

City of Port St. Lucie

Special City Council

Meeting Minutes - Final

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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Monday, May 16, 2022	9:30 AM	Council Chambers, City Hall
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1. Meeting Called to Order

A Special Meeting of the City Council of the City of Port St. Lucie was called to order by Mayor Martin on May 16, 2022, at 9:30 AM, 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

The City Clerk delivered the Invocation, and Mayor Martin led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. Public to be Heard

Sheila Selinger, 2050 SW Sunglow Street, spoke regarding untimely pickup of her garbage and recycling services. She also spoke about traffic signal timing issues.

Thomas Maresco, 3072 SE Morningside Boulevard, spoke regarding the overgrowth occurring in Port St. Lucie.

Robert Christina, 971 SW Du Bois Avenue, spoke regarding untimely pickup of

garbage services and traffic signal timing issues occurring on Port St. Lucie Boulevard. He thanked the Port St. Lucie Police and the Utilities Department for their good work.

Diane Goldberg, 6470 NW Volucia Drive, requested that City Council increase the Public Works budget to be able to remove invasive plants.

The City Council and City Manager spoke regarding solid waste issues, invasive plant removal, and property rights to address the comments during public to be heard.

5. First Reading of Ordinances

- 5.a** Ordinance 22-44, An Ordinance Providing for the Fourth Amendment of the Planned Unit Development Document and Conceptual Development Plan for St. Lucie Lands Planned Unit Development, Located East of the Florida Turnpike and North of the Martin County Line (P21-281).

[2022-411](#)

The City Clerk read Ordinance 22-44 aloud by title only.

Laura Dodd, Planning and Zoning, asked the City Council if they wish to see the presentation, to which they responded in the negative and asked that the presentation be shown during the second reading.

James Stokes, City Attorney, indicated the need for additional information from the developer and stated the information has not yet been received. Mr. Stokes stated that if the City did not receive the additional information requested by the following week, he would recommend the City Council table or deny the item during the Second Reading.

Vice Mayor Caraballo clarified the Public Hearing for this item is scheduled for Monday, May 23rd, 2022.

Vice Mayor Caraballo moved to approve Ordinance 22-44. Councilwoman Morgan seconded the motion. There being no further discussion, the Council voted to approve the motion, which passed unanimously by voice vote.

6. New Business

- 6.a** Adopt the City of Port St. Lucie Federal Legislative Program

[2022-427](#)

Kate Parmelee, Strategic Initiatives Director, provided the annual

update for the Federal Legislative Program. (Clerk's Note: A PowerPoint presentation was shown at this time.) She discussed the various appropriation requests to be able to advance the City's Strategic Plan.

Vice Mayor Caraballo moved to approve Adopting the City of Port St. Lucie's Federal Legislative Program. Councilwoman Morgan seconded the motion. There being no further discussion, the Council voted to adopt the City of PSL Federal Legislative Program, which passed unanimously by voice vote.

6.b SW Tulip Boulevard at SW College Park Road Improvement
Options Update

[2022-306](#)

Joseph DeFronzo, Public Works, presented three long term solutions for the intersection of SW Tulip Boulevard at SW College Park.

Stefan Matthes, Culpepper & Terpening Inc, provided the Council with background information regarding the intersection. (Clerk's Note: A PowerPoint Presentation was shown at this time.) He gave an overview of Option 1, 2, and 3 with the respective design to improve the intersection. Mr. Matthes provided the Council with the cost estimate associated with each option.

Vice Mayor Caraballo stated she would support Option 1 with a long-term goal to beautify the intersection.

Councilman Bonna was not in support of Option 3 and inquired on the benefits of proceeding with Option 2. He asked Mr. Matthes for his opinion regarding Option 1 and Option 2 without taking costs into consideration and weighing only the safety aspect with each Option, to which Mr. Matthes responded that Option 2 would likely provide the best outcome.

Mayor Martin stated the Council should not proceed with the lowest cost option because that is not always the best solution to a problem. She also stated she wanted the best possible recommendation to improve the intersection and expressed concern over the roundabout in Option 3.

Councilman Bonna stated he was comfortable recommending Option 2. Mayor Martin and Councilman Pickett agreed with Councilman Bonna's recommendation.

Councilwoman Morgan suggested removing the entry into College Park Road and only having an exit from College Park Road to prevent drivers from using Aviation Avenue to get onto Port St. Lucie Boulevard. Mr. Matthes stated that the closing of the road was discussed at length while going through the positive and negatives of having a right-in and right-out versus a right-out only and ultimately it was decided to keep the intersection as is. Councilwoman Morgan stated she was okay moving forward with Option 2.

Heath Stocton, Public Works Director, stated they did consider making it a one-way intersection; however, policing the intersection would become an issue.

