

City of St. Petersburg
Health, Energy, Resiliency & Sustainability Committee Meeting
August 27, 2020 – 10:50 AM

Welcome to the City of St. Petersburg City Council Health, Energy, Resiliency & Sustainability Committee Meeting. The agenda and supporting documents are available on the City's website: www.st.pete.org/meetings or by emailing: city.clerk@stpete.org

NOTE: City buildings are closed to the public due to the COVID-19 emergency. Accordingly, the meeting location has been changed from in-person to a “virtual” meeting by means of communications media technology pursuant to Executive Order Number 20-69, issued by the Governor on March 20, 2020, and Executive Order 2020-30 issued by the Mayor on July 8, 2020.

The public can attend the meeting in the following ways:

- Watch live on Channel 15 WOW!/Channel 641 Spectrum/Channel 20 Frontier FiOS
- Watch live online at WWW.stpete.org/TV
- Watch on your computer, mobile phone, or another device at: <https://zoom.us/j/94210514808>
- Listen by dialing any one of the following phone numbers and entering - **Webinar ID: 942 1051 4808 #**
 - +1 312-626-6799
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 - +1 301-715-8592
 - +1 346-248-7799
 - +1 669-900-6833

City of St. Petersburg
Health, Energy, Resiliency & Sustainability Committee
August 27, 2020 – 10:50 AM

Members: Committee Chair Gina Driscoll, Committee Vice Chair Brandi Gabbard, Council Member Darden Rice, & Council Member Robert Blackmon

Alternate: Council Chair Ed Montanari

Support Staff: Jayne Ohlman - City Council Legislative Aide

1) Call to Order

2) Approval of Agenda

3) Approval of August 13, 2020 Minutes

4) New Business – August 27, 2020

- a) **Review Draft Resolution for the Creation of a Food Policy Council** – *Committee Chair Driscoll, Julie Rocco (Foundation for a Healthy St. Pete), Asst. City Attorney Christina Boussias*

Attachment:

- 1. Draft Resolution for the Creation of a *Food Policy Council*

5) Upcoming Meeting Dates & Tentative Agenda Items

September 24

- a) **Continued Discussion of Energy Efficiency Projects & Review of First Tier List of Potential Projects for REIF Utilization** – *Sharon Wright, Ann Livingston, Brejesh Prayman, & Anne Fritz*

General Attachments:

Minutes of the August 13, 2020 HERS Committee Meeting
Pending and Continuing Referral List
Agenda Item Support Material

City of St. Petersburg
Health, Energy, Resiliency & Sustainability Committee
August 13, 2020 Meeting Minutes
Zoom Virtual Meeting

Present: Committee Members – Committee Chair Gina Driscoll, Committee Vice-Chair Brandi Gabbard, Council Member Darden Rice, Council Member Robert Blackmon, and Council Chair Ed Montanari (Alternate)

Also Present: Council Member Deborah Figgs-Sanders, Assistant City Administrator Tom Greene, Assistant City Attorney Michael Dema, Assistant City Attorney Christina Bousias, Sustainability and Resiliency Director Sharon Wright, and ACCC Climate Advisor Ann Livingston, Engineering Director Brejesh Prayman, and Finance Director Anne Fritz

Support Staff: Jayne Ohlman - City Council Legislative Aide

1. **Call to Order** – 9:36 AM
2. **Approval of Agenda** – CM Rice moved approval, all members voted in favor.
3. **Approval of July 30, 2020 Minutes** – CM Gabbard moved approval, all members voted in favor.
4. **New Business – August 13, 2020**

Review Analysis of Duke Energy Florida’s Clean Energy Connection Program and Provide Input for Continued Work with DEF and the Public on this and Other Relevant Programs and Policies – *Sharon Wright & Ann Livingston*

Sustainability and Resiliency Director, Sharon Wright, began by reminding the committee that in 2016, the City became the first city in Florida and the 20th city nationally to commit to 100% clean energy. As part of the Integrated Sustainability Action Plan (“ISAP”), a roadmap was developed to aid the City in planning for and achieving the goal of 100% clean energy by 2035. Five pathways were identified in the roadmap and Ms. Wright noted that participation in Duke Energy Florida’s (“DEF”) Clean Energy Connection (“CEC”) program will fit into the third pathway, which is renewable energy deployment and procurement. Ms. Wright emphasized that participation in DEF’s proposed CEC will not replace existing efforts but will complement the ongoing efforts to improve energy efficiency and reduce overall energy consumption throughout the City.

