

City of St. Petersburg  
**Public Services & Infrastructure Committee Meeting Report**  
Meeting of September 30, 2010  
City Hall, Room 100

Members and Alternates: Herb Polson, Chair; Vice-Chair; Bill Dudley  
Council Members: Jeff Danner  
Alternate: Jim Kennedy

Support Staff: Wayne Finley, Contracts and Grants Officer  
Rob Gerdes, Planner II

Others Present: City Zoning Official Philip Lazzara, Planning & Economic Development Director Dave Goodwin, Transportation and Parking Director Joe Kubicki, Neighborhood Transportation Director Dave Goodwin, Transportation and Parking Director Joe Kubicki, Neighborhood Transportation Manager Mike Frederick, Police Chief Charles Harmon, Assistant Attorney Macall Dyer, Deputy Assistant City Attorney Mark Winn, City Administrator Tish Elston, and Deputy City Clerk Amelia Preston.

- A. Call to Order/Roll Call – 9:17am
- B. Approval of Agenda
- C. Approval of Minutes
  - 1. Minutes of August 26, 2010 approved.
- D. Continued/Deferred Business
  - 1. Landscaping Ordinance – Report by Philip Lazzara, Zoning Official

Philip Lazzara discussed the background behind making changes to the existing landscape ordinance, and how they went back to do more research on similar regulations. Per the committee's suggestion, he reviewed the existing code for areas to revise. He explained that the code now requires a hardship for obtaining a waiver; that landscaping installed in commercial settings are typically in stressful situations, i.e. parking lots, multi-family properties, etc. These hard to grow areas require irrigation, and set up code violations due to the environment.

He was tasked to look at a plan to allow applicants to work with a landscape architect to develop Florida friendly landscapes. He added language to the code that address the committee's concerns and believes it addresses the intent of CM Nurse's initial inquiry and the concerns the committee brought up in earlier meetings.

Discussion ensued amongst the committee members. CM Danner asked if current code requires use of a landscape architect (answer: no), and was concerned since it is not currently a requirement, that property owners will take the path of least resistance and not consider Florida friendly landscaping. Dave Goodwin suggested that applications could be tracked to develop stats on choice.

## Public Services & Infrastructure Committee Meeting Report

Meeting of September 30, 2010

Page 2

CM Kennedy then motioned to approve as is, seconded by CM Danner and approved by the committee.

1. Red Light Camera Program— Report on implementation progress by Joe Kubicki, Transportation & Parking Director and Neighborhood Transportation Manager Mike Frederick

Joe Kubicki opened his discussion by providing background on the program, stating that their research has shown they are routine, and are now used in 45 countries, 400 communities across the United States, with 38 in Florida, and that they have been focused on the worst urban intersection problems.

City has prepared an approach entitled “An Intersection Public Safety Program,” to stay focused on the program as one of safety vs. a revenue generator. His staff evaluated city intersections for installations, and identified the worst 44. Their research has shown that intersection enforcement is labor intensive and can take up to 6 officers per intersection. According to the FHWA, red light cameras reduce red light running, the severity of angle crashes thus saves lives, and is encouraging implementation nationwide. Lastly he discussed statistics per intersection after cameras are implemented: 50% reduced in the first year up to 75% after 3 years.

Council requested he look at 3 scenarios: 1) City owns and operates everything, 2) Contractor owns equipment and city /contractor share operations , 3) hybrid wherein city runs the program but contractor owns and installs/maintains all equipment. The city is recommending option 3: city managed, but contractor handles equipment.

Chief Harmon spoke briefly that his department supported the installation of cameras, and that it will relieve officers who can then focus on other needs and issues.

Discussion amongst committee members ensued. CM Kennedy was curious about the FHWA stats, particularly the 75% reduction after 3 years. Joe Kubicki indicated the data is from communities where cameras are presently installed, and that rear-end collisions may increase slightly due to folks stopping quickly; however, rear-end collisions are far less dangerous and damaging than angle crashes. He indicated that Baltimore is the only community nationwide that has a total city implementation, and that St. Petersburg has larger existing capabilities that can handle the program jointly. He did reveal it would take 10 new staff to run the program, mostly in the Police and billings and collections departments.

Macall Dyer and Mark Winn spoke re: penalties. Tickets do not come with points, but must be paid within 30 days or a Uniform Traffic Citation will be sent to the driver and if not paid, a notice to appear in traffic court will be issued and the fines will be more costly. Some of the logistics will need to be discussed with the Clerk of the Court.

CM Kennedy motioned that administration proceed with its recommended option, seconded by CM Danner.

**Public Services & Infrastructure Committee Meeting Report**

Meeting of September 30, 2010

Page 3

E. New Business

1. None

F. Upcoming Meetings

1. October 14, 2010

- a. Follow-up on City's Demolition Policy – Draft ordinance presentation by Kim Proano, Assistant City Attorney and Rick Dunn, City Building Official

G. Adjournment – meeting adjourned at 10:04am

A RESOLUTION APPROVING AN INTERSECTION PUBLIC SAFETY PROGRAM THAT IS CITY MANAGED AND OPERATED – CONTRACTOR PROVIDES CAMERAS AND EVENT PROCESSING PROGRAM (“PROGRAM”); AUTHORIZING ADMINISTRATION TO PROCEED WITH IMPLEMENTING THE PROGRAM; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE

WHEREAS, red light running is considered the cause of the most serious urban intersection accidents; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Highway Administration reports that a red light camera program can severely reduce red light running and severe right angle crashes; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Legislature passed the Mark Wandall Traffic Safety Program allowing for electronic enforcement of red light running; and

WHEREAS, Administration has investigated and recommended an intersection public safety program that is City Managed and Operated – Contractor Provides Cameras and Event Processing Program.

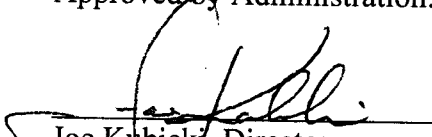
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of St. Petersburg, Florida, that an intersection public safety program that is City Managed and Operated – Contractor Provides Cameras and Event Processing Program (“Program”) is hereby approved and Administration is authorized to take all action are necessary to implement the Program.

This resolution shall be effective immediately upon adoption.

Approved as to Form and Content:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
City Attorney (Designee)

Approved by Administration:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Joe Kubicki, Director  
Department of Transportation  
And Parking