

City of Port St. Lucie

Special City Council

Meeting Minutes

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

Gregory J. Oravec, Mayor

Stephanie Morgan, Councilwoman, District I
Dave Pickett, Councilman, District II
Shannon Martin, Vice Mayor, District III
Jolien Caraballo, Councilwoman, District IV

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Tuesday, January 19, 2021

1:30 PM

Council Chambers, City Hall

1. Meeting Called to Order

A Special Virtual Meeting of the CITY COUNCIL of the City of Port St. Lucie was called to order by Mayor Oravec on January 19, 2021, at 1:31 PM, at Port St. Lucie City Hall, 121 S.W. Port St. Lucie Boulevard, Port St. Lucie, Florida.

2. Roll Call

Council Members Present:

Mayor Gregory J. Oravec
Vice Mayor Shannon Martin
Councilwoman Stephanie Morgan
Councilman Dave Pickett
Councilwoman Jolien Caraballo

3. Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Oravec led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. Public to be Heard

No one signed up to speak under this item.

5. New Business

5.a Accept the Half-Cent Sales Tax FY 19/20 Second, Third, and

[2020-993](#)

Fourth Quarter and FY 20/21 First Quarter Projects Update

Heath Stocton of Public Works provided an update on the Second, Third and Fourth Quarters of Fiscal Year 19/20 and the First Quarter of the present Fiscal Year 20/21. He reminded everyone that the Sales Tax Action Team (STAT) meets every two weeks to review progress and outstanding items to accomplish their goals. He said the project team members also meet separately every two weeks to review and discuss every project's specific goals and issues more closely. He indicated this same presentation was presented to the Citizen Oversight Committee (COC) in December 2020. He said, if Council approves, staff will provide the First Quarter update to the COC this coming Friday.

Mr. Stocton reviewed the status of St. Lucie West Boulevard, which includes the intersections of Peacock Boulevard, Cashmere Boulevard, and Bayshore Boulevard, as well as the improvements at the Torino Boulevard intersection, which include the California Boulevard roundabout. He showed Council some pictures and stated that these projects were done on time and under budget, and everyone has been pleased.

Mayor Oravec stated that they needed zero complaints on Tulip Boulevard, to which Mr. Stocton explained that a consulting firm was currently under contract to provide recommendations.

Mr. Stocton indicated that Floresta Drive is well underway with no real issues or complaints. He asked that if anyone receives any traffic complaints or has concerns, to let him know.

Mayor Oravec stated the final feedback is to make it tidy, so mud is not tracked everywhere, including the pond. He asked about the bacteria in Kings Waterway and if they could flush that area. He said the homeowners may ask the City for help with removing the muck and inquired if there were any grant opportunities for dredging. Mr. Stocton stated he would get with J.D. prior to the meeting with the residents. Councilwoman Caraballo requested that the Council be updated as well.

Councilwoman Caraballo stated that in the last update they discussed traffic concerns and speeding, while the workers were present and doing their job. Mr. Stocton explained that the City presented the option of reducing the speed to the contractor, but it was declined

because they felt well-protected and were not concerned at this time. Councilwoman Caraballo requested that the conversation be put in writing to protect the City.

Mr. Stocton showed Council some pictures of the Floresta Drive Phase 1 Open House.

Mr. Stocton stated the design for Floresta Drive Phases 2 and 3 is underway and ongoing. He said that 90% of the plans are being developed, as they are due in February 2021 and construction is expected to start in September 2021. He noted that they extended the contract time with St. Lucie County by 41 calendar days, to include some of their improvements. He stated that staff does not see this impacting the construction schedule as of yet. He indicated that the County paid for the improvements.

Mr. Stocton explained that staff is proposing an oval-about, in lieu of a roundabout, to connect the streets in proximity and help with pedestrian crossings. He stated the center of the oval will be used as a bio swale, so it will serve a dual purpose. He said that he will provide Council with a better exhibit, as the aerial is hard to see. He stated the school has agreed to provide the appropriate right-of-way to get into their parking lot and has not requested any compensation thus far. Mr. Stocton further discussed how the oval-about would benefit the pedestrians, stacking of cars, and flow of traffic.

