

City of Port St. Lucie

City Council Workshop

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, February 21, 2024

8:30 AM

**Community Center, 2195 SE Airoso
Blvd**

Winter Workshop

1. Meeting Called to Order

The 2024 Winter Workshop of the City Council and Staff of the City of Port St. Lucie was called to order by Mayor Martin at 8:48 AM on February 21, 2024, at Port St. Lucie Community Center, 2195 SE Airoso Boulevard, Port St. Lucie, Florida.

2. Roll Call

Council Members Present:

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

3. Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Martin lead the assembly in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. Public to be Heard

Mayor Martin called on those who signed up to speak:

1. Diane Goldberg, St. Lucie Audubon Society, spoke regarding invasive plant species in Torino and asked that Pubic Works contact the University of Florida Research Center at 772-468-3922 to assist with this issue. She also requested that new developments be required to landscape with native plants that utilize

less pesticide, as it endangers the wildlife.

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

5. Workshop Business

5.a Introduction: Preparing for 2024-2025

[2024-201](#)

Kate Parmelee, Deputy City Manager for Strategic Initiatives & Innovation and Strategic Plan Project Managers, provided an overview of the 2024 Winter Workshop and the day's scheduled presentations. She stated the workshop is a key component of the strategic planning process and an opportunity for Staff to discuss any issues. She requested that any issues be flagged for additional conversation.

City Manager Jesus Merejo provided a PowerPoint presentation and opening remarks on the City's vision and mission statement. He spoke to the City being the leader in innovative solutions; putting residents first; supporting opportunities for all people to thrive; providing exceptional services; enhancing community safety, beauty and quality of life; and fiscal responsibility.

City Manager Merejo also discussed the future projects and opportunities, and how to implement solutions efficiently. Vice Mayor Caraballo commented on the number of projects that have been completed and still need to be accomplished. She stated it was Council's responsibility to push the City to the next level as an organization and provide Staff with the tools to get there. City Manager Merejo indicated this was a turning point for the Council and Staff, and he was looking forward to what they can create and accomplish as a team.

5.b Hear a Presentation from Blue Zones: Assessing the Community Well-Being of Port St. Lucie

[2024-196](#)

Margaret Brown, Vice President of Business Development, Blue Zones, provided a brief history of her experience with non-profit organizations, community health centers, academic medical centers, deploying community health needs assessments, developing community health improvement plans, and overseeing public health districts across many states. She stated she was excited to bring forth the opportunities, the data, and the work Blue Zones has done in preparation for today's meeting.

Ms. Brown provided a PowerPoint presentation and discussed the purpose and mission of Blue Zones, the Netflix documentary, environment versus health care, longevity hot spots, Blue Zones - Power 9 Lifestyles, Gallup Well Being Index, Five Elements of What is Well Being?, and the

Economic Value of Well Being. She reviewed the data for Port St. Lucie Wellbeing Elements and stated the City was doing pretty well compared to the nation and the state of Florida, with the Purpose, Social, and Financial elements ranked in the first quintile and the Community and Physical elements ranked in the second quintile. Ms. Brown discussed the Voice of Port St. Lucie, Modifiable Behaviors, Risk Behaviors, and Disease. She reviewed the four areas of opportunity where Blue zones can assist the City and discussed possible solutions related to healthy weight, tobacco use, accessible health information, and health disparities. She presented the Solution Model for People, Places & Policy, Sustaining Community Transformation for a 3 to 5 year period, 4D Policy Process, Community Blue Print, Blue Zones Challenge App, and the Naples, FL Blue Zones Project in southwest Florida.

