note: This item was heard after Item 6a.)

The Deputy City Clerk administered the Oath of Office to James Abbott.

7. Unfinished Business

- 7.a** Special Transmittal of Documents regarding the St. Lucie River from Committee Member Jennings.

[2025-053](#)

Mr. Jennings moved to recommend that the City Council establish a task force made up of local jurisdictions to resolve water quality issues in the St. Lucie River. Deputy City Attorney explained the Committee's role and responsibility. Therefore, Mr. Jennings amended his motion to move to recommend, to the City Manager's Office, that the City Council establish a task force made up of local jurisdictions to resolve water quality issues in the St. Lucie River. Mr. Abbott seconded the motion. Under discussion, Mr. Abbott stated that his sailing club discussed the water problems. Vice Chair Lockwood added that the estuary had been an issue for 20+ years. She stated that other entities/jurisdictions, on multiple levels, had been working on this topic and questioned the City's ability to lead a task force. Mr. Jennings stated that the City could bring together multiple jurisdictions to tackle the issues. He added that Ballantrae residents donated funds. Mr. Abbott suggested that agencies who were currently working on water issues come and speak to the Committee or task force to sort out responsibilities. Chair Bernard stated that the details needed to be worked out, the who, what and why.

Bret Kaiser, NPDES, informed the Committee that the St. Lucie River & Estuary Basin Management Action Plan was drafted in 2002 by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. They held a roundtable with multiple agencies to set the guidelines needed to address the water quality. He added that multiple cities, counties as well as individual CDD's produced yearly reports aka Statewide Annual Report to show the progress and they provide the water quality results. Vice Chair Lockwood suggested that Mr. Kaiser supply the Committee with the link for the reports and suggested that the City's Communication Department release a "Did You Know?" newsletter to advise residents of updates and steps to take regarding water quality. Chair Bernard restated that the Committee needed to understand all the details (what is being done) before making a recommendation to the City Manager.

David Graham, Special Assistant to the City Manager, advised that the Committee was not empowered to create their own assignments. He added that this topic could dominate the Committee as it contained multiple agencies, at different levels, and he was unsure if the Council had the desire to conduct such meetings. He stated that the Committee would need to provide a plan of action to the City Manager to receive City Council approval. Mr. Jennings stated that the Committee worked on water quality issues in the past (septic to sewer) with no resolve, therefore he wanted to bring the assignment back up. Deputy City Attorney stated that if this item

became its own assignment, another directed assignment may need to be removed since the Bylaws indicated that the Committee was only responsible for up to three assignments.

Mr. Pezzi stated that the Committee needed to know who was doing what for the water quality and after knowing the details they may not want to get involved in the project. Vice Chair Lockwood stated that the Committee had assignments from the past that they needed to focus on. She added that the Committee can review the DEP reports and maybe readdress the issue in the future. Mr. Kaiser stated that the coordinator could present and explain the DEP report to the Committee. Vice Chair Lockwood reiterated that the report/information should be presented to the community to create awareness.

Chair Bernard suggested that the Committee receive a water quality presentation at a later date. Ms. Sarmiento moved to recommend to the City Manager that the Committee start preliminary presentations on water quality. Mr. Abbott seconded the motion, which passed unanimously by voice vote.

8. Adjourn

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 2:40 p.m.

Michael Bernard, Chair

Shanna Donleavy, Deputy City Clerk