Vice Mayor Martin stated the oval-about was a great opportunity for public art and suggested a rain garden with a dolphin in the middle. Mayor Oravec thought it could be a partnership opportunity and suggested an aquatic theme like Crosstown, with the pedestals and a Guy Harvey design on top. He said it might be something to incorporate if it connects the City. He asked that staff follow up with a detail sheet and include the directional arrows in the lanes. The City Manager indicated that staff will also provide an aerial of the oval-about on A1A in Port Salerno, Florida.

Mr. Stocton noted that the County paid for the design of the improvements at Floresta and Prima Vista and would be contacted to fund their portion of the construction as well.

Mr. Stocton stated that the sidewalk projects, which include the Torino Eastern Loop Boardwalk, NW Selvitz Road, and NW Torino Boulevard,

have been completed.

Mr. Stocton reviewed the progress of repaving the roadways. He said for FY20, three miles were done in addition to the thirty miles through the regular CIP. He stated for FY21, about three-and-a-half miles of the nine miles have been done to date. He said the list for repaving will increase every year as they get further into the Sales Tax Program.

Mayor Oravec explained that the City should be aggressive by repaving more roadway than the year prior and include it in the budget for Council approval, as the residents are asking about it. Vice Mayor Martin stated that there is an education component to it as well. Mr. Stocton said he believed the Master Plan will help prioritize and show the need.

Mr. Stocton spoke to traffic signal coordination and stated that Crosstown Parkway has been done. Councilwoman Caraballo inquired if Gatlin Boulevard has smart signalization. Mr. Stocton explained that it is connected via fiberoptic and has a timing system, but it is not the smart adaptive system like Crosstown and St. Lucie West as of yet. Councilwoman Caraballo said she would like a plan from Engineering on where they will put smart signalization and asked if Gatlin and Rosser was next. Mr. Stocton indicated that the City has two grants to do Gatlin Boulevard over the next fiscal year and the following fiscal year.

Mayor Oravec stated he would like to know the ultimate lane configurations for Rosser Boulevard and Savona Boulevard and get that communicated better. He said they should set the expectation now, so it does not get pushed off. Councilwoman Morgan stated the signal at Bayshore Boulevard also needs to be looked at, as well as two lanes versus four lanes, as cars are always backed up there.

Mr. Stocton indicated that Port St. Lucie Boulevard is on the schedule for 2028. Councilwoman Caraballo stated the impression she got from the individuals who live on Port St. Lucie Boulevard is that this Council does not care about this street. She said she is relaying to the City Manager and staff that Port St. Lucie Boulevard needs to be taken care of as well. Vice Mayor Martin stated that it has to get done, as they cannot rely on the state. Mayor Oravec suggested that Council promise that it will happen regardless. He said if staff cannot work it out with FDOT and the TPO, they will have to propose it as part of the

budget.

Mr. Stocton noted that the US-1 landscaping improvements will be done in April 2022, after FDOT has completed their Resurfacing, Restoration, Rehabilitation project.

Mr. Stocton reviewed the St. Lucie County Prima Vista Boulevard improvements and indicated that the County did not provide a long-term schedule. Mayor Oravec stated he wanted the record to reflect there was Council consensus to direct the City Manager to send a letter to Mr. Tipton regarding the timeline for Prima Vista improvements. He said the City Manager should remind Mr. Tipton that the County's attention to Prima Vista was one condition upon which the Council wholeheartedly supported the effort for the half-cent sales tax.

Mr. Stocton showed Council a graphic of the Implementation Schedule and said they were roughly two years into a ten-year program.

Mr. Stocton presented a summary of the FY19/20 and FY20/21 Budget & Expenditures, as well as reviewed the Revenue Summary. Councilwoman Caraballo stated that there is an increase from FY20 to FY21 and asked how the City and the County projected the sales tax. In response, Mr. Snyder stated that it is increasing quite rapidly and that they are not seeing a decrease based on less tourism, which is surprising and exciting.

Councilwoman Caraballo stated they are doing a little better each year and asked if the contingency budget should be adjusted based upon the advertised budget versus the budget remaining. Mr. Snyder stated that it was early in the game to be adjusting contingencies, because they do not know what will go up or down. He said they will watch the money. Councilwoman Caraballo stated she wants to make sure the money is there to finish Floresta Drive and California Boulevard.