Ms. Wright gave a brief overview of the program details and explained that the CEC program will enable qualified customers to participate in a solar program while directly funding the development of utility-owned solar plants interconnected to the DEF power grid in Florida. Program subscribers will pay a flat monthly subscription fee and will receive monthly bill credits equal to the value of solar energy produced by their share in the program. Ms. Wright explained that participants will be subscribing to blocks of power and one block will equal one kilowatt (kW) of capacity, for a fixed \$8.55/kW monthly subscription fee. The fee supports the construction and operation of the solar facilities and is added to the customer’s monthly electric bill as a new line item. Customers may have the ability to subscribe to enough solar generation to match their annual energy usage.

Ms. Wright explained that if the City were to subscribe to the maximum 28.3 megawatts (MW), the program will cost the city approximately \$91,000 over the first four years. However, beginning in the fifth year the City can expect a return on investment and is projected to break-

even in year seven. Ms. Wright then presented the committee with an example of how an electric bill might look with a CEC subscription and noted that the monthly credit will vary seasonally and annually, as solar energy production is greater during the months with more direct sunlight.

In referencing the maximum subscription amount of 28.3 MW, Council Member Rice asked for clarification on how that amount was calculated. Ms. Wright responded that the 28.3 MW maximum comes from the metered accounts the City can subscribe to and accounts for about 80% of the City's electricity that it buys from DEF. Ms. Wright noted that the maximum MW subscription amount would likely be more if the City's streetlights were on metered accounts. CM Rice emphasized that as with most energy efficiency projects and initiatives, there is an upfront cost or premium and then a period waiting to see a return on investment.

In referencing the electric bill examples provided, Council Chair Montanari asked for clarification on the "Clean Energy Connection Charge" and "Clean Energy Connection Credit" line items on the sample bills. Ms. Wright explained that the two line items for the charge and credit are intended to be separate from the fuel and energy charges because those are franchise tariffs and not part of the CEC program. Climate Advisor Ann Livingston added that unlike on-site solar programs with net metering, the CEC program is off-site and does not affect the calculations for energy or fuel for the City. Ms. Wright noted that the more solar DEF builds, the more the fuel cost should go down for all customers. CM Montanari then asked for clarification on the City's requirements for an early subscription and asked what penalties might exist if the City were to decide to withdraw from a subscription. Ms. Wright responded that after one month the City could cancel or reduce its subscription size with no fee or penalty and the estimated one month cost for the City is \$600.

Committee Chair Driscoll asked for clarification on what action Ms. Wright would like from the committee to move forward and Ms. Wright responded that no formal action is required, just support from the committee for the CEC subscription.

CM Rice asked who the staff person will be to oversee the City's subscription and participation in the CEC program. Ms. Wright responded that the liaison would likely be herself for now, until a full-time energy professional can be brought on-board. CM Rice explained that she is supportive of the City's early subscription to the CEC program, however, she is concerned that committing to the program without the Energy Manager position included in the FY2021 recommended budget may be burdensome to staff. Ms. Wright noted that she hopes that Ms. Livingston might stay on longer than the two years the City was granted by the Bloomberg American Cities Climate Challenge ("ACCC") award. Also, Ms. Wright expressed hope that once the fiscal uncertainty of COVID-19 begins to retreat, the Energy Manager position will be a top priority once the Administration feels it is feasible to resume hiring. Assistant City Administrator Tom Greene concurred with Ms. Wright and explained to the committee that the City has had to put a freeze on nearly every position in the general fund and the freeze will remain until revenue outlook improves. Ms. Wright added that DEF has confirmed they will be creating a full-time position to serve as the point of contact for the CEC program.

CM Driscoll echoed CM Rice's concern that the Energy Manager position has not been filled and funding for that position is on hold. CM Driscoll asked when the support provided by the ACCC is set to expire and Ms. Wright responded that it will end December 31, 2020. CM Driscoll suggested that due to the unprecedented impact of COVID-19, combined with the work done by the City since receiving the ACCC award, would it be worth pursuing an extension of the award from Bloomberg Philanthropies to continue the work. Ms. Wright responded that it is her understanding that the suggestion made by CM Driscoll is part of ongoing discussions at the

ACCC, but City staff has not been privy to those discussions, other than to know that they are occurring.