Ms. Brown noted that the projects they deploy across the country are very rarely deployed with citizen taxpayer dollars through funding from a city entity. She stated they work intentionally with city governments to devise a strategic partnership with all organizations in the community to put together a model and approach that would work for the everyone involved, with the funding coming from health systems, health plans, public health dollars, community foundation dollars, state grant dollars, etc. Ms. Brown explained how they put together a funding structure and work diligently with the city to align the goals with the areas in the community health needs assessment planning, strategic planning, comp planning, etc., to create the broader vision, so everyone is represented. She stated they work together to select the well being metrics of interest and measure them regularly and annually, as well as look for the long-term outlook metrics to be decided by the city, community, and stakeholders as to the goals and activities of the entities. She noted that was the magic of Blue Zones.

Councilman Pickett inquired how, in relation to Power 9, to change people's eating habits so it has a direct reflection on their health. Ms. Brown stated they need to consider increasing the access to a healthy food supply, having more products direct to consumer to reduce costs, and improving food skills with pot luck dinners, community gardens, and cooking together.

Vice Mayor Caraballo commented on the correlation of Blue Zones to Port St. Lucie and recommended watching the documentary on Netflix. She spoke to treating the whole person and developing partnerships with their healthcare providers, school board, and other entities to help implement the solutions. Vice Mayor Caraballo also commented on how to leverage their dollars to support these kind of initiatives and the need to partner with

the Cleveland Clinic, HCA, and Tennet, to improve the overall health of their community. She stated she was looking forward to continued ways and strategies on what the Council can do as a support system to the community to make this happen, as well as to future strategic planning discussions on this.

Mayor Martin stated she watched the Blue Zones documentary on Netflix and indicated it was very interesting. She stated a project like this would be a major cross collaboration between all of their community partners, including the Children's Services Council. She believes the economy and the national political landscape ties into how people feel today. Mayor Martin stated Council can discuss what they are willing to take on at their Strategic Planning session in April. She suggested asking for partnerships within their region and county to see what they can focus on to start making improvements.

Mayor Martin asked Ms. Brown to provide the team with the data points along with the strengths and weaknesses from the Jacksonville and southwest Florida blue zone project areas, as this information will assist the City when meeting with its partners to formulate a plan. Ms. Brown agreed to provide the data and suggested the City take a delegation to visit these areas. Vice Mayor Caraballo stated she would like to drive to southwest Florida to explore their blue zone efforts.

(Clerk's Note: Mayor Martin called for a break at 9:56 AM and the meeting resumed at 10:21 AM.)

5.c Hear a Port St. Lucie Economic Update

[2024-174](#)

Brad Hunter with Hunter Housing Economics presented a PowerPoint presentation and discussed how residential development and migration are major drivers of economic activity, with the City of Port St. Lucie leading the region in residential permits. He explained the rising cost to own and how housing dollars go further in PSL vs. WPB. Mr. Hunter reviewed the housing market and how Tradition is the leading planned community with others are on the way. He spoke to the change in housing inventory, robust population growth, population by generation with PSL being very diverse, and increase in household income in PSL. Mr. Hunter also discussed Employment by Industry; Health Care Employment; Unemployment, Inflation and Wage Growth with the City doing fine on all accounts; Job Growth; and New Employers. He concluded his presentation by stating PSL is now the 6th largest city in Florida and one of the top ten fastest growing cities in the nation.

City Manager Merejo commented on the growth impacts over the next five

years to the water and sewer plants, police department, roadway system, and level of service. Mayor Martin added that no one anticipated such growth and that it is very challenging for everyone, including the Council, staff, and residents. She noted and clarified that there were no discussions at this time regarding annexation, as the City was dealing with the growth they have now.

City Manager Merejo stated another challenge was expanding the system while reducing the debt. Mayor Martin explained it was all about balancing the priorities and needs, and what the City has to do in the future.

Vice Mayor Caraballo suggested, to get updated threshold figures on the expectations of the market, reaching out to the retail strategy group for benchmark numbers for household income and population to guide them on how to move forward as a City. Mayor Martin explained that commercial and retail follow residential, and they are experiencing that shift, so the City always has to be planning for what is next.

Vice Mayor Caraballo discussed the projections for the years to come and inquired when housing will stop being the economic driver. She asked that next year's presentation include what will be driving the City economically once it is built out. Mr. Hunter stated he would be happy to address that request next year and discussed how Broward County still has a booming economy.