Mayor Oravec asked that the year's projection be included in the Revenue Summary graph for comparison versus actual.

Councilwoman Caraballo inquired if the positive increase they were seeing would reduce their internal borrowing and give them more money to spend on projects, to which Mr. Stocton responded in the affirmative.

Councilwoman Morgan asked if the Torino Boulevard roundabouts support expansion if the road gets widened to four lanes. Mr. Stocton stated the short answer is yes, but he explained that there is no intention of making the roundabouts multi-lanes because of the issues with them.

Councilwoman Morgan questioned if the traffic signal coordination savings to the sales tax budget of \$800,000 would go towards the \$4 million deficit on Floresta Drive. In response, Mr. Snyder stated it was all one pot of money and one benefit is that they have not had to borrow yet.

Mayor Oravec requested staff to challenge the designers to find a solution other than multilane roundabouts, should they ever be considered.

There being no further discussion, Councilwoman Caraballo moved to accept the Half-Cent Sales Tax FY 19/20 Second, Third, and Fourth Quarter and FY 20/21 First Quarter Projects Update. Vice Mayor Martin seconded the motion, which passed unanimously by voice vote.

(Clerk's Note: Meeting recessed at 2:31 PM and reconvened at 2:45 PM.)

- 5.b** Review and Accept the City Manager's Biweekly Report/Strategic Plan Update and Implement the Strategic Approach of High Performance Public Spaces in the Implementation of Strategic Plan Projects

[2021-045](#)

Kate Parmelee, Director of Strategic Initiatives & Innovation, explained that for the January update, staff is bringing several strategic initiatives to Council at one time, as they found convergence between the projects and believe this will help to better align their Strategic Plan. She said these items can be implemented immediately and need Council's approval.

Ms. Parmelee, along with Dr. David Barth of Barth Associates via Zoom, provided a PowerPoint presentation on High Performance Public Spaces. Ms. Parmelee reviewed the Relevant Strategic Plan Priority Projects, 10-Year Parks & Recreation Master Plan, Conceptual Bikeway & Trails Network, Definition of High Performance Public Spaces, and Strategic Plan Implementation Findings. Dr. Barth spoke to the Parks Land Acquisition and Vacant Lands, including the

Belvedere Site, Wilderness Park Site, O.L. Peacock Site, Sandpiper HOA Site, and Rosser Lakes, LLC, site. He said he was surprised that of the predominant sites, the undeveloped parks, more than the privately owned vacant parcels, could meet their needs.

Ms. Parmelee discussed the City's Environmentally Sensitive Lands and Environmental Lands Preservation Plan. She said their underutilized environmental lands could benefit from making them more high performing. She stated they had numerous conversations with the County as well as with the state park system about opportunities to partner. She said they also looked at existing funding sources.

Mayor Oravec stated that this was a good start, but he wanted the team to evaluate opportunities like the Club Med Golf Course, the other side of I-95 across from the Paint Ball Park, at the site along the Turnpike behind the gas station on Cameo, to the north of Rosser, and at Wilderness Park as well as programming these parks/sites. Vice Mayor Martin suggested looking at O.L. Peacock Park, the areas on Becker Road that meet the three acres, and enhancing their existing parks.

Councilwoman Caraballo stated she wants to see the vision of these parks, as some could stay green and passive if that is what the community wants. She said the Council will be able to see what will fit within the property and if it matches their Strategic Plan and goal of providing that amenity to the public.

Vice Mayor Martin suggested having a plan for the lots being cleared, as they could be potential future park sites.

Councilwoman Caraballo and Mayor Oravec agreed they would like to see marketing, planning, and branding, so that residents know what these parks will be. Mayor Oravec thought the City would be well-served by making "Park St. Lucie" a part of who they are.

Council discussed possible sites and elements of public planning and public spaces that could be incorporated systematically. Mayor Oravec stated the challenge for this Council is not only strategic thinking and planning, but investment as well.

