

City of St. Petersburg
Public Services & Infrastructure Committee
Meeting of September 30, 2010

PRESENT: Herb Polson, Chair; Bill Dudley Vice-Chair; Jeff Danner
Alternate: Jim Kennedy

ALSO: Council Member Karl Nurse, Chief Assistant City Attorney Mark Winn; Assistant Attorney Macall Dyer; City Administrator Tish Elston; Police Chief Chuck Harmon; Planning & Economic Development Director Dave Goodwin; Zoning Official Philip Lazzara; Transportation and Parking Director Joe Kubicki; Neighborhood Transportation Manager Mike Frederick; Contracts and Grants Officer Wayne Finley; Robert Gerdes, Planning Analyst II and Deputy City Clerk Amelia Preston.

The meeting was called to order by Committee Chair Polson at 9:17:a.m. with the above members present.

In connection with review of the agenda for the September 30, 2010 meeting, Committee Member Dudley moved with the second of Committee Member Kennedy that the agenda be approved as submitted. All were in favor of the motion. Absent. Curran.

In connection with review of the draft minutes of the August 26, 2010 PSI Meeting, Committee Member Danner moved with the second of Committee Member Kennedy that the August 26, 2010 PSI Meeting Minutes be approved as submitted. All were in favor of the motion. Absent. Curran.

In connection with agenda item relating to the Landscaping Ordinance, Zoning Official Philip Lazzara provided a review of the submitted report, which included background information, prior discussion among the Committee, and proposed amendment language that would ensure long-term compliance of the landscaping ordinance. He briefly commented on the ability to exempt someone from the irrigation of landscaping and outlined the way to address the issue of putting the right plant into the landscaping by requiring approval of the plans by a Landscape Architect. Council Member Danner inquired if currently they were required to hire a Landscape Architect. The response was no. It was shared that the Landscape Architect is an expert in that field and would be the appropriate person to provide the plans. Dave Goodwin shared that this would be the tradeoff and could work for those large projects. He stated further that they can track the projects. Committee Member Kennedy moved with the second of Committee Member Danner that the recommended language by Administration be forwarded to Full Council for consideration and approval. All were in favor of the motion. Absent. Curran.

In connection with the agenda item relating to Red Light Cameras Program implementation, Joe Kubicki requested that those Council members who received documentation prior to the meeting to please disregard it because there have been changes and corrections made. He highlighted information related to public safety; commented on the task force which evaluated what other cities have done and coordinated with other municipalities that have already implemented such a program. He gave a detail review on traffic signal, number of intersections where crashes occur each year along with the number of citation issued last year.

He stated further that they have evaluated locations throughout the City; stated that they have modified and strengthened signal intervals at the intersections for the Red Light Enforcement Camera Program within the City of St. Petersburg. Mr. Kubicki suggested that the program be implemented for three years with two years extension and re-evaluating of the program to see if additional changes are needed. He commented briefly on the notice of violations with three different pictures of the vehicle, process for appeal if someone other than the owner was driving the vehicle and the three different ways of processing by using a contractor approach whereby the City reviews the incidents, however, they are recommending that they use a third party approach. It was shared that they would like to have twenty cameras at twenty intersections; they are recommending option #3, which will produce 5,000 pictures per camera per month and would require the hiring of 30 employees. It was shared that they agreed with the taskforce and Mayor support. Chief of Police Chuck Harmon stated that they are in support of the program and they are on board with the implementation of the program. Committee Member Kennedy thanked Administration, and briefly commented on the study. Mr. Kubicki commented on the statistics and the information that is beginning to come in and is being disbursed to FDOT. Committee Member Kennedy also inquired about the number of rear end accidents that increased by 30%. He also inquired about Kenneth City and which program they went with. It was shared that they went with full vendor operation. Mr. Kubicki shared that the City of St. Petersburg has more existing capabilities; shared that points will not be issued; however, if not paid within the 30days, they would have an increased fine from \$158.00 to \$258.00 and they would need to go through the Clerk of the Circuit Court who would process the fine. Council Member Nurse inquired about the officers that currently do this type of operation. He highlighted the panhandling and bicycling ticketing which were issued for them not obeying the rules. Committee Member Dudley was excused at 9:50 a.m. Committee Chair Polson commented that he has been asked to come before the MPO Board on October 13, 2010 to present what the City of St. Petersburg is going to be implementing so that everyone is aware of the policy for each jurisdiction and community. Committee Member Kennedy moved with the second of Committee Member Danner that the Committee recommends to full Council for consideration and approval of Administration implementation of an Intersection Public Safety Program that is City managed and operated with contractor to provide cameras and event processing. All were in favor of the motion. Absent. Dudley and Curran.

The next meeting is scheduled for October 14, 2010. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:04 am.