5.d Advancing Innovation and Citizen Engagement: Hear an
Update on the Work of the City Team in the Bloomberg
Harvard City Leadership Initiative Innovation Track

[2024-175](#)

Sarah Prohaska, Communications Director, and Kate Parmelee, Deputy City Manager for Strategic Initiatives & Innovation and Strategic Plan Project Managers, provided a PowerPoint presentation on the population growth, green spaces, High Performance Public Spaces Team, and Wicked Problems. They discussed the Bloomberg Harvard City Leadership Program as well as the Pathway to Innovation along with the phases of the process and interview techniques. Ms. Prohaska and Ms. Parmelee stated the Citizen Design Studio at the Citizen Summit assisted in gathering additional information and they were in the process of synthesizing that data. They indicated their next step will include prototyping the solutions.

Via Zoom, Alexis Baum, Bloomberg Coach, spoke to the City's great team, and the research and achievements they have attained thus far. She reviewed the processes and phases that will take place in the future, quantitative vs. qualitative data, data patterns, framing problems,

prioritizing ideas, and how to use this information to obtain grants.

Mayor Martin clarified that the neighborhood green spaces are 1/4 acre lots owned by private individuals who have the right to build on these lots. She stated it has been a blessing for the City to work with Ms. Baum through this program, as it is important work and ties to many other City efforts.

Vice Mayor Caraballo spoke to the City being data and research driven, the potential for Ms. Bomb to work with Council at Strategic Planning, utilizing Dr. Barth's vision, and how citizens listen to Council's discussions. She suggested that a quick synopsis of plan/implementation/results be presented at Strategic Planning to show the residents the full circle.

Mayor Martin stated that recommendations will be brought forward based on the program's outcomes and everyone's input. She commented on grant funding and cross collaboration with other entities.

Vice Mayor Caraballo discussed the Blue Zone documentary on Netflix and indicated that Harvard and Bloomberg is a nonpartisan workshop and organization. Mayor Martin explained the Bloomberg development and foundations are not political, as they are learning from different parts of the world on how to make cities better through data and innovation. Ms. Parmelee added that Bloomberg cities are collaborators and not competitors. She indicated that this program was at no cost to the residents of Port St. Lucie, as they are able to leverage resources and position the City for other federal funds.

Vice Mayor Caraballo discussed federal funds being competitive and the need for shovel-ready projects, as they currently have \$11.5 million in appropriation requests.

Mayor Martin stated they were looking forward to another update on the program at the Summer Workshop.

- 5.e** Follow the Data: Strategic Plan 2nd Quarter Progress Report
& PSL STAT Highlights and Placer.ai Presentation
Introduction to Departmental High Impact Plans

[2024-176](#)

Kate Parmelee, Deputy City Manager for Strategic Initiatives & Innovation, provided a PowerPoint presentation on the Strategic Planning System for FY 24/25, 2nd Quarter Strategic Plan Progress Report, PSL Stat, and Population Growth. She reviewed the goals for the City of Port St. Lucie as well as discussed the PSL Police Department.

Ms. Parmelee discussed Goal #1 - Safe, Clean & Beautiful, including the District 5 Implementation Plan as well as Traffic, Bicycle & Pedestrian Safety including the implementation strategies. Acting Chief Del Torro commented on the data and accidents and spoke to looking at the data further to determine what type of accidents are occurring at the intersections and where to focus their efforts. He suggested meeting with their partners in Martin County with regard to engineering.

Vice Mayor Caraballo stated the Crosstown lanes that turn west onto US-1 need to be extended, as there are large backups. Mayor Martin inquired if they looked at extending the turn lanes prior to moving forward with the recent palm tree beautification project and discussed the need for holistic planning. She asked if the City was working with DOT, because the City does not control the US-1 intersections.

