

City of St. Petersburg

PUBLIC SERVICES AND INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE

Meeting of April 23, 2009

City Hall, Room 100

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

Other Council Members present: Wengay Newton.

Staff Participants: Amelia Preston, Robert Danielson, Rick Craft, Mark Winn, John Wolfe, Tish Elston, George Cassady, Kim Streeter, Evelyn Rosetti, Mike Connors, Judy Tenison, Kevin Dunn, Colleen Dunphy, Major Mike Puetz, Don Gibson.

Audience Members present: Cristina Silva, Jamal Thalji

Call to Order

Approval of Agenda: *Agenda was approved*

Approval of Minutes: *Minutes were approved*

1. New Business

a.

2. Continued/Deferred 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. George Cassady reported that they are recommending a third tier for “water hogs” exceeding 20,000 gallons per month. A rate consultant will study the new surcharge before Council considers all new rate levels for FY 2010 in September, with rates going into effect in October.

Action Item: Staff was directed to proceed with development of a third rate tier for customers exceeding 15,000 gallons per month.

b. Taxi Cab Licensing and Safety – The Legal Department presented three draft ordinances related to cab drivers, fortune tellers and peddlers to make requirements consistent for both application, approval and denial processes. Whereby an applicant is refused, the appellate process would be an administrative review. The cab driver permit

fee is \$44 per year. The Police Dept. gave a report which showed that safety training given to cab drivers last year resulted in a dramatic decrease in what previously was a spike in crimes on taxi drivers, including two homicides.

Action Item: Committee Members requested the item to return at the next meeting to allow them to more carefully review the proposed ordinance changes..

3. **Next Meeting – May 14, 2009**, following BFT Committee Meeting in Room 100.
 - a. ***Community Gardens Zoning*** (returning from March 12, referred by Council Member Nurse.)
 - b. ***Taxi Cab Licensing & Safety*** (returning from January 15, 2009 and subsequently April 23, 2009), referred by Council Member Kennedy.)
 - c. ***Landscaping Ordinance*** (returning from Feb. 12, 2009), referred by Council Member Nurse.
4. Adjournment