

City of St. Petersburg

PUBLIC SERVICES AND INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE

Meeting of April 9, 2009

City Hall, Community Resource Room

Members and Alternates: PSI Chair Karl Nurse, Vice Chair Herbert Polson, Council Member Leslie Curran, and alternate, Council Member Kennedy.

Other Council Members present: Jeff Danner, Bill Dudley, Wengay Newton.

Staff Participants: Amelia Preston, Robert Danielson, Rick Craft, Mark Winn, John Wolfe, Todd Yost, David Metz, Gary Bush, Clarence Scott, Thomas “Jet” Jackson, Stevie Osterland, Sherry McBee, Lisa Ledbetter, George Cassady, Mike Connors, Richard Bulger.

Call to Order

Approval of Agenda: *Agenda was approved*

Approval of Minutes: *Minutes were approved*

1. New Business

a. Review of Water Rates for Extreme Users – During the current drought conditions, Council inquired about possible changes in the rate structure to help reduce high water use among the city’s largest water users. The city currently has a tiered rate structure which accelerates after 8,000 and 15,000 gallons per month. At a percentage much lower than surrounding communities, only 1.69 percent of city water customers exceed the 15,000 gallon per month use.

Action Item: Staff was directed to return to the committee with a policy to add another singular tier to the water rate structure (effective year-round and not only during drought conditions); introduce the new tier when introducing water fee increases later this year; and make increases parallel to sanitary sewer charges.

b. Carnivals in City Parks – Clarence Scott presented a 1984 resolution adopted by City Council that prohibits carnivals in city parks. He also related that no other documented records pertaining to the subject existed. Council Member Newton related that he had been approached by constituents in his district wishing to hold carnivals on city park property to raise money for charity. Staff indicated the 1984 policy was adopted due to the damage incurred in parks associated with carnivals. Staff also expressed concern that permitting carnivals in neighborhood parks would result in major disruptions for residents.

Action Item: None.

c. Nuisance Properties – The PSI Committee discussed issues related to problem properties and the difficulties in closing down such properties through the nuisance abatement process, especially in light of recent court decisions.

Action Item: The Committee directed staff to pursue during this legislative session a change in state statute that would allow action to be taken on illegal activity that generates from a property, even if the illegal action occurs outside of the property's boundaries. The Police Department and Legal will also look at toughening up certain city ordinances to address the problem, and will return to the committee in four weeks.

2. Continued/Deferred Business

a.

3. Next Meeting – April 23, 2009, following BFT Committee Meeting in Room 100.

a. Community Gardens Zoning (returning from March 12, referred by Council Member Nurse.)

b. Review Water Rates for Extreme Users (returning from April 9, referred by Council Member Nurse.)

c. Taxi Cab Licensing & Safety (returning from January 15, 2009, referred by Council Member Kennedy.)

4. Adjournment