Colt Schwerdt stated that DOT is getting ready to resurface US-1 at Leonard Road. He explained that due to some complaints, DOT is going to change the configuration of the lanes. He indicated they will reach out to DOT and the TPO, as PSL Blvd./Bayshore and PSL Blvd./Floresta are getting added to the congestion management program, which will help the City to secure additional funding to address these intersections.

Ms. Parmelee resumed her presentation and discussed the Police Training Facility as well as Police Recruitment and Retention. Acting Chief Del Toro spoke to their recruiting and retention efforts, the police academy, the need to grow the department over the next five years, and when officers are required for special events. Mayor Martin expressed her concern when vacancies are not filled and they have to pull officers from the road. She thanked the department for working with IRSC to fulfill current and future vacancies.

Acting Chief Del Toro suggested being more proactive at managing special events, perhaps through an ordinance that requires a certain number of officers, with the City being reimbursed. Mayor Martin thanked the Chief for discussing this issue and requested that Council be provided with the number of police officers required for special events.

Vice Mayor Caraballo commented on safety at family events versus larger events. She requested that national and state-wide comparisons be presented tomorrow or at future discussions regarding special events and safety. She stated she has discussed with the City Attorney her concerns regarding special events, public building safety, metal detectors, etc. She indicated the City Attorney is looking into the statute that allows them to have a shade meeting to discuss sensitive information regarding homeland

security and safety.

Vice Mayor Caraballo discussed creative solutions for policing and the officers who are retiring. She stated her concern is institutional knowledge and how to outfit the police training facility to ensure it is state-of-the-art for the new officers. She indicated she would like the necessary resources and tools outlined for the budget.

Ms. Parmelee provided an update on the US-1 Highway Beautification and the FPL challenges, with final installation anticipated by springtime. She stated they will be evaluating the benefits and data gained from the beautification projects in redevelopment areas.

Mayor Martin spoke to communication and asked that the City get better at responding to and updating residents on social media posts regarding the status of projects. Vice Mayor Caraballo agreed there was room for improvement and suggested strategizing on how they could get ahead of it and be prepared for what might happen. She recommended the City be the first to deal with it on record, instead of playing defense. She stated Communications can work with the City Manager on this and provide the information or project status in his reports.

Mayor Martin explained there was better understanding by residents when the Council members or the Chief is speaking to them in person, as opposed to going on Facebook or the City's website. Acting Chief Del Toro explained that when they put out a positive post, they receive negative comments. He also noted that misinformation is spread via the neighborhood groups or other pages. Acting Chief Del Toro suggested a social media response or SWAT team to deal with this. He agreed that know one can sell their message better than themselves, and that community engagement is needed to spread the correct or positive information, as everyone is not on social media. Sarah Prohaska indicated Scott Samples was their new Content Strategist, and he is working on a lot of what has been discussed. She explained they are putting together a multi-departmental team to respond to questions and posts.

Vice Mayor Caraballo stated that social media is not where resident complaints are logged and filed, as the 1PSL app is for this purpose and should be utilized for the social media posts. Council and Staff discussed how to respond and direct social media posts to 1PSL.

Councilman Bonna stated the number one issue facing their City is communication and perception, as it impacts every aspect of government. He indicated his strategy is to be as aggressive as possible with

communication and to think about how what he says and does is going to be perceived. Councilman Bonna recommended offering other resources to residents, including 1PSL. He stated he looked forward to more discussion on this. City Manager Merejo added that they need to think about what message the City wants to leave with the residents when communicating with them.

(Clerk's Note: Mayor Martin called for a lunch break at 12:20 PM and the workshop resumed at 1:26 PM.)

Ms. Parmelee reviewed Goal #2 - Vibrant Neighborhoods, including community engagement and improvement projects.

Ms. Parmelee presented Goal #3 - Smart and Connected City and touched on Education Partnerships, Expanded Community Engagement Program, the Youth Advisory Council, and Teen Programming. She spoke to the Smart & Sustainable City and Improving Performance Through Innovation, noting that employees are very perceptive to innovation training based on the 2023 National Employee Survey, and reviewed the What Works Cities Certification Tiers.

