

# City of Port St. Lucie

## Citizen's Advisory Committee

### Meeting Minutes

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

Michael Bernard, Chair  
Lynette Lockwood, Vice Chair  
Jack Jennings, Chair Pro-Tem  
Raymond Pezzi, Member  
Christy Romano, Member  
Melony Zaravelis, Member  
Ingrid Sarmiento, Member  
James Abbott, Alternate Member

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**Wednesday, October 16, 2024**

**1:30 PM**

**Room 366, City Hall**

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1. Call to Order

A Regular Meeting of the Citizens Advisory Committee of the City of Port St. Lucie was called to order by Chair Bernard on October 16, 2024, at 1:41 PM, Room 366, Port St. Lucie City Hall, 121 Port St. Lucie Boulevard, Port St. Lucie, Florida.

2. Roll Call

Members Present:

Michael Bernard, Chair  
Lynette Lockwood, Vice Chair  
Jack Jennings, Chair Pro Tem  
Raymond Pezzi  
Ingrid Sarmiento

Others Present:

David Graham, Assistant City Manager  
Jasmin Padova, Executive Assistant  
Carly Fabien, Deputy City Attorney  
Caroline Sturgis, OMB Director  
Karen Russell, Finance  
Charlie Proulx, Finance  
Billy Henson, Finance  
Bret Kaiser, Public Works  
Donna Rhoden, Utility Systems  
John Eason, Utility Systems

3. Determination of Quorum

Mr. Graham indicated there was a quorum.

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**4. Approval of Minutes**

- 4.a** June 19, 2024 Citizen's Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes. [2024-777](#)

There being no corrections, Vice Chair Lockwood moved to approve the minutes of June 19, 2024. Committee Member Sarmiento seconded the motion, which passed unanimously by voice vote.

- 4.b** August 21, 2024 Citizen's Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes. [2024-928](#)

There being no corrections, Committee Member Sarmiento moved to approve the minutes of August 21, 2024. Committee Member Pezzi seconded the motion, which passed unanimously by voice vote.

**5. Public to be Heard**

There were no comments from the public.

**6. New Business**

- 6.a** Discuss the Changes Made to the Boards and Committee Resolution [2024-892](#)

Carly Fabien, Deputy City Attorney, updated the Committee on the new Boards and Committees Resolution. She discussed the changes as they relate to the role of the alternate members, rotating schedule for alternate members, and staggered terms for the board members. She provided each member with their classification for the first term. Chair Pro-Tem Jennings requested that the classifications and changes be provided to the Committee in writing.

At this time, Mr. Graham announced an opportunity to hold their next Citizen's Advisory Committee meeting at the Saints Golf Course and experience the driving range following the meeting, on behalf of the Parks & Recreation Department and the Saints Golf Course. He indicated the members will be advised once the meeting has been scheduled and confirmed.

- 6.b** St. Lucie River and Estuary Basin Management Action Plan [2024-1047](#)

Bret Keiser, Public Works, discussed his job responsibilities and experience as well as the City's commitment to improving the quality of the water leaving the City. He spoke to the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Program, St. Lucie River and Estuary Basin Management Action Plan (BMAP), and BMAP 5-Year Goals. Mr. Keiser explained the Statewide Annual Report, PSL Nutrient Reduction Projects, and PSL Surface Water Quality Monitoring Program. He also discussed the National Pollutant

Discharges & Elimination System (NPDES) and his related functions as the project manager.

Donna Rhoden, Utility Systems, introduced John Eason, Assistant Director Utility Systems, and spoke to the St. Lucie River/C-23 Water Quality Restoration at McCarty Ranch Extension. She also discussed the septic-to-sewer conversion program, including the benefits and barriers, hot spots, grant funding, and future strategies.

Chair Bernard inquired about the low-income bracket for grant funding, to which Mr. Henson stated the range for the SHIP Grant is \$25,820 to \$66,050 for a family of three.

Mr. Keiser concluded his presentation by discussing the Phase 3 study and the status of PSL's nutrient reduction.

Committee Member Pezzi inquired if programs were available for failed septic systems, to which Ms. Rhoden explained the only solution or option was to convert and Mr. Keiser spoke to environmental enforcement and mitigation.

Chair Pro-Tem Jennings expressed his concerns regarding the St. Lucie River and indicated the primary culprit is the nine golf courses that drain chemicals directly into the North Fork. He stated he was told they were developing a task force, but there has been no mention of it. He also asked if there was a less scientific and shorter presentation to help educate the public, as he would like to have it presented to a group of people. Mr. Keiser indicated that golf courses utilize a lot of fertilizer and combating golf course run-off is a huge effort, but there are efforts in place. He also explained how the water quality of the St. Lucie River is graded and indicated he would be happy to provide a more succinct presentation.

Chair Bernard asked if a new buyer must convert their septic system. Ms. Rhoden stated the City does not track property transfers, so they have no way of knowing property ownership.

Vice Chair Lockwood indicated that Vikings Lookout is located on the St. Lucie River and many homes have no sewer line. Ms. Rhoden explained the Utility does not currently have funding in its capital improvement budgets to extend the sewer lines into the area of Vikings Lookout.

7. Unfinished Business

There was no Unfinished Business to be heard.

8. Adjourn

There being no further discussion, Chair Pro-Tem Jennings moved to adjourn the meeting at 3:19 PM. Committee Member Pezzi seconded the motion, which passed unanimously by voice vote.

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Michael Bernard, Chair

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Traci Mehl, Deputy City Clerk