

CITY OF ST. PETERSBURG

ENERGY, NATURAL RESOURCES AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE MEETING

July 27, 2017

PRESENT: Chair Darden Rice; Karl Nurse, Ed Montanari, Lisa Wheeler-Bowman (Alternate)

ALSO PRESENT: Mayor Rick Kriseman, Assistant City Attorney Joseph Patner, Assistant City Attorney Michael Dema, Engineering Design Manager Carlos Frey, Sustainability Manager Sharon Wright and Office Systems Specialist Paul Traci

ABSENT: Vice-Chair Steve Kornell

Chair Rice called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. and then undertook a roll call to establish the presence of a quorum. The meeting commenced with the following members present: Ed Montanari, Karl Nurse, Darden Rice and Lisa Wheeler-Bowman. Committee member Nurse moved for approval of the agenda as amended. All were in favor of the motion. Committee member Nurse moved for approval of the June 15, 2017 Committee minutes. All were in favor of the motion.

Mayor Rick Kriseman opened the meeting with a discussion of a newly signed Executive Order. Mayor Kriseman thanked Ms. Wright for her assistance. Differences were highlighted from the original Executive Order that was signed in 2015. The new order revises the name of the Office of Sustainability to the Office of Sustainability & Resiliency to reflect the comprehensive efforts of the City in the region, to align with funding sources for resiliency, and to implement a recommendation of the Realizing Resilience Report based on the December 2016 Urban Land Institute Resiliency Workshop. The new Executive Order also revises the “Healthy Communities” language to align with the Healthy St. Pete initiatives, revises the 2015 climate action statement to reflect the Integrated Sustainability Action Plan (ISAP) approach to climate mitigation, adaptation, and overall sustainability, and improve the City’s STAR Communities certification from a 3-STAR Community to a 5-Star Community.

Committee member Nurse thanked Mayor Kriseman and stated that he was excited to have leadership in the City that wants to aim higher.

Ms. Wright opened the New / Deferred Business portion of the agenda by introducing Scott Leham from Arcadis, Inc. Mr. Leham gave a PowerPoint presentation to the Committee regarding the Fish & Pelican Mortality Incident March 2017 Report and April updates related to Riviera Bay Lake #1 and Coffee Pot Bayou. It was explained how stormwater runoff, pet waste, irrigation runoff and inversion were sources of nutrients and coliform to lakes. These factors were said to have contributed to the fish and pelican deaths. The pelicans would eat the infected fish and get sick. It was also reported that the Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Committee corroborated the findings of Arcadis, Inc. An aeration system was suggested as a means to eliminate the factors contributing to the fish and pelican deaths.

Committee member Montanari inquired about the cost of installing an aeration system. Mr. Leham responded that the cost would be just under \$25,000 for the system and \$200 per month for electricity.

In connection with the Plastic Bag Ban: Ordinance Development Based on Coral Gables Example, Mayor Kriseman thanked the Committee for taking up the issue. Ms. Wright gave a PowerPoint presentation to the Committee regarding the Plastic Bag Ban. Assistant City Attorney Joseph Patner spoke regarding the legal challenge to the Coral Gable Ordinance by the Florida Retailers Association. In February 2017, a federal judge found the preemption law passed by the State of Florida unconstitutional. This allowed the Coral Gables Ordinance to become law. The case is currently in the Third District Court of Appeals. Mr. Patner stated that there is a window of opportunity for the City of St. Petersburg to pass a similar Ordinance.

Committee member Montanari asked when a decision would be made by the Third District Court of Appeals. Mr. Patner stated that it could be from 4 – 6 months to 2 years, with one year being the average amount of time. Committee member Montanari stated that he would be voting “no” on drafting an Ordinance banning plastic bags because he would rather wait until the court makes a ruling regarding the appeal by the Florida Retailers Association.

Committee member Nurse moved to recommend Legal bring back an Ordinance to ban single use plastic bags and to incorporate incentive programs and possible exemptions for certain groups and institute a one-year implementation plan. The motion passed 3 – 1. Committee member Montanari dissented from the majority vote.

In connection with the Solar PV and Hot Water Requirement: Draft Ordinance Based on South Miami Example portion of the agenda, Ms. Wright gave a PowerPoint presentation to the Committee. Committee member Montanari stated that he would like to get more information regarding the economic analysis of such an ordinance. Committee member Nurse motioned to defer this matter to a future ENRS meeting.

There being no further business, Chair Rice adjourned the meeting at 4:52 p.m.