Ms. Parmelee discussed Goal #4 - Diverse Economy & Employment Opportunities, including the Southern Grove Master Plan and Jobs Corridor Roadway Infrastructure, Local Small Business Support and Development, and other projects/partnerships.

Vice Mayor Caraballo commented on the City Center Master Plan and suggested a workshop or informal meeting to discuss the options as well as the pros and cons for the City Center, to which Jennifer Davis agreed and explained Project Ebenezer's impact. Ms. Davis stated they are expecting a high level of interest regarding the RFP's for residential, hotels, and mixed use.

Mayor Martin stated she believed Staff would bring any viable options forward and had no problem doing things simultaneously. City Manager Merejo and Jennifer Davis indicated the Council will be provided different options by the end of March 2024. Council and Staff discussed the planning process for Southern Grove versus City Center. Mayor Martin stated it was important to set a timeline, as she did not want one project to hold them up.

Ms. Parmelee reviewed Goal #5 - High Quality Infrastructure and Facilities. Elijah Wooten, Small Business Manager, and Robert Chenier, Project Manager, provided an overview of Placer.ai and explained that Parks &

Recreation was tasked with looking at a technology based solution to estimate the number of attendees at special events for the Police Department. Mr. Chenier indicated that other options or tools were cost prohibitive and the amount of data provided by Placer.ai can be utilized in many areas to assist with data driven decisions.

Via Zoom, Tye Burgess with Placer.ai reviewed the capabilities of the Placer program. He stated they are a location analytics company that leverages mobile location data and provides market intelligence on any physical place in the United States. Mr. Burgess explained how they harvest the data from millions of mobile devices and aggregate the data for a park, new development, downtown, or an entire city. He spoke to their civic clients, privacy, and Placer data, and demonstrated the platform utilizing the data captured for PSL's Festival of Lights.

Mayor Martin stated she was very interested in the traffic data and counts, which they need for future decision making, especially for Public Works and the Police Department. Vice Mayor Caraballo believed the data could be used for economic development, amenities, traffic patterns, and to learn how people travel.

Councilman Pickett indicated the traffic data could be leveraged to entice restaurants and businesses to help sponsor City events. He asked if it was real time data, to which Ty Burgess stated there was a three-day lag in time.

Vice Mayor Caraballo inquired about the cell phone data and producing a timeline of data from 2017. Mr. Burgess stated that all of their data from January 2017 aligns with their accuracy benchmark of 95% to 98% and they continue to update their algorithm as they learn about different sites.

City Manager Merejo indicated this was the way of the future. He explained how data can be used in good or bad ways, how it should be used for the right purposes, and how every department can utilize this data. City Manager Merejo also commented on the need for a team in-house to analyze the data, determine how to use the data, make sense of the data, and implement techniques and ways to improve their processes. Mayor Martin stated that initially the data can be used for traffic, safety, and attendance at events. Mr. Burgess explained that automated reports are available, and that Placer ensures the data is being utilized and being used correctly.

Vice Mayor Caraballo suggested working with the IT Department regarding any AI threats and looking at any laws, legislation, and regulations as well

as their policies internally. She stated it would be interesting to see who is utilizing their roads.

Mayor Martin stated she would like to start benchmarking all of their events each year, as their population grows. She expressed that she likes the program and would like to share the data with the residents.

Councilwoman Morgan inquired if people could be counted twice, for example, at the Festival of Lights. She also required about GPS access to the mobile devices. Mr. Burgess explained that people are not counted twice in the same day and that access to every mobile device is not required due to their partnerships. He also discussed the confidence they have in the accuracy of their data.

Councilman Bonna stated this program is very exciting and asked who would have access. City Manager Merejo indicated there would be a monthly fee and it would be part of the budget discussion.

Councilwoman Morgan suggested collaborating with other city and county organizations. City Manager Merejo stated Staff could explore that and bring it to Council.