Continued Discussion on Energy Efficiency, Solar, Project Funding, and Prioritization – Sharon Wright, Ann Livingston, Brejesh Prayman, & Anne Fritz

Ms. Wright gave a brief overview of the progress made regarding energy efficiency and renewable projects as well as an update on various funding approaches previously presented to the committee. Ms. Wright highlighted a few key elements of the energy efficiency program:

- Centralize facility upgrade approach (e.g., program management)
- Complete facility condition assessments and create long range plan for improvements, replacements, etc.
- Fund energy efficiency investments and strategically utilize savings
- Staff training across departments (e.g., Energy Star Portfolio Manager, behavioral changes, O&M collaboration and guidance)

Ms. Wright explained that the three main funding mechanisms that her team have focused on have been the City's General/Enterprise fund, solar leasing, and the revolving energy investment fund ("REIF") Ms. Wright noted that REIF specifically allows for ongoing improvements that are essentially self-funded by maintaining the level of expenditures to operating departments.

Ms. Wright noted that the compilation of the potential projects list for energy efficiency and retrofits is 85% complete and the REIF evaluation of that project list is 60% completed.

In referencing the REIF, CM Driscoll asked for an update on the \$2 million previously allocated for energy projects. Ms. Wright responded that the funds are ready to be deployed for projects once those are selected and approved.

Due to time constraints, CM Driscoll requested that Ms. Wright and her team return to the August 27 HERS committee to bring a first tier list of potential energy efficiency projects that will utilize the REIF funding.

CM Driscoll adjourned the meeting at 10:47 AM

	Topic	Return Date	Prior Meeting	Referral Date	Referred By	Staff	Notes
1	Discuss Draft Resolution for the Creation of a Food Policy Council in St. Pete	8/27/20	7/30/20	12/5/19	Driscoll	Julie Rocco (Foundation for a Healthy St. Pete) Christina Boussias	7/30/20 – Committee voted for staff return with draft resolution in support of the creation of a <i>Food Policy Council</i>
2	Discuss 1 st tier list of potential energy efficiency projects that will utilize REIF funding as part of the continued discussion on Energy Efficiency, Solar, and Project Funding/Prioritization	9/24/20	7/26/18 9/12/19 11/14/19	9/15/16	Driscoll/Nurse	Sharon Wright Ann Livingston Brejesh Prayman	9/12/19 – BP reallocation approved to continue energy efficiency projects. Continued discussion of energy efficiency projects & funding options scheduled for 11/14/19 – Committee voted to approve 2020 Proposed Energy Efficiency & Funding Programs. Committee requested that staff return to present project priorities on an ongoing basis 8/13/20 – Return with 1 st tier list of potential energy efficiency projects that will utilize REIF funding
3	Addressing food insecurity in St. Petersburg, the expansion of healthy food options, especially where food insecurity is most concentrated		7/30/20	12/5/19	Driscoll	Kim Lehto	7/30/20 – See July 30 meeting minutes for a full account of the committee’s “brainstorming session” for addressing food insecurity in St. Pete
4	Discussion of the City’s Environmental Purchasing Policy & a potential ordinance to formalize the City’s commitment to sustainability as part of a broader discussion of a “Sustainable City Hall”			6/4/20	Driscoll	Sharon Wright	7/30/2020 – Combined with the discussion of a “Sustainable City Hall” per Chair Driscoll’s request
5	Requiring 240-volt EV pre-wire in all new single family home construction & a possible exemption for affordable housing	Fall 2020		9/6/18	Gabbard	Liz Abernethy Sharon Wright	1/30/2020 - CM Gabbard stated that this item will be included as part of the St Pete 2050 discussion.
6	Creating an incentive program for homeowner hurricane mitigation efforts in repetitive loss neighborhoods		3/14/19	7/12/18	Gabbard	Noah Taylor	1/30/2020 - Chair Driscoll asked CM Gabbard to provide a brief update on the status of this program
7	Discuss current herbicide/pesticide use & the potential adoption of restrictions on those containing harmful chemicals			5/2/19	Driscoll	Mike Jefferies Paul Booth	10/10/19 – Per Chair Driscoll: County formed a taskforce for this specific issue and City staff members including Mike Jefferies are participating. Driscoll will report back with their findings.
8	Potential ordinance to establish a user-fee for single-use plastic bags		11/15/18	--	HERS Committee	Michael Dema, Sharon Wright	10/10/19 - Sharon Wright would like to bring this back for discussion in 2020 once the current plastic/straw ban is fully enforced

