

## Bob Robertson

---

**Subject:** FW: Bayshore Drive Septic to Sewer Concerns

---

**From:** Costa Vatikiotis <[cvatikiotis@ctsfl.us](mailto:cvatikiotis@ctsfl.us)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 22, 2024 7:38 AM  
**To:** Matt Orton <[Matt.Orton@RJInvestmentManagement.com](mailto:Matt.Orton@RJInvestmentManagement.com)>  
**Cc:** Mark LeCouris <[mlecouris@ctsfl.us](mailto:mlecouris@ctsfl.us)>  
**Subject:** Re: Bayshore Drive Septic to Sewer Concerns

Thank you, Mr. Orton. I forwarded your email to the City Manager for a complete response.

I arrived last night from being overseas two weeks and read your email at JFK airport. One word caught my eye, your use of "antipathy" in describing some of the Commissioners. Let me just say, I respectfully disagree.

It's not antipathy. It's the way our City government works. The City Manager and his staff are responsible for the contract.

We are bound by the rules of our City Charter (i.e., City Constitution). There is a legislative branch and an executive branch. The Commission is the legislative branch and deals with policy. The City Manager is the CEO and Chief Administrative Officer. At this point, this matter is administrative, not policy. The policy aspects of this project were decided in 2019 when the Commission elevated the priority of the Bayshore sewer extension to be the next city sewer project.

If the City Manager needs policy direction on some aspect of the Bayshore sewer contract, he will schedule an agenda item to discuss it.

Regarding agenda items scheduled by Commissioners, the Commission Rules of Procedure provides for only policy matters.

The City Manager will respond to your specific comments and concerns.

Thank you again,  
Costa Vatikiotis  
Mayor

On May 21, 2024 6:40 PM, Matt Orton <[Matt.Orton@RJInvestmentManagement.com](mailto:Matt.Orton@RJInvestmentManagement.com)> wrote:

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Dear Tarpon Springs Board of Commissioners,

As a resident of Bayshore Drive, I'm writing to express concern about the recently commenced "Septic to Sewer" project. Specifically, my concerns are:

1. The lack of communication/notice around the project and failure to allow residents a reasonable amount of time to opine or engage in a discussion with the town and their elected officials;
2. The potential of an inferior sewer system being installed when other options might be available;  
and
3. A mandated cost burden being shifted from the town onto residents in relatively short order (also when other options might be available).

At a minimum, I think it's important that this board add a discussion on the Bayshore Drive project to the upcoming meeting agenda so that we can engage in a constructive discussion around the timeline, potential alternatives, and ideally, find a way to pause the project until the above items can be addressed. I do not oppose having a sewer system and believe that one is necessary, but I take issue with the way this project has been handled and the antipathy shown by some of our elected officials toward an overwhelming majority of residents' concerns.

I hope that we can further this discussion at the upcoming meeting next week and I'm happy to discuss my thoughts in more detail.

Thank you for your consideration,

Matt

--

MATTHEW B. ORTON, CFA®

Head of Advisory Solutions & Market Strategy

Chief Market Strategist

Raymond James Investment Management  
T 727.573.3888 // M 609.516.9120 // [RJInvestmentManagement.com](http://RJInvestmentManagement.com)  
880 Carillon Parkway, St. Petersburg, FL 33716

Partners in Asset Management

Chartwell Investment Partners

ClariVest Asset Management

Cougar Global Investments

Eagle Asset Management

Reams Asset Management (a division of Scout Investments)

Scout Investments