Ms. Parmelee reviewed the PSL Blvd South projects, City-Wide Fiber Network and Wi-Fi, and Public Transit Enhancement Plan. Mayor Martin stated it was important to communicate the micro-transit information, so residents are aware of what is available to them in the County and City.

Ms. Parmelee provided the status of the Village Green Drive Corridor Revitalization Project, St. Lucie River/C-23 Water Quality Project at McCarty Ranch Preserve, Septic to Sewer Master Plan Annual Projects, and Stormwater Management Plan Annual Projects.

Ms. Parmelee reviewed Goal #6 - Culture, Nature and Fun Activities, including The Port and Pioneer Park Master Plan.

Vice Mayor Caraballo asked for a timeline and dates of the park opening and restaurants at the Port. Jennifer Davis provided an update and indicated the grand opening is scheduled for June 15, 2024. She noted they anticipate a soft opening and the park will be open before that date. Ms. Davis stated she would get a firm timeline for the restaurants and indicated the floating docks would not be ready by June 15, 2024. She spoke to the status of the Historic Homes and the pedestrian bridge at Rivergate. She indicated the promenade phase is fully funded, and they are working with Communications and Parks & Recreation on the branding

phase. Vice Mayor Caraballo stated they will need the floating docks once the restaurants open, to which Ms. Davis explained they will need to get a permit modification with DEP to install additional boat docks. Vice Mayor Caraballo suggested starting that process. Ms. Davis indicated there would be at total of 24 boat slips and they were looking to install a boat lift.

Vice Mayor Caraballo inquired about the parking plans for The Port District events moving forward and asked about a parking garage. Ms. Davis explained they have a transportation plan for the grand opening and trolleys will be available for off-site parking. She spoke to on-street parking and a potential parking garage for future events. Mayor Martin stated they needed to double their attendance expectancy for parking and that they will need to have a further discussion regarding on-street parking. Vice Mayor Caraballo suggested discussing the parking issues and options during their Strategic Planning.

Councilman Pickett stated they needed to address parking now. Mayor Martin agreed and stated parking for special events needs to be addressed. Ms. Parmelee stated she would look into the micro-transit options, with Mayor Martin and Vice Mayor Caraballo suggesting reaching out to ART Transportation and other like options.

Ms. Parmelee discussed the Public Art Master Plan Implementation and the success of the Trumpet Flowers art piece at the Event Center. She touched on O.L. Peacock Sr. Park Preserve Construction, Green Space Preservation & Acquisition, Bikeways and Trails Priority Corridors Implementation, and Tradition Regional Park Design and Construction.

At Mayor Martin's request, Kelly Boatwright provided an update on Tradition Regional Park and stated they were meeting regularly with Mattamy and the County. She indicated the City received the County's impact fee agreement from Mattamy and it is currently under review. She stated Legal has developed the City's agreement for construction of Phase I. Ms. Boatwright also indicated they are almost done with the earthwork, funding is in place, and the tri-party agreement will be brought to Council at their 3/25/2024 meeting. Mayor Martin stated her concern was with the documents, which is why they are inquiring about the timeline.

Ms. Parmelee concluded Goal #6 by reviewing the Torino Regional Park Design and Construction as well as McCarty Ranch Camping Enhancements.

Ms. Parmelee reviewed Goal #7 - High Performing Government Organization, including the Millage Rate Reduction, National Employee

Survey Results, Intergovernmental Priorities Advancement, and 1PSL Data. Vice Mayor Caraballo requested that the solid waste complaints vs. requests be presented for tomorrow's update, so that residents understand the difference. Solid Waste Director indicated they were mostly requests for carts.

(Clerk's Note: Mayor Martin called for a break at 2:55 PM and the workshop resumed at 3:08 PM.)

5.f Public Works Presentation of the 10-Year Infrastructure Plan

[2024-167](#)

(Clerk's Note: This item was heard after Item 5.h.)