9	Respectfully requesting a discussion with the Pinellas County Health Department regarding the HIV/AIDS epidemic	May 2021	5/28/20	2/6/20	Wheeler-Bowman	Pinellas County Health Dept.	5/28/20 – Presentation by Pinellas County Dept. of Health. Committee asked for annual updates.
10	Review Analysis of Duke Energy Florida's Clean Energy Connection Program & Provide Input for Continued Work with DEF & the Public on this & Other Relevant Programs & Policies		8/13/20	-	Staff	Sharon Wright Ann Livingston	8/13/20 – Update on Duke Energy FL's CEC program and benefits on early subscription for the City
HERS 2020 Dates: 1/30 , 5/28 , 7/30 , 8/13 , 8/27 , 9/24, 10/22, 11/12*, 12/10*							* Tentative

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ST. PETERSBURG, FLORIDA SUPPORTING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INDEPENDENT ST. PETERSBURG FOOD POLICY COUNCIL (“FOOD POLICY COUNCIL”) BY THE FOUNDATION FOR A HEALTHY ST. PETERSBURG; RECOGNIZING THE FOOD POLICY COUNCIL AS A POLICY AND PROGRAMMING ADVISORY GROUP ON MATTERS RELATED TO THE CREATION OF AN EQUITABLE COMMUNITY-BASED FOOD SYSTEM IN ST. PETERSBURG; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the St. Petersburg City Council (“City Council”) has an interest in improving the health and quality of life of all citizens in St. Petersburg; and

WHEREAS, food system issues significantly affect public health and quality of life; and

WHEREAS, food security is a necessity of life, and the City Council recognizes that all St. Petersburg citizens should be able to obtain a safe, nutritionally adequate diet through a sustainable food system; and

WHEREAS, optimal health outcomes for St. Petersburg citizens are diminished due to racial and socioeconomic inequities in the city’s food system; and

WHEREAS, 134,650 persons are food insecure in Pinellas County, which equates to 14.2 percent of the population; and

WHEREAS, 13.5 percent of Pinellas County Community Health Needs Assessment survey respondents indicated that they ate less than they felt they should because of lack of money; and

WHEREAS, 24.9 percent of Pinellas County Community Health Needs Assessment survey respondents had no place to go for food when money was tight; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has identified census tracts in St. Petersburg where a significant number or share of residents are living more than one mile from the nearest grocery store; and

WHEREAS, the USDA has also identified census tracts in St. Petersburg where more than 100 households have no access to a vehicle and are living more than ½ mile from the nearest grocery store; and

WHEREAS, the availability of nutritious food for all St. Petersburg citizens is essential to the health and well-being of the community, and

WHEREAS, on July 30, 2020, the City Council Health, Energy, Resiliency & Sustainability Committee heard a presentation by Julie Rocco, Senior Community Engagement Advocate with the Foundation for a Healthy St. Petersburg (the “Foundation”) regarding food insecurity in St. Petersburg and the Foundation’s efforts to coordinate the establishment of an independent St. Petersburg Food Policy Council (the “Food Policy Council”) to examine how the local food system operates and provide policy recommendations to improve that system; and

WHEREAS, the primary goals of the Food Policy Council include: connecting economic development, food insecurity efforts, preservation and enhancement of agriculture and environmental concerns; supporting the development and expansion of locally produced foods; reviewing proposed legislation and regulations that affect the food system; making recommendations to government bodies; and gathering, synthesizing and sharing informing on community food systems; and

WHEREAS, the Food Policy Council will be an autonomous body composed of diverse stakeholders representing the various components, influencers and consumers of an equitable community-based food system in St. Petersburg; and

WHEREAS, the City Council supports the establishment of the Food Policy Council and desires to recognize the Food Policy Council as a policy and programming advisor to the City of St. Petersburg on matters related to the creation of an equitable community-based food system in the city.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of St. Petersburg that the City Council supports the establishment of an independent St. Petersburg Food Policy Council (“Food Policy Council”) by the Foundation for a Healthy St. Petersburg.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council recognizes the Food Policy Council as a policy and programming advisory group on matters related to the creation of an equitable community-based food system in St. Petersburg.

This resolution shall become effective immediately upon its adoption.

Approved by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Chris B...', written over a horizontal line.

City Attorney (designee)

00524222