Dr. Barth explained the idea of elevating all spaces to the level of high performance public spaces, as some will have an emphasis on ecology

and environment, exercise and mobility, etc. He said each public space may have a primary role, but all will have multiple roles and benefits. He noted that the branding takes place first and foremost at a very high level.

Ms. Parmelee stated that she is going to meet with Communications on the idea of how they talk about the trails. She indicated that the City has \$800,000 to implement neighborhood parks and the Neighborhood Services Department has worked with the team to evaluate and create site prioritization criteria. She said they also looked at the gaps and access of level of service in the Ten-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan. She stated they would like to initiate design of two probabilities, Peacock Lake and Duck Court, and select a landscape architectural firm to work with to develop the construction schedule.

Mayor Oravec stated the City cannot wait to acquire land, as the property will be gone. He advocated for additional land acquisition, including scattered lots so each block is not developed 100%. He explained that it not only impacts the character of the city, but the water quality as well.

Mayor Oravec asked the City Manager how many vacant lots remain in the City and explained that once a lot has a rooftop, it is more difficult and expensive to acquire. Vice Mayor Martin suggested using the proceeds from the unwanted properties on the properties the City wants. Councilwoman Caraballo stated she would like to see the vacant lots by district, so they can look at the equity and percentage of public spaces per district.

Mayor Oravec stated a Selection Committee should be formed after Dr. Barth does an in-depth review. He said the consultant's report should include funding as well. Council agreed.

Mayor Oravec indicated that when Council meets again, they will discuss distribution and doing something in each district. Vice Mayor Martin asked the City Attorney to inform Council as to when the City's upcoming property auction will take place. Council requested that the distribution of park lands be spread evenly between districts and asked for the percent of public space per district, to help determine if the dollars should go towards development or acquisition. Mayor Oravec inquired about the funds from the sale of the dental office property on Port St. Lucie Boulevard.

Dr. Barth explained that the City is transitioning into a far more complex city and may need a more complex classification system.

Ms. Parmelee spoke to two more components of the High Performance Public Spaces Strategic Plan, Bikeways and Trails. She explained the team looked at the Multimodal Plan and developed prioritization criteria to identify their priorities and pilot sites. She said the Cambridge Trail Corridor ranked number one and is prioritized for design and the engineering firm. She stated if Council approves, staff will go straight to design. Council agreed to move forward but indicated that it needs trees. Mayor Oravec indicated he could donate about twenty trees if the City could provide the irrigation bags. Ms. Parmelee noted the number two and three ranked trails are O.L. Peacock and the West Torino Parkway corridors, for which the City can now seek funding.

Ms. Parmelee reviewed the KPSLB Plan, Port St. Lucie's High Performance Public Spaces: 10 Recommendations, and Port St. Lucie's High Performance Public Spaces Recommended Pilot Projects. She said they are ready to implement these projects through an interdepartmental, interdisciplinary, high performance public spaces team.

Vice Mayor Martin moved to accept the City Manager's Biweekly Report/Strategic Plan Update and Implement the Strategic Approach of High Performance Public Spaces in the Implementation of Strategic Plan Projects. Councilwoman Caraballo seconded the motion.

Under discussion:

Council agreed to bringing on a consultant for public lands, in lieu of environmental lands, but incorporate the environmental lands, stormwater, and neighborhood parks.

Councilwoman Caraballo stated that she would like a timeline and the residents' feedback once the multimodal trail is completed. Mayor Oravec suggested having a public workshop to acquire the feedback. He requested Ms. Parmelee to follow-up on the pilot projects with the proposed timelines and Gantt Charts.

Mayor Oravec asked Ms. Parmelee to have the first iteration of the Cambridge Trail at Council's next Retreat or Strategic Planning

Session, as the Council may want it under construction in FY 21/22.

The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

5.c Bus Shelter Public Art Project

[2021-027](#)

Bolivar Gomez provided a PowerPoint presentation on the status of the Bus Shelter Public Arts Project, which is to bring awareness to the public transit system. He explained the purpose of the project as well as the budget and available funds. He reviewed the locations of the bus shelters and the different artwork options that Council could choose from: Option 1: Perforated Vinyl Wrap; Option 2: Piece-Metal Artwork; and Option 3: Metal-Sculpted Artwork.

