



MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION
CITY OF NEW PORT RICHEY

NEW PORT RICHEY CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS
5919 MAIN STREET, NEW PORT RICHEY, FLORIDA

January 16, 2024

5:30 PM

**ORDER OF
BUSINESS**

1 Call to Order - Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Chopper Davis at 5:30 p.m. Those in attendance were Deputy Mayor Matt Murphy, Councilman Peter Altman, Councilman Mike Peters and Councilwoman Kelly Mothershead.

Also in attendance were City Manager Debbie L. Manns, City Attorney Timothy Driscoll, City Clerk Judy Meyers, Finance Director Crystal Dunn, Public Works Director Robert Rivera, Police Chief Bob Kochen, and Assistant City Manager Gregory Oravec.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

2 Solid Waste Pickup and Hauling Billing System - Page 2

City Manager Manns introduced the item to Council. She stated the purpose of this work session was to review the proposed Solid Waste Pickup and Hauling Billing System. She stated this system has been in the works since last August. She stated the topic for discussion tonight is the method for collection. The recommendation of staff was to send out an independent bill which contains the fees for waste hauling. City Manager Manns stated the option to place the fee on the water bill is also available. City Manager Manns stated that there are two public hearings to be conducted before the program goes into effect on March 2, 2024. City Manager Manns then gave a brief overview of the voting history to date. City Manager Manns stated that water bills are sent out per area and not all at the same time and it would be difficult to make the waste hauling collection concurrent with the water bill. She stated that there are many others who have bulk meter customers. Mayor Davis stated that he has been a renter at two different places and billing may cause confusion between the renter and landlord. Councilman Altman spoke about audits and processes. He stated if this is a round robin for everyone to agree to then the work session is a waste of time. City Manager Manns stated that the purpose of the work session was to have a discussion. She stated there will be nuances that we are unable to predict. She stated she spoke with the City Attorney today and would like to incorporate an acknowledgement into the ordinance to have some opportunity to give the City Manager latitude to amend the ordinance as needed. Mayor Davis stated that businesses with different hours should not be all

charged the same. Councilwoman Mothershead asked about homeowner associations that bill for those who have dumpster service or curb service. City Manager Manns stated those provisions have been formulated. Councilman Peters stated that many larger municipalities put the fee on the tax bill and would eliminate certain situations. He stated most homeowners have mortgages and pay assessments on a monthly basis anyways. Councilman Altman stated that if you put it on the tax roll you are billing everyone for the full year and this would affect snowbirds. He stated that there are all of these nuances that have come up and spoke about The Wilds. He stated there is a kinship between a single residence and someone who has a dumpster. He stated he has asked for staff to quantify with time and postage. Mayor Davis stated there will be employee time no matter what system we use. Councilman Altman stated that renters have to bring in their lease in order to get water service in their name. Council then held a brief discussion on the variables of each process. Councilman Peters stated that we have had landlords on both sides of the issue speak. He stated that he still thinks billing separately will cause less disruption overall for the residents. Councilman Altman asked if the property owner does not pay do we then shutoff service to the tenant. He stated there will be an increase in phone calls and return postage. Councilman Altman suggested having the property owner be responsible for the water bill as well. He asked if the new system will allow for snowbirds to pause service and City Manager Manns stated that it is a common practice in the open market to offer the opportunity for turn off and turn on but not in a closed market but if it is the direction of Council provisions can be created. Councilman Peters stated what he has seen in other markets is that service comes with a fee. He stated there are some cities that have their own trash service with their own trucks and they do not allow to pause service because they incur the costs. Councilman Peters stated that most people are used to being billed quarterly for trash pickup. Councilman Altman stated that he does not know how many landlords are currently paying for trash service. Councilman Altman urged staff to look at this to find the most efficient way to move forward. Councilman Peters stated that deposits for accounts could be adjusted. City Manager Manns stated she would have a discussion with the City Attorney on the items discussed and would bring a report back to Council.

3 Communications

None.

4 Adjournment

There being no further business to consider, upon proper motion, the meeting adjourned at 6:29 p.m.

Approved: _____ (date)

_____(signed)

Initialed: _____

Judy Meyers, CMC, City Clerk