

**CITY OF PORT ST. LUCIE  
CITY COUNCIL INFORMAL MEETING  
FEBRUARY 6, 2024**

An Informal Meeting of the CITY COUNCIL of the City of Port St. Lucie was called to order by Mayor Martin on February 6, 2024, at 1:00 p.m., at Port St. Lucie City Hall, room 366, 121 SW Port St. Lucie Boulevard, Port St. Lucie, Florida.

**1. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER**

**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. DEPARTMENT'S DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**4.a PUBLIC WORKS PROJECT DISCUSSION**

Colt Schwerdt, Public Works Director, presented to the Council on the Swale Liner project and provided a history. He stated that the goal was to restore swale elevations to provide storage and proper drainage conveyance, and Mayor Martin stated that a priority was also addressing the residents that had been waiting for a long time. Mr. Schwerdt then discussed the current swale maintenance and provided 3 options to the Council for the Swale Rework Program: Option 1a – Transition from swale liner cleaning, Option 1b – Immediate elimination of swale liner cleaning, and Option 2 – Reimplement the Swale Liner. The Council further discussed the history of the decision-making for the swale liners to ensure that everyone was on the same page and informed, as well as the importance of the one-on-meetings and informal meetings for decision-making. It was noted by Mayor Martin and City Manager Merejo that the purpose of informal meetings was for staff to provide the Council with information, and for the Council to provide feedback before the item goes before them at a Regular Meeting, and/or to determine if more one-on-one meetings would be necessary.

Discussion was held on the Council receiving the information ahead of time, and City Manager Merejo clarified that these meetings were being treated the same as the one-on-one meetings, and he inquired as to when they would like to receive the information to which City Attorney Berrios suggested that the Council respond one by one. Councilman Bonna had stated that he would like the information ahead of time, Vice Mayor Caraballo had stated that she was fine to receive the information either before or during the meeting, Mayor Martin stated that she was fine to receive the information either before or during the meeting, Councilman Pickett stated that he was fine to receive the information either before or during the meeting, and Councilwoman Morgan stated that she would like the information ahead of time and to have the agendas provided before Friday. **(Clerk's Note:** City Manager Merejo noted that the information had been provided on Wednesday and that they would get the information to them on Wednesdays moving forward.)

Mr. Schwerdt continued his presentation and staff and the Council discussed option 2, as well as costs, comparisons, and baffle boxes. Upon completion of the presentation, Mr. Schwerdt stated that Public Works recommends Option 2. The Council and staff then held a discussion on various topics including a potential Re-Work program, getting resident's input and public education, getting grants to build basins, and adding this topic as a referendum if a change is going to be made. Mr. Schwerdt provided a timeline for when the item would go before Council.

**(Clerk's Note:** A 5-minute break was held at this time.)

Alia Awwad and Richard Virgo, Alta Planning & Design, presented to Council on the Tradition Parkway at Village Parkway Mobility Improvements and provided options. Ms. Awwad discussed the causes of congestion and noted that the City's adaptive traffic control project was not factored into the study, however, once the system was implemented, Alta's recommendations should be even better with the addition of this project, and she also discussed Dutch intersections/protected intersections. **(Clerk's Note:** A video was played at this time.) Ms. Awwad exhibited potential concepts and 2 options for the intersection improvements, and the Council and staff provided suggestions for further improvements and additions to Alta's concept plans. They further discussed various topics such as turn lanes, pedestrian crossings, and the timeline for implementation and to be brought before the Council.

The Council requested to see additional data and cost analysis, and Mr. Schwerdt noted that this project had been slowed down and that the money for this Fiscal Year might need to be rolled over depending on the options implemented. He also informed that an action by Council would need to be taken at another time to continue the project, and that they would provide a follow-up with the pros and cons of both options.

**(Clerk's Note:** A brief break was held at this time.)

**4.b PROCUREMENT DEPARTMENT DISCUSSION – PROCUREMENT INFORMATIONAL: AN OVERVIEW OF CONSTRUCTION PROJECT DELIVERY METHODS**

OMB Director Caroline Sturgis presented to the Council and discussed the goals of Public Procurement, values & guiding principles, laws & rules governing procurement, construction project delivery systems & methods and their advantages/disadvantages, and construction project procurement processes. The Council and staff then held further discussions on the methods.

Ms. Sturgis continued by presenting a summary on the RFP for professional services (CCNA) process. Vice Mayor Caraballo requested further information on the utilization of staff for the procurement process, to which Ms. Sturgis detailed the reasoning for the number of staff used and utilizing the staff's knowledge. They then discussed the scoring and including the comments from the evaluator committee to the information for Council, as well as the procedure for employee conflicts of interest and the number of evaluators. Councilmembers further expressed various concerns for the processes, and also concerns with other member's recommendations regarding changing the process.

The Council then conversed regarding the Public Works Facility item that was held at a previous Council meeting and the discussions that were held during that time. Each Council member additionally voiced their opinions regarding past events, working together, and Council proceedings.

Ms. Sturgis continued her presentation on the RFP for professional services (CCNA) process, and also discussed the prior vs. current processes, amendments to the Ordinance, and how to move forward. Ms. Sturgis noted that the intention was never for the global update to include CCNA projects. Upon completion of Ms. Sturgis' presentation, Mayor Martin informed that she was in favor of the addition of the CCNA language into the Ordinance, and Vice Mayor Caraballo requested that regarding the future direction of any changes, they be provided a full scope of information and best practices before they make any changes so that they would not have to make additional changes after. Councilman Bonna advised that he would not be in favor of the changes, and City Attorney Berrios provided counsel insight to the Council members regarding the legalities of the procedures. Nathaniel Rubel, OMB Assistant Director, gave details on the design build, and Council and staff further discussed procedures and opinions.

**5. COUNCIL DISCUSSION**

City Clerk Sally Walsh provided information regarding the Winter Workshop and recommended that the Council provide feedback to staff regarding how frequently they would like to have these informal meetings. City Manager Merejo suggested that they be held monthly, and the Council held discussions on when to hold them. It was discussed among the Council and staff

that the informal meetings would be held once a month and replaced with the Special Council meetings. Clerk Walsh advised that the Special Council meetings may need to continue to be held due to the number of items to be heard before Council. It was decided by the Council and staff to continue to hold the Special Meetings at 9 a.m., on the third Monday of the month, have a break for lunch, and then hold the Informal meeting at 1:00 p.m.

**6. ADJOURN**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

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Sally Walsh, City Clerk

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Jasmin De Freese, Deputy City Clerk