After discussing and considering the different materials, cost, quality, life cycle/expectancy, maintenance, etc., of each option, Council selected Option 3 as the artwork for the City's bus shelters.

Mr. Gomez explained that there is a partnership opportunity with Option 1 where the City can receive images from a local photographer or the University of Florida Program, IFAS. Vice Mayor Martin indicated that the City has an opportunity to work with local resident George A. Gay. She said Mr. Gay is a resident of Tradition and a very experienced photographer who takes beautiful photos of nature and wildlife. She stated he would be willing with photo credit to donate his photography. She said his photos can be found on the Tradition Forum Page. Mayor Oravec stated that he would like to support Mr. Gay's artwork as well as cultivate a relationship with IFAS at the University of Florida.

Council expressed their concerns on the transparency and safety of the vinyl wrap in Option 1. Mayor Oravec asked staff to follow-up and make sure there is visibility through the wraps.

Mayor Oravec questioned which bus shelter locations have the most use, to which Mr. Gomez stated he could get ridership information from the Transit Authority.

Councilman Picket stated he was surprised by the low cost of Option 3 and asked that the total cost be confirmed by staff for all the bus shelters.

Councilwoman Caraballo stated the new utility boxes in Tradition could be wrapped in local artists' photos. Mayor Oravec said the photos could also be included in the City's wraps program and the KPSLB Plan

for the screen panels. He requested the City Manager to take advantage of these decorative wrap opportunities, including when working with GL Homes or Mattamy Homes on a park.

Council discussed elevating their wrap program by utilizing the art and photography that has been embraced by their community, as the wraps will eventually need to be changed and refreshed. Vice Mayor Martin requested that Mr. Gay's images be incorporated into their wraps program, because he generously provided his artwork and she wants to give him that credit and opportunity. She also stated that the screen panels could provide an opportunity for sunset or other photographs and be custom made with local artists.

Vice Mayor Martin moved to approve artwork Option 3 as well as encourage staff to use local artist Mr. Gay and cultivate a relationship with IFAS. Councilwoman Morgan seconded the motion.

Under discussion:

Council agreed on Option 3 and decided on the artwork to be placed at the bus shelter locations: Sportsman's Park - Sports; Thirsty Turtle - Sea Turtles; St. Lucie West Cashmere Corners - Sandhill Cranes; Clover Park - Baseball; Ravenswood Pool - Manatee; Treasure Coast Medical Building - Wood Stork; CVS Pharmacy - Heron.

The motion passed unanimously by voice vote. (Clerk's Note: Councilwoman Morgan left the meeting at 4:21 PM and was not present for this vote.)

5.d Discuss the proposed Art in Public Places Master Plan

[2021-042](#)

Patti Tobin introduced Josh Lapp with Designing Local, who attended via Zoom to present the Art in Public Places Master Plan. Ms. Tobin reminded the Council that this Master Plan is required per their public art ordinance, which was updated in 2018.

(Clerk's Note: The meeting recessed at 4:25 PM and reconvened at 4:35 PM.)

Mr. Lapp indicated that the Council had the opportunity for one-on-one discussions, to take a survey, or to have other interactions with him.

Mr. Lapp reviewed the different chapters of the Master plan which covered the following topics: The Existing Program, Port St. Lucie in

Our Words, Strategy for Success, Place in Port St. Lucie, Policy for Success, Connecting to the Strategic Plan, and Big Ideas for Implementation. He stated the Executive Summary discusses why public art is important and how it is key to several of the goals and initiatives the City is putting forward right now.

Mr. Lapp indicated that the ordinance defines public art. He explained that the Public Art Advisory Board helps advise the Mayor and Council on the types of public art the City should be implementing, and funds are contributed by the development community when new properties are built throughout the City. Mr. Lapp stated that he and Ms. Tobin inventoried in detail the existing public art in the City, which is well distributed throughout the community. He said as new public art is created by the development community, it will most likely be implemented in the newer areas.

Mr. Lapp explained how they hope the inventory will be publicly accessible and encourage local artists to learn more about the community. He indicated that 600+ survey responses were received, which indicated the City of Port St. Lucie feels like home and has a family vibe, is a slice of Florida, is a City for All, has nature nearby, and looks at the past, but is forward thinking.

