

**ST. PETERSBURG CITY COUNCIL
BUDGET, FINANCE & TAXATION COMMITTEE**

AGENDA

January 30, 2020

8:00 am – Sunshine Center – Auditorium

Members: Chair Ed Montanari, Vice Chair Amy Foster, Gina Driscoll, and Robert Blackmon

Alternate: Brandi Gabbard

Support Staff: Kewa Wright, Legislative Aide

A. Call to Order

B. Approval of Agenda

C. Approval of January 16, 2020 Minutes

D. New/Deferred Business

- a. Technology Management Study Update (**Muslim Gadiwalla**)

F. Upcoming Meetings Agenda/Tentative Issues

1. February 13

- a. 1st Quarterly Financial Reports (**Fritz/Makofske**)

2. February 27

- a. Social Action Funding Program (**Theresa Jones**)

G. Adjournment

**ST. PETERSBURG CITY COUNCIL
BUDGET, FINANCE & TAXATION COMMITTEE**

Minutes

January 16, 2019

8:00 am – Sunshine Center – Auditorium

Present: Ed Montanari, Chair, Amy Foster, Gina Driscoll, Robert Blackmon

Also: Assistant City Administrator, Tom Greene; Assistant City Attorney, Macall Dyer; Assistant City Attorney, Michael Dema; Leisure Services Administrator, Michael Jefferis; Transportation and Parking Management Director, Evan Mory; Planning and Development Director, Liz Abernethy; Building Official Manager, Don Tyre; Deputy City Clerk, Patricia Beliveau; Legislative Aide, Kewa Wright

A. Call to Order

CM Montanari called the meeting to order at 8:01 pm with the above persons present.

B. Approval of Agenda

CM Driscoll made a motion to approve the agenda. **All were in favor of the motion.**

C. Approval of December 12, 2019 Minutes

CM Driscoll made a motion to approve the minutes. **All were in favor of the motion.**

D. (a) Selection of Chair and Vice Chair

CM Driscoll nominated CM Montanari as Chair of the committee. All were in favor.

CM Driscoll nominated CM Foster Vice Chair of the committee. All were in favor.

(b) Proposed Reductions for Building Permit Fees and Related Compliance Plan for HB447

Mr. Don Tyre, Building Official for Planning and Development Services addressed the committee to provide a presentation on the City of St. Petersburg's Building Permit Special Revenue Fund and how recent changes in the Florida Legislature impacts this fund.

The Building Permit Special Revenue Fund (BPSRF) was established in 2008. Prior to the new legislation that went into effect June 7, 2019, there was no cap on the amount of reserves local governments can carry forward to the next fiscal year. This means if the department had two years of operating budget in reserves, that was enough to carry the department through a slow period or a mini recession and prevent any potential staff reductions.

Now with the new legislation, 125.56 of the Florida Statute **prohibits local governments from carrying forward more than a specified amount of unexpended revenue; defining the term "operating budget"**(which does not include reserve amounts). In addition, section 553.80 of the Florida Statute states that **"local governments may not carry forward an amount exceeding the**

average of its operating budget for enforcing the Florida Building Code for the previous four fiscal years...” In addition, “local government must use any excess funds that is prohibited from carrying forward to rebate and reduce fees.”

In order to comply with the new legislation with HB447 and to draw down on the building fund (which has current balance of \$15.5 M), staff is proposing two modifications. The first one is a temporary 25% fee reduction on all permitting fees. If approved, staff will request legal to draft a temporary fee ordinance change with a sunset provision. The second proposal is to increase personnel and capital expenditures. This will entail hiring two additional Inspectors and one additional Plans Examiner and transferring four Senior Fire Plans Examiners from the General Fund to the BPSRF. As for capital expenditures, the proposal is to purchase additional vehicles to accommodate the added Inspector and Fire positions and upgrade the NaviLine software or purchase a new software.

Mr. Tyre provided the committee with a chart displaying the BPSRF Balance 25% Temporary Fee Reduction Schedule and explained how the revenues and expenditures will reduce the BPSRF balance by fiscal year 2020-2022.

Following the presentation there was questions, comments and discussion.

CM Foster made a motion to approve staff to update Chapter 12 and draft a temporary fee ordinance change with a sunset provision. All were in favor.

(c) Discussion to Allocate Weeki Wachee Funds for a New Park at the Overpass off Dr. MLK, Jr. St. No. & 5th Avenue and Parking Lot to Support the Park and Public Parking

CM Driscoll opened the discussion by providing some background information on how the park proposal came about. CM Driscoll indicated that she was approached by a member of MLK Business District a couple of years ago to look at the space under the overpass at Dr. MLK, Jr. Street between 5th Avenue North & 4th Avenue North and how it could potentially be a great space for a park. Members of surrounding neighborhoods and business associations, along with Suncoast Towers, which sits next door to the space were contacted and invited to hear a presentation from City staff regarding the park proposal and how it might be utilized.