Vice Mayor Caraballo stated she could support Option 2; however, expressed concern over the raised crosswalk. Mr. Stocton explained the raised crosswalk was planned as a safety feature for the pedestrians rather than for vehicle traffic calming.

Mayor Martin agreed with the Option 2 and encouraged Mr. Matthes and Mr. Stocton to evaluate the raised crosswalk.

Councilman Bonna moved to approve Option 2 for the SW Tulip Boulevard at SW College Park Road Improvement. Councilwoman Morgan seconded the motion, which passed unanimously by voice vote.

6.c SW Cashmere Boulevard Median Opening at Home
Depot/Walmart Neighborhood Market Shopping Center and
SE Carter Avenue at SW Airoso Boulevard Intersection
Reviews

[2022-413](#)

Joseph DeFronzo, Public Works Engineer, presented background information regarding the issues occurring at SW Cashmere Boulevard Median Opening at Home Depot/Walmart Neighborhood Market Shopping Center. (Clerk's Note: A PowerPoint presentation was shown at this time.) He also provided the Council with the Traffic Analysis information for the intersection. Mr. DeFronzo recommended that the City Council add a directional island to limit the movement in and out of the establishments to improve the intersection. He presented the positive and negative results of converting the median to a directional median with access to north bound and south bound left turns only.

Councilwoman Morgan expressed concern and stated she would like a deeper analysis so that it includes the professional building/office spaces that was recently approved, as it may potentially cause issues. She suggested waiting to decide on this intersection to allow for the new professional building to be included in the plan.

Mayor Martin agreed with Councilwoman Morgan and advised she was not convinced that directional islands function properly.

Vice Mayor Caraballo agreed with Mayor Martin and Councilwoman Morgan.

Heath Stocton, Public Works Director, asked for clarification regarding the concern expressed by the Council. He explained the new driveway would be South of the location.

Councilwoman Morgan explained the project that was recently approved included merging lanes into one right and a turn lane would be anticipated at the location. She suggested presenting a recommendation with an overlay of the new project and with all the features they plan to include so that the Council could better understand, as it is a heavily traveled intersection.

Councilman Bonna expressed concern over the number of U-turns happening at St. Lucie West Boulevard. He asked for further clarification as to how the medians would improve traffic safety, to which Mr. Stocton responded that the medians would reduce the number of conflict points.

Vice Mayor Caraballo requested additional suggestions for the improvement of the intersection. Mr. Stocton asked the Council if they would like a large-scale recommendation for the intersection, to which Mayor Martin stated all options should be researched to address traffic issues and improve safety.

Diana Goldberg, 6470 Volucia Drive, spoke regarding the visibility when driving at night through the median located at the Neighborhood Walmart and suggested adding lights, as it becomes difficult to leave the area.

It was the consensus of the City Council to have Staff provide additional large-scale improvement recommendations for the Southwest

Cashmere Boulevard Median Opening at Home Depot/Walmart Neighborhood Market Shopping Center Intersection.

Mr. DeFronzo stated he was comfortable with providing the Council with a macro-scale improvement recommendation for the intersection.

Vice Mayor Caraballo inquired if it was possible to improve the intersection with lighting, to which Mr. Stocton stated they would investigate and provide possible solutions.

Mayor Martin stated the City population is growing and low-cost solutions are not always the best decision. She directed the City Manager to have Staff look at macro-level solutions to present to the Council on any future recommendations moving forward.

Mr. DeFronzo discussed the intersection at Southeast Carter Avenue and Southwest Airoso Boulevard. (Clerk's Note: A PowerPoint Presentation was shown at this time.) He explained there was restricted visibility for vehicles turning from Carter Avenue onto Airoso Boulevard. Mr. DeFronzo provided a recommendation to the City Council to install bi-directional islands at Carter Avenue and Whitmore Drive at Airoso Boulevard and a raised median with landscaping. He provided a cost estimate for the recommendation.

Vice Mayor Caraballo stated she would like to see the medians landscaped as they enhance the beautification in the City.

Councilwoman Morgan stated she would like the landscaped median with short vegetation so that visibility is not a problem.

Mayor Martin agreed with Councilwoman Morgan and stated less is more with landscaping on medians.

Vice Mayor Caraballo stated she would like to continue to have landscaping added throughout the City.

Mayor Martin stated that the maintenance amount for the landscaping on medians was expensive to maintain and moving forward she would look at the maintenance costs.

Councilman Pickett moved to approve Staff's recommended improvement plan for the intersection at Southeast Carter Avenue at

Southwest Airoso Boulevard. Councilwoman Morgan seconded the motion, which passed unanimously by voice vote.

Mr. Stocton advised Council that the above project was not budgeted within the Department's CIP. Mayor Martin and Vice Mayor Caraballo agreed to add this project to the list for upcoming budget meetings for the City Council.

7. Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:20 AM.

Sally Walsh, City Clerk

Daisy Ruiz, Deputy City Clerk