

City of Port St. Lucie

City Council Workshop

Meeting Minutes

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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Friday, February 23, 2024

8:30 AM

**Community Center, 2195 SE Airoso
Blvd**

Winter Workshop

1. Meeting Called to Order

A City Council/City Staff Retreat of the CITY COUNCIL of the City of Port St. Lucie was called to order by Mayor Martin on February 23, 2024, at 8:47 a.m., at City of Port St. Lucie Community Center, 2195 SE Airoso Blvd., Port St. Lucie, FL 34984.

2. Roll Call

Councilmembers Present:

Mayor Martin

Councilwoman Morgan

Councilman Pickett

Councilman Bonna

Councilmembers Not Present:

Vice Mayor Caraballo

3. Pledge of Allegiance

The Mayor led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. Public to be Heard

(Clerk's Note: This item was heard after item 5.a.)

Resident Diane Goldberg discussed the issues of swale liners, stormwater, and grading. She suggested asking the Building Department to verify that the swales

are graded properly before giving a Certificate of Occupancy, and to create an Ordinance to require them to be responsible to fix the problem up to one year after the certificate was issued. She also suggested educating residents on these issues.

5. Workshop Business

5.a Hear a Review Regarding the City's Investment Portfolio.

[2024-161](#)

(Clerk's Note: This item was heard before item 4.)

Karen Russell, Finance Deputy Director, provided a brief introduction. (Clerk's Note: A PowerPoint presentation was shown at this time.) John Grady, Managing Director of Public Trust Advisors, provided an economic update and discussed macroeconomic themes and recession avoidance, exhibited a dot plot for December 2023, discussed Gross Domestic Product, the Inflation Consumer Price Index (CPI), jobs, and economic expectations. He then presented on the Investment Strategy Review. He reviewed the City's investment program and discussed the implementation of the strategy as well as the continuing progress for the portfolio restructuring. He also discussed the current portfolio structure and investment portfolio asset allocation for December 2023.

5.b Provide a Review of the City's Debt Portfolio.

[2024-168](#)

(Clerk's Note: This item was heard after item 4.)

(Clerk's Note: A PowerPoint presentation was shown at this time.) Charlie Proulx, Finance Deputy Director, discussed the major reasons for debt issuance, the benefits of issuing debts, the city's debt policy, the debt comparison of Port St. Lucie versus various Florida cities from 2010 and 2022, debt reduction, debt comparison per Capita, and the Port St. Lucie population versus total debt. He exhibited outstanding bond debt by category, the FY23 bond ratings and refunding occurrences, the S2016 CRA TIF Refunding Revenue Bond, and the debt status. Mayor Martin then briefly discussed being strategic with paying off the City's debt in a responsible manner and accomplishing priorities for the residents.

5.c Update Allocations to Projects Funded by the American Rescue Plan

[2024-179](#)

(Clerk's Note: A PowerPoint presentation was shown at this time.) Sabrina McLeod, Strategic Initiatives, provided an update and discussed the allocation amount to the City and current & new eligible uses of funding for the coronavirus state and local fiscal recovery funds. She provided information for support for public health expenditures, addressing negative economic impacts, replacing lost public sector revenues, and investments in water, sewer, and broadband. She stated that they would be

recommending that the Council approve the revised American Rescue Plan projects.

Councilman Pickett inquired on the completion of the Wi-Fi/Fiber project at McCarty Ranch, to which Ms. McLeod informed that the project was currently with the Procurement Department due to the lack of funds to complete the remaining portion of the project. Kevin Matyjaszek, Utilities Director, advised that they were trying to complete the fiber project and water main project at the same time, and that the estimates for the water line came in higher than anticipated, but they were pivoting by purchasing the water main materials with ARPA funding and utilizing existing contracts.

Councilwoman Morgan inquired as to if anyone had looked into utilizing Starlink, to which Bill Jones, Chief Information Officer, replied that Starlink was an option if they just wanted to provide internet services, but the City was also providing municipal internet services, so since the free public Wi-Fi ran on the same network, they would not be able to use Starlink for any City services. Deputy City Manager Kate Parmelee then advised of the challenges in adding additional projects due to the projects already being determined and planned, as well as met by the obligation deadline.

Councilman Bonna inquired as to what the benefits were for reallocation of the downpayment assistance, to which Ms. McLeod advised that the recommendation to reallocate it was due to the Title I project category having a specific expenditure category labeled "Direct Payment Assistance to Homeowners", and that it did not align as well with its previous category. Mayor Martin expressed concern due to being able to follow the criteria and utilize all of the funds, as well as having extra funds that could be allocated into a different category, and still have time to incur those funds. Carmen Capezzuto, Neighborhood Services Director, advised that while City Staff was concerned that the amount that was approved by Council to assist the future homeowners may not be enough, there should not be a problem with spending it in 2 years.

Mayor Martin asked City Staff to share what would go into the \$145,000 budget allocation to enhance the City's services, to which Billy Weinshank, Emergency Management Director, explained that the majority of the funding would go toward peripherals so that if the worst-case scenarios appeared they could be resolved. Regarding a CAD scenario that presented itself the previous year, Councilwoman Morgan inquired as to if any of the funds could assist so that it would not happen again, to which Chief Del Torro advised that a goal was to create a direct connection from the Emergency Operations Center to the Police Department so that if there

was another or similar issue, they would not be shut down. Mayor Martin and Councilman Pickett both discussed the City having its own system and potential steps to protect the City in relation to these scenarios.

There being no further discussion, Councilwoman Morgan moved to approve the revised American Rescue Plan projects. Councilman Pickett seconded the motion, which passed unanimously by voice vote.

6. Adjourn

There being no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at 10:06 a.m.

Sally Walsh, City Clerk

Jasmin De Freese, Deputy City Clerk