

City of Port St. Lucie

Special City Council

Meeting Minutes

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

Monday, September 8, 2025

5:30 PM

Council Chambers, City Hall

Budget Hearing

1. Meeting Called to Order

A Special Meeting/Budget Hearing of the CITY COUNCIL of the City of Port St. Lucie was called to order by Mayor Martin on September 8, 2025, at 5:30 p.m., at Port St. Lucie City Hall, 121 SW Port St. Lucie Boulevard, Port St. Lucie, Florida.

2. Roll Call

Council Members Present:

Mayor Shannon Martin

Vice Mayor Jolien Caraballo

Councilwoman Stephanie Morgan

Councilman Dave Pickett

Councilman Anthony Bonna

3. Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Martin led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. Public to be Heard

Resident Joe Lowry recommended that the City, County, and Fire Board get together to bring the Millage Rate down. Councilman Bonna stated that there was about to be a state-wide discussion on property taxes, and Vice Mayor Caraballo inquired if the Fire Board or School Board could have their own public building fee for development, to which Mayor Martin replied that they had an Impact Fee. Vice Mayor Caraballo then expressed that she was in favor of working with other entities. Mayor Martin discussed the fees/taxes for the Fire Board and noted that developers pay Impact Fees and the agreements with the developers had been in place for over 20 years, and the entitlements were to give land to the Fire District, School District, and City (for parks), and this could not be changed.

5. First Reading of Ordinances, Public Hearing

5.a Ordinance 25-49, Public Hearing, an Ordinance Adopting the
Ad Valorem Millage Rate Ordinance for the Fiscal Year (FY)
October 1, 2025, to September 30, 2026; Providing an

[2025-805](#)

Effective Date.

The City Clerk read Ordinance 25-49 aloud by title only.

City Manager Merejo introduced a video for residents that explained the City's portion of the tax bill, the various forms of taxes, and the various taxing authorities. (Clerk's Note: A video was exhibited at this time.) Councilman Bonna clarified that there had been a 25% reduction in the Millage Rate, and that Homestead Exemption could continue to go up due to the CPI if nothing changes. Vice Mayor Caraballo encouraged residents to use the Tax Tool option on the City's website.

(Clerk's Note: A PowerPoint presentation was shown at this time.) Caroline Sturgis, OMB Director, presented to the Council and discussed the desired outcomes for the hearing. She gave an overview for FY25/26, and she noted that this would be the 10th consecutive year that the Millage Rate would be reduced. She discussed the objectives that had been achieved and stated that the Millage Rate would be reduced to 4.9750. She further discussed the Millage Rates and exhibited comparisons, impacts of millage reductions on a city tax for a median home with a homestead exemption, property values and Millage Rate, property tax and Millage Rate, impacts of millage reductions on a city tax for a home recently sold to a new owner. She provided an example of a TRIM notice, discussed major capital projects for FY26, and TRIM public announcements.

Mayor Martin opened the Public Hearing. Resident Tony Rubino inquired as to why taxes continued to rise when more homeowners were paying taxes each year. Resident Juan Scott offered his assistance to the Council and expressed concerns about the County's rate.

Councilman Bonna discussed the decreases of the Millage Rate over the years, and Councilman Pickett clarified that there was a \$6 Stormwater increase due to the City working on major projects to stop flooding in certain areas of the City. Mayor Martin explained that there were various plans put in place throughout the City, even up to the year 2050 and that the City was capped as to how much they could collect, but that they were collecting as much as they could so that the current residents wouldn't have to pay for the impacts in development. Vice Mayor Caraballo requested that staff email Mr. Rubino about the Stormwater Plan.

There being no further discussion, Councilman Pickett moved to adopt a Millage Rate of 4.9750 as recommended by the City Manager. Councilman Bonna seconded the motion, which passed unanimously by voice vote.

5.b Ordinance 25-50, Public Hearing, an Ordinance Adopting the

[2025-811](#)

Budget Ordinance for the Fiscal Year (FY) October 1, 2025, to September 30, 2026; Providing an Effective Date.

The City Clerk read Ordinance 25-50 aloud by title only. (Clerk's Note: This item was presented in conjunction with item 5.a.)

Mayor Martin opened the Public Hearing. Seeing no one, she closed the Public Hearing. There being no discussion, Councilwoman Morgan moved to adopt the Budget Ordinance for FY25/26, appropriating \$869,811,393. Councilman Pickett seconded the motion, which passed unanimously by voice vote.

6. Resolutions

- 6.a** Resolution 25-R47, Public Hearing, Adopting the Capital Improvement Program for the City of Port St. Lucie for the Fiscal Year (FY) October 1, 2025, to September 30, 2026; Providing an Effective Date.

[2025-812](#)

The City Clerk read Resolution 25-R47 aloud by title only.

Mayor Martin opened the Public Hearing. Seeing no one, she closed the Public Hearing. There being no discussion, Vice Mayor Caraballo moved to adopt the Capital Improvement Program Resolution for FY25/26. Councilman Bonna seconded the motion, which passed unanimously by voice vote.

7. Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

Sally Walsh, City Clerk

Jasmin De Freese, Deputy City Clerk