Tom Salvador, CPWP-S Manager, provided a PowerPoint presentation on the City's Capital Projects. He stated the Capital Projects were approved by Council in October 2023 and this was a second look at the projects along with an update.

Mr. Salvador reviewed the updated Project Prioritization for the 10-Year Infrastructure Plan, Objectives, Mobility Funding Allocations for approved projects, and Bond Funding Allocations, including the bond repayment schedule. City Manager Merejo commented on the bond payments and explained the need to pull bonds when they are ready to start construction and not ahead of time. Vice Mayor Caraballo inquired if there was a rotation for design, to which Mr. Salvador responded in the affirmative. He explained they do not have a rotation for construction but do have continuing service contracts and discussed how the process works.

Mr. Salvador resumed his presentation and discussed East Torino Parkway. Vice Mayor Caraballo inquired when the roundabout will be completed, as it needs to be done as soon as possible. Mr. Salvador explained the utility and design issues, and estimated the roundabout would be completed by Spring of next year. Mayor Martin discussed communicating the status and delays on social media. She stated the Council needs to be informed of the hard dates, timelines, and expectations, as well as know why the dates are not being met, so they can inform residents when projects will be completed. Vice Mayor Caraballo suggested using Gantt Charts and schedules. Theresa Lamar-Sarno, Assistant City Manager, stated they could provide Council with the hard deadlines, in addition to the charts that will be presented.

Councilwoman Morgan questioned the liquidated damages, if they were priced at the right amount, and where that money goes. Mr. Salvador indicated that two projects are in liquidated damages and he would look into where the money goes. He explained the fee comes from a DOT set

rate. Mayor Martin indicated a sidewalk project and Port St. Lucie Blvd South is in liquidated damages, and \$3,700/day is being charged to the contractor until Port St. Lucie Blvd South is done. City Manager Merejo noted that liquidated damages become a negotiation and the contractor may no longer be able to work in the City. He stated they need to send a message and hold the contractors accountable to get the projects done.

Mr. Salvador provided an update on St. Lucie West Boulevard and Southbend Boulevard, the Bond Funded Projects, and the 23/24 Mobility Funded Projects. Vice Mayor Caraballo requested the days, months, and years for the projects, to which Mr. Salvador stated that information could be provided once the contracts are signed.

Mayor Martin commented on the patches and potholes located on Savona, Paar, Darwin, and Village Green Drive, as residents are complaining and she would like them addressed as soon as possible. City Manager Merejo explained how things change throughout the year and some roads need to be four lanes, so they need to look long term. Council and Staff discussed what should or could be done in the meantime. Colt Schwerdt indicated they were looking to purchase an asphalt truck for the City. Mayor Martin stated that was a great idea and Vice Mayor Caraballo agreed depending on the cost. Mr. Schwerdt stated he would accelerate the research to purchase an asphalt truck and bring the cost back to Council.

Mayor Martin inquired about the process for bond funding and how soon that would take place. City Manager Merejo explained they need to identify the projects, how the City pays and gets refunded, and the line of credit for design. Stephen Okiye, Finance Director, stated they were nearing the bond funding process based on the project list presented. Vice Mayor Caraballo commented on the half-cent sales tax for 2028 and stated they need to plan for a new set of projects. She also discussed Floresta as being a good example on how to get projects done right. City Manager Merejo stated the projects and funding can be shifted. He explained the challenge was time, as the need is now and they do not have the time. Mayor Martin noted that any prioritization will be backed by data. City Manager Merejo indicated that California at Crosstown south to Savona and Oak Hammock needs to be considered.

Mr. Schwerdt commented on Staff working with the DOT and TPO to expand the PD&E study to get down to Savona and discussed addressing the drainage problem at Savona and California. Mayor Martin stated the Savona and Gatlin intersection has draining issues and flooding as well. Mr. Schwerdt stated he would add that intersection to the list of stormwater projects for prioritization.

