

MINUTES
SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
CITY OF TARPON SPRINGS
NOVEMBER 21, 2024

THE SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MET IN THE CITY HALL MEDIA ROOM, 324 E. PINE STREET, TARPON SPRINGS, FLORIDA, ON THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2024, AT 6:00 P.M., WITH THE FOLLOWING PRESENT:

DENISE MANNINO	CHAIRPERSON
DR. CAROL MICKETT	MEMBER
SIOBAHN NEHIN	ALTERNATE MEMBER

ALSO PRESENT:	THOMAS KIGER	DIRECTOR -PUBLIC SERVICES
	HOLLY LANGSTON	SUSTAINABILITY COORDINATOR

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Denise Mannino called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Holly Langston called roll.

APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 2024 MINUTES:

MOTION:	DR. CAROL MICKETT
SECOND:	SIOBHAN NEHIN

To approve the minutes of September 2024 Sustainability Advisory Committee Meeting.

Vote on motion: Upon viva voce vote, the motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

No public present.

DISCUSSION

1. **VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT – POST HURRICANE UPDATE: THOMAS KIGER**

Mr. Kiger presented on the topic of the City's Vulnerability Assessment and how the flood modeling matched up with the impacts seen from Hurricane Helene. First Mr. Kiger noted that the Vulnerability Assessment and Action Plan (VAAP) is still under review by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. Once this study report is accepted, there are plans to add updates or use information from the VAAP to create a Resilience Plan. It was

noted that the City experienced a 9 foot storm surge and there were significant impacts to some city services; especially wastewater. There were many lift stations impacted by flooding, and one by fire. Additionally, the rising floodwater was only about 18 inches from causing a major equipment impact at the Advanced Wastewater Treatment Plant. During Hurricane Helene, there was not a flood barrier available, but during Milton, the state was able to provide the City with a 36-inch high Tiger Dam to protect the electrical systems at the AWWTP. The lessons learned include real impacts of unprecedented storm surge, and how to best prepare in the future. The City must focus on infrastructure resilience; including hardening facilities and possible adaptations- resilience is all about how quickly can the City bounce back and resume its operations. Committee Members commented that they were impressed with how well the City got services back online. There was a brief conversation about emergency services and the need to heed Emergency Warnings and Mandatory Evacuations.

2. CLIMATE ACTION PLAN UPDATE- HOLLY LANGSTON

Ms. Langston presented to the Committee the background and work done so far in creating a Climate Action Plan (CAP) for the City. The creation of a CAP was an Action established in the Sustainability Plan. Therefore, this is an implementation of the Sustainability Plan- putting it into action. ICLEI has served as the consultant and is responsible for the technical work to support any reduction targets or goals that are established. Ms. Langston shared the City's baseline carbon dioxide (CO₂e) emissions from 2019 data and three reduction scenarios modeled by ICLEI. The City's ability to decrease emissions significantly relies on the goal of Duke Energy to reduce emissions to net zero by 2050. The City's emissions reduce 82% based on Duke's future reductions. The other areas in which the City has the highest potential to reduce its emissions are the City's vehicle fleet and by producing its own clean energy to partially or fully power some facilities. Fleet Electrification and Solar Installations are the two policy areas that rise to the top as far as where the City can make changes to its emissions. The report will include policies and projects that are actionable items for the City as well as an in-depth discussion on the real impacts of current and future threats due to climate change.

3. UPCOMING MEETINGS SCHEDULE

Ms. Langston checked in with the Committee members regarding their availability for December and January meetings. At the time of the meeting, all members are available for the next meeting scheduled on December 19, 2024. The December meeting will proceed as planned. Dr. Carol Mickett is unsure of her availability for the January meeting, so we will revisit this topic at the December meeting, as all three members are required to be present to have a quorum.

ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING AGENDA:

- Climate Action Plan- draft document (depends on readiness)
- Sustainability Plan Actions update- solar feasibility study
- Floodplain Manager- Megan Araya (if available)

STAFF COMMENTS:

Staff provided the Committee members with information on the Main Street Program – there was a kickoff meeting happening at the same time as this meeting. However, staff plans to keep the members posted on whether there will be a second meeting or if there is a packet of information that can be passed onto them. Staff also announced the hiring of a Sustainability Intern who will hopefully be starting in December.

COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

Committee Comments regarding flooding in and around city as well as curiosities on County Parks Facilities status post-storm. Dr. Mickett commented that numerous people lost vehicles and is interested in the City possibly designating a parking area on high ground that residents may be able to use in order to protect their vehicles when storm surge flooding is expected. This is a topic that the Emergency Managers could consider.

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION: DR. CAROL MICKETT
SECOND: SIOBHAN NEHIN

To adjourn the meeting at 7:32 PM.

Vote on motion: Upon viva voce vote, the motion carried unanimously.

DENISE MANNINO
CHAIRPERSON

THOMAS KIGER
DIRECTOR –
PUBLIC SERVICES

CITY CLERK'S NOTE: This meeting has been recorded in its entirety and the recordings are kept on file in the City Clerk's office for the required retention period.