Mr. Mike Jefferis, Leisure Services Administrator approached the committee to provide additional information on the park proposal and explain the process of allocating Weeki Wachee funds on projects. Mr. Jefferis indicated that there has been a lot of excitement from many stakeholders within the community regarding this park proposal and they would like to see that space more utilized as a corridor into downtown, with additional parking for the surrounding businesses and green space with amenities. Mr. Jefferis stated that he has received many suggestions on how to utilize that space to include a dog park, soccer field and pickleball court, however those recommendations does not work well for that particular space.

In his presentation, Mr. Jefferis explained how the proposed area was partly owned by the City and partly owned by FDOT. The goal is to make this a nice community gathering spot with some park amenities to include: irrigation, turf, water fountains, solar lights and benches, and native plants, similar to other park systems in the city. In addition, Mr. Jefferis indicated that in his discussions with stakeholders, many recommended adding an art component to the park. However, that will be

discussed at a later time once the park is underway. The park budget is approximately \$191k and will be funded through the Weeki Wachee funds if approved.

In terms of the parking component for the park, Mr. Evan Mory, Transportation and Planning Director addressed the committee and explained how over the past two years, the surrounding business community has been requesting the City's help in providing additional public parking within the vicinity. With the new park proposal, 47 spaces can be created under the overpass, with six being marked for park patrons at no charge and a time limit, and the remainder spaces being fee-based/subscription based. The parking lot will either be paved with a hard surface or pervious surface to include runoff treatment. In addition, the plan is to add extensive lighting to the parking lot area. The parking lot budget is approximately \$242k and will be funded through the Parking Fund.

Following the presentation there was questions, comments and discussion on the following:

- Consistent police enforcement will be required for that community to be comfortable utilizing the park (even more so in the parking lot)
- Very low maintenance will be required for the park since it's a passive park with very few amenities.
- Little to no maintenance will be required for the parking lot since it sits under the overpass and is likened to a parking garage
- Businesses may be more attracted to the area due to the additional parking
- More shade trees are needed in our parks
- A park name will be determined at a later date

CM Foster made a motion to add this park project to the Weeki Wachee list. All were in favor.

In other business, CM Driscoll requested if the upcoming Technology Management Study discussion can be moved to an earlier BF&T committee. Mr. Greene stated that they will accommodate this request.

E. Adjourned at 9:14 am

F. Upcoming Meetings Agenda/Tentative Issues

1. January 30

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1. February 13

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BUDGET, FINANCE AND TAXATION COMMITTEE
PENDING/CONTINUING REFERRALS

January 30, 2020

Topic	Return Date	Date of Referral	Prior Meeting	Referred by	Staff	Notes
Technology Management Study Update	1/30/20				Muslim Gadiwalla/Tom Greene	
Quarterly Financial Reports	Q1 = 2/13/20 Q2 = 5/14/20 Q3 = 8/13/20 Q4 = 11/12/20	Quarterly		City Council	Fritz/Makofske	
Social Action Funding Program	2/27/20	Annual			Theresa Jones	
2020 Property Insurance Renewals	3/12/20	Annual			Blaise Mazzola/Chris Guella	
External Audit	3/26/20	Annual			Anne Frtiz	
Grants - Quarterly Report	4/9/20 Q1 & Q2	Quarterly		City Council	Shrimatee Ojah-Maharaj	
SBE contracts - Quarterly Report	4/9/20 Q1 & Q2	Quarterly		Ordinance	Jessica Eilerman	
Draft Consolidated Plan and Proposed Budget. Approval of draft for publication and comment	6/11/20	Annual			Joshua Johnson	

2021 Management Evaluation	10/8/20			Ordinance	Boriana Pollard	
Grants - Quarterly Report	10/8/20 Q3 & Q4	Quarterly		City Council	Shrimatee Ojah- Maharaj	
SBE contracts - Quarterly Report	10/8/20 Q3 & Q4	Quarterly		Ordinance	Jessica Eilerman	
2021 Health Insurance Renewal and Status update on current year health plan	TBD	Annual		BF&T	Chris Guella/Vicki Grant	
Discussion of exceptions for legal defense fund suggested by Free Speech for People and process for retaining outside legal counsel	TBD	11/2/17		Darden Rice		

**BUDGET, FINANCE & TAXATION COMMITTEE
WEEKI WACHEE PROJECT LIST**

January 30, 2020

<i>TOPIC</i>	<i>DATE REFERRED</i>	<i>REFERRED BY</i>	<i>RETURN DATE</i>	<i>STAFF RESPONSIBLE</i>	<i>SPECIAL NOTES</i>
Skating Rink to the Southside CRA	7.19.18	Wheeler-Bowman		Jefferis	
Exercise Zone and Playground in Broadwater Park	7.19.18	Wheeler-Bowman		Jefferis	
HUNA Park Project	1.23.20	Gina Driscoll		Jefferis	