Mr. Salvador reviewed the City's unfunded projects and noted how they have gone to a three-year cycle for roadway evaluations. Mayor Martin stated they need to add Savona, Paar, and Darwin to the list. Vice Mayor Caraballo suggested adding any potential threats to the list for road construction that might be occurring. Mr. Schwerdt stated if the North/South A agreement with Verano or Kolter is approved, it will be listed as a threat, as it will have to be built within five years.

Mr. Salvador concluded his presentation by briefly discussing the map of Infrastructure Projects, Continuing Service Contracts, and the Communication Campaign: Mobility Plan. Vice Mayor Caraballo stated they need to keep an eye on the mobility legislation, as it will potentially change the discussion moving forward in regards to interlocal agreements.

5.g Hear the Public Works Department High Impact Plan

[2024-186](#)

Colt Schwerdt, Public Works Director, provided a PowerPoint presentation on the Public Works Department High Impact Plan, including APWA Accreditation, beautifying City entryways and neighborhoods, and planning and designing infrastructure for the City.

Vice Mayor Caraballo commented on keeping the new bridge clean, technology vs. FTE's, and the Sidewalk Master Plan. She requested the timeline for the neighborhood sidewalks, to which Mr. Schwerdt explained the master plan was not set in stone with dates, as projects are always being added. Vice Mayor Caraballo inquired if they should prioritize the projects by flood zones, to capitalize on both stormwater and sidewalk build or should they prioritize sidewalks by connections to a main arterial for interconnection. She suggested that the conversation come back to Council, so they can brainstorm what they foresee as the future of the Sidewalk Master Plan.

City Manager Merejo spoke to the history of the sidewalk discussion and recalled the sidewalk cost of \$250 million, which was not realistic and led to the Sidewalk Master Plan. He stated they needed to start looking long term, and perhaps pivot and discuss building stormwater basins. Vice Mayor Caraballo suggested utilizing stormwater funding and building the sidewalks at the same time.

Mayor Martin noted that not everyone wants sidewalks and commented on Savona, arterial roads and cut-through streets, and speed bumps vs. sidewalks. She stated they needed to look at all of this holistically, as they move forward.

Colt Schwerdt concluded his presentation commenting on the pros and cons of traffic calming. He stated the Placer AI data can help them with where to build and connect the sidewalks.

5.h Hear the Communications Department High Impact Plan

[2024-187](#)

(Clerk's Note: This item was heard after Item 5.e.)

Sarah Prohaska, Communications Director, provided a PowerPoint presentation on the Communications Department High Impact Plan. She discussed the Smart & Connected City and High Quality Infrastructure & Facilities, touching on the Citizen Summit events, communicating traffic efforts, naming and branding for the City Center, etc.

Jennifer Davis, CRA Director, provided the status on naming the City Center and stated the list was vetted by North Star. Councilman Pickett indicated he did not like any of the names provided, and explained he wants the name to reflect the project/property/City. Mayor Martin stated she shared the same thoughts as Councilman Pickett, but indicated she liked "One Walton" or "Walton & One." Councilman Bonna stated he wanted to hear Sarah's new idea. Vice Mayor Caraballo indicated she liked "Walton & One" and stated the name needs to be simple and one that everyone will use to refer to the City Center.

Ms. Prohaska continued her presentation and discussed the High-Performing Government Organization. She spoke to branding, mapping of signs in the City, and implementation of the Digital Sign program. Vice Mayor Caraballo suggested asking North Star which name to use: "The Port" or "The Port District." Ms. Prohaska stated she would speak to North Star, as they are a great resource.

Ms. Prohaska provided an update on the City's new website. Mayor Martin requested that Council preview the new website prior to its launch and suggested that it be presented at the next informal Council meeting.

Ms. Prohaska concluded her presentation by discussing the National Community Survey, signing up for text messages from the City, and rebranding for The Port District.

6. Adjourn

There being no further business, the workshop recessed at 4:42 PM.

Sally Walsh, City Clerk

Traci Mehl, Deputy City Clerk