Mr. Lapp talked about the intentionality of public art and how art has more than one use. He said they can implement the Master Plan very intentionally to achieve the goals of the City by following the six Strategies of Success: Placemaking with Public Art, Wow! Public Art, Empower Local Artists, Enhanced Procurement Guidelines, Coordination with Citywide Efforts, and Right-Sized Staffing.

Mr. Lapp also provided an overview of the different Policies for Success: Use of Funds, Acquisition Policy, Collection Management Policy, Donation Procedures, Maintenance Policy, and Emergency Management Policy.

Mr. Lapp presented the team's Ideas for Implementation, which included honor or memorial art in connection with the Veterans Memorial; funding support for the Botanical Gardens' public art endeavors; the NICE Program and implementing neighborhood symbols; natural artwork or art that celebrates and provides education on the wildlife in the community; a City flag; public art with a splash pad; a City landmark; functional public art, such as the bus shelters; an

Art Center; public art on US-1; temporary and fun public art.

Mayor Oravec asked for Council's comments and feedback. Councilwoman Caraballo stated that she had a great one-on-one and provided a lot of feedback. She said the plan is very thorough. She stated she likes all the ideas and the temporary art collaboration idea in particular.

Vice Mayor Martin thought this was a great plan. She said she likes the neighborhood symbols, temporary art collaboration in their parks, City flag as a lower priority, City landmark, and permanent natural and interactive art throughout the City.

Mayor Oravec stated he would like a landmark along I-95 with a big PSL that encourages people to stop at Tradition or Crosstown and interact with the art. He suggested having participatory art at the Event Center, or even City Hall, for the different holidays, as it provides a sense of place, belonging, and togetherness. He stated that each district should have its locations defined if public art is put in every neighborhood park, so that it is equally distributed.

Councilman Pickett stated that he would like a landmark that is iconic to Port St. Lucie and has the wow factor, like the Indy landmark in Indianapolis. He also suggested holding a local contest for the City flag.

Mr. Lapp explained that for the City flag, the plan proposes working with graphic designers or other artists to develop some proposals, which ultimately could go out for a public vote. He stated that, in terms of acquiring the art in general, the plan proposes to work through the request for qualifications process, so they can select based on past work and understand who is successful at implementing good public art, working well with cities, etc. He said that on a smaller scale, the City may have the opportunity to purchase directly from the artists.

Mayor Oravec stated if a majority of the Council wants a City flag, he is all for doing a contest as suggested by Councilman Pickett. He said the winner's submission can be polished by the team. He stated he would like to keep it simple by incorporating the Seal and the slogan, "A City For All People."

Councilwoman Caraballo stated the City flag should have the City Seal

/ Logo for consistency and branding, as well as include the neighborhood symbols. She said the Citizen Summits should display more neighborhood branding by having flags, bumper stickers, and T-shirts that display their neighborhood symbol. She stated she is good with the landmark and likes the temporary art ideas for holidays at the Event Center, to keep people coming back.

Mayor Oravec asked for Council's feelings towards an Art Center. Their comments included: great idea for the future; question for Citizen Summit and survey for public input; how will it be funded; programming, branding & communication at the Event Center; keep it in the plan; Art Centers are located near highways; pop-up art on US-1; start with an amphitheater.

Councilwoman Caraballo stated that she wants to know the process on how to get an Art Center. Ms. Tobin said she would get the history on the Kravis Center in West Palm Beach.

Councilwoman Caraballo also stated that they need to get ahead of the market and think about what will be the next big thing when entertainment comes back. Mayor Oravec suggested having a roller rink.

Mayor Oravec stated they could look at the Art Centers in St. Augustine and at The Landings in Jacksonville for ideas; City Center versus Tradition; the band shell at City Center with seating; the splash pad with public art and underground pipes; and taking what the City has and redeveloping it.

Council thanked the team for doing a great job.

(Clerk's Note: No vote occurred, as this item was for discussion only.)

6. Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:40 PM.

Karen A. Phillips, City Clerk

Traci Mehl, Deputy City Clerk
