

M I N U T E S

ADMINISTRATIVE WORKSHOP
SOUTH PASADENA, FLORIDA

TUESDAY, APRIL 7, 2026
COMMISSION CHAMBERS - 9:06 A.M.

Mayor Penny called the meeting to order at 9:08 A.M. immediately following the Agenda Meeting and dispensed with opening formalities.

ROLL CALL: COMMISSIONERS GAIL NEIDINGER, MARK MCALEES, LYNDIA THOMPSON, AND MAYOR ARTHUR PENNY. ABSENT: VICE MAYOR THOMAS REID. ALSO PRESENT: CITY CLERK CARLEY LEWIS, CITY ATTORNEY KRISTEN GRAY, FINANCE DIRECTOR HEATHER GUADAGNOLI, PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR SHAWN SHIMKO, DEPUTY CHIEF MATT WIRTH, AND DEPUTY CITY CLERK MARY JO BOWMAN.

The topics scheduled for discussion were HCA Florida Pasadena Hospital Update with CEO Brent Burish, Ways to Attract Business to the City, and SB 180 FDEM Training Requirement for Elected Officials.

The first topic scheduled for discussion was HCA Florida Pasadena Hospital Update with CEO Brent Burish.

Brent Burish, HCA Florida Pasadena Hospital, spoke regarding local initiatives and reviewed a handout (attached to Minutes as Exhibit A). He discussed healthcare services available at the hospital and changes that have been made since the 2024 storm season. He reported that emergency services and the majority of outpatient care and surgeries are still offered locally. He said that bariatric care is a specialty that is drawing patients to the area.

Discussion ensued regarding medical care offered at HCA Florida Pasadena Hospital and community outreach.

The next topic scheduled for discussion was Ways to Attract Business to the City.

Commissioner Thompson informed the Commission that she submitted this item and wants the Commission to think of ways to attract new business to the area. She suggested that permit fees be lowered for new businesses and if a new business leaves they would have to pay it back.

Mayor Penny spoke regarding incentives for new businesses. He said that some existing local businesses do not claim to be in

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South Pasadena. He suggested that the City develop additional marketing opportunities to promote the area.

In response to Mayor Penny, City Clerk Lewis stated that the March 31st community meeting was well attended and good feedback was received. She said that the ongoing project with Forward Pinellas aims to help attract new businesses to the area by offering more development options and opportunities.

Mayor Penny suggested that staff put together a marketing plan to help promote the community.

Discussion ensued regarding financial and advertising incentives for new businesses.

In response to Commissioner Neidinger, City Clerk Lewis spoke regarding code enforcement processes and beautification efforts. She said that if the City Commission would like to increase code enforcement in the commercial corridor it would likely need to increase efforts throughout the city as a whole which residents may not respond positively to.

Discussion ensued regarding beautification efforts.

The next topic scheduled for discussion was SB 180 FDEM Training Requirement for Elected Officials.

Deputy Chief Wirth stated that Florida Legislature passed Senate Bill 180 in May 2025. He explained that elected officials are required to complete biannual training regarding the roles and responsibilities of elected officials related to emergencies. He said that the training is meant to encourage intercommunication between varying levels of government in the event of an emergency.

In response to Deputy Chief Wirth, City Attorney Gray stated that the City Commission and department heads will all likely need to complete the training.

In response to Mayor Penny, Deputy Chief Wirth stated that the Florida Division of Emergency Management will be offering the required training.

Mayor Penny spoke regarding changes at Pasadena Community Church. He questioned if staff has been informed of changes that affect the City's ability to use their facilities as an emergency operations center (EOC).

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Deputy Chief Wirth stated that plans are underway to utilize St. Petersburg College's midtown campus as an EOC for the coming storm season.

Commissioner McAlees spoke regarding the Charter Review Committee. He reported that the Committee will begin reviewing the Charter next week and requested input from the Commission on specific areas they should focus on.

Mayor Penny stated that it can be difficult to run for office. He suggested that the Committee look into changing or removing term limits to allow individuals to serve longer. He also suggested that the Committee review the Commission salary language to help encourage people to serve.

Commissioner Neidinger stated that she is concerned about increasing Commission salaries to where individuals may be overly motivated by the money.

Mayor Penny spoke regarding responsibilities delegated to the City Administrator. He suggested that the City Administrator position be responsible for evaluations for the department heads rather than the respective Commissioners.

In response to Mayor Penny, City Attorney Gray said that the Charter allows the Commission to delegate authority to the City Administrator or the Charter can be changed to specify permanent responsibilities to the position.

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 10:00 A.M.

Arthur Penny

Arthur Penny, Mayor

ATTEST:

Carley Lewis

Carley Lewis, City Clerk

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TO VIEW ORIGINAL SIGNED MINUTES,
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