



**MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING**  
**CITY OF NEW PORT RICHEY**

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

June 20, 2023

7:00 PM

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**ORDER OF**  
**BUSINESS**

1. Call to Order – Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Chopper Davis at 7:00 p.m. Those in attendance were Deputy Mayor Matt Murphy, Councilman Peter Altman and Councilman Mike Peters. Councilwoman Kelly Mothershead participated via electronically.

Also in attendance were City Manager Debbie L. Manns, City Attorney Timothy Driscoll, Deputy Clerk Nadine Ward, Finance Director Crystal Dunn, Fire Chief Chris Fitch, Public Works Director Robert Rivera, Police Chief Bob Kochen, Library Director Andi Figart, Community and Development Director Dale Hall, Technology and Innovations Director Robert Greene, Economic Development Director Rod Kirk and Human Resources Director Jill Sassone.

2 Pledge of Allegiance

3 Moment of Silence

4 Approval of June 6, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes

Motion was made to approve the minutes as presented.

Motion made by Mike Peters and seconded by Matt Murphy. The Motion Passed. 5-0. Ayes: Altman, Davis, Mothershead, Murphy, Peters

5 Vox Pop for Items Not Listed on the Agenda or Listed on Consent Agenda

Mayor Davis opened the floor for public comment. The following people came forward to speak:

- Robert Snyder, 5544 Montana Ave., NPR, spoke regarding the alley improvement program for Sable Palm and the removal of his fence. He stated he is concerned about the amount of trees that need to be removed. He stated the City Council should stop this program.
- Theresa Maluk, 5538 Montana Ave., NPR spoke regarding the letter she received about moving her shed from the alley behind her home.
- Chael and Mekanna Hanley, 6040 Missouri Ave., NPR, spoke regarding Mekanna's desire to put a mini library at the rec center.

- George Romagnoli, 6235 Florida Ave., NPR, spoke regarding the collector roads of Congress and Madison, speeding on Van Buren and the need for more stop signs.
- Chris Lineman, 6140 Indiana Ave, NPR, spoke regarding need for speed bumps or stop signs.
- Marlowe Jones, 6141 Pine Hill Rd., PR spoke regarding, public safety on Pine Hill Road, speeding and updates to the City Charter.

With no one else coming forward for public comment, Mayor Davis closed Vox Pop. Councilman Altman stated he agrees that traffic has increased. He would like to discuss traffic calming with the council. He also spoke regarding the alley improvement plan. Councilman Peters spoke regarding the speeding issues on Indiana and Van Buren. Deputy Mayor Murphy spoke regarding the alley project and feels that each instance should be looked at individually. Councilwoman Mothershead thanked McKenna for speaking regarding the little library. She also spoke regarding speeding and agreed it is a problem and needs to be addressed.

- a Speakers must identify themselves prior to speaking by stating their name and full address for the record. Speakers shall address the City Council as a whole and refrain from addressing individual members of the City Council or the City staff. Speakers shall afford the utmost courtesy to the City Council, to City employees, and to the public, and shall refrain at all times, from rude and derogatory remarks, reflections as to integrity, abusive comments, and statements as to motives and personalities.

## 6 Consent Agenda

Motion was made to accept the Consent Agenda.

Motion made by Matt Murphy and seconded by Pete Altman. The Motion Passed. 5-0. Ayes: Altman, Davis, Mothershead, Murphy, Peters

- a Purchases/Payments for City Council Approval
- b Library Advisory Board Minutes - March and April 2023
- c Environmental Committee Meeting Minutes - May 2023

## 7 Public Reading of Ordinances

- a First Reading, Ordinance No. 2023-2277: Prohibited Structures

City Attorney Driscoll read the proposed ordinance by title only. City Manager Manns introduced Development Director Dale Hall who then presented the item to Council. He stated the purpose of this agenda item was to conduct a first reading of an ordinance to restrict the use of shipping containers and prohibit them as a permanent structure and to prohibit mobile homes in residential zoned districts other than a Mobile Home Park (MHP) zoned district. He stated that the current policy of the City is to only allow for temporary placement of shipping containers on construction sites that have a valid building permit and are actively under development. Additionally, current Codes permit Mobile Homes to be placed in the Mobile Home Park (MHP) zoning district. This ordinance will prohibit placement of a mobile home outside of a MHP. Upon opening the floor to public comment, the following people came forward to speak:

- George Romagnoli, 6235 Florida Ave., NPR, asked for clarification that shipping containers would not be used as housing. He stated he feels it should be reconsidered.
- Chris Lineman, 6140 Indiana Ave., NPR, spoke in opposition of the ordinance.
- Marlowe Jones, 6141 Pine Hill Road, PR spoke in opposition of the ordinance.

With no one else coming forward, Mayor Davis returned the floor to Council. Councilman Peters asked what governs mobile home placement now. He stated he is in favor of the ordinance. Councilwoman Mothershead stated she agrees that there isn't much land for a mobile home park. Deputy Mayor Murphy stated he agrees with the MH ordinance. He stated he is a little hesitant about the shipping containers. Councilman Altman stated he feels the process of the ordinance was not

followed. Feels that the shipping container situation is a fad. He would like a stronger definition. Mayor Davis stated he feels the containers should be prohibited and we could re-evaluate later. Motion was made to approve the ordinance upon its first reading.

Motion made by Mike Peters and seconded by Kelly Mothershead. The Motion Passed. 5-0. Ayes: Altman, Davis, Mothershead, Murphy, Peters

8 Business Items

a Acceptance of Donation from the Kiwanis Club of Greater West Pasco

City Manager Manns introduced the item to Council. She stated that the purpose of this agenda item was to accept a donation in the amount of \$20k from the Kiwanis Club of Greater West Pasco and corresponding budget amendment. The donation will go towards special needs playground equipment at Frances Avenue Park. Upon opening the floor to public comment, the following people came forward to speak:

- Bill Koenig, 1136 Finland Drive, Spring Hill, spoke about the wheelchair accessible playground equipment and how important it is. He invited anyone to come to a Kiwanis meeting.

With no one else coming forward Mayor Davis returned the floor to Council. Motion was made to accept the donation as requested and approve the corresponding budget amendment as presented.

Motion made by Pete Altman and seconded by Mike Peters. The Motion Passed. 5-0. Ayes: Altman, Davis, Mothershead, Murphy, Peters

b 2023 Fireworks Display and Friendly Fest Special Event

City Manager Manns introduced the item to Council. She stated that the purpose of this agenda item was to review the application for an Alcoholic Beverage Special Event Permit that will allow for beer and wine to be sold at Sims Park during the City's annual fireworks celebration. The event will be held on Saturday, June 24, 2023, with a proposal from Wheelchairs 4 Kids to sell alcohol between the hours of 4:00 pm and 11:00 pm. City Manager Manns asked Steve Schurdell to come forward to speak. Mr. Schurdell came forward to thank Council for hosting the event. He also highlighted the entertainment for the event. City Manager Manns commended John Gilliss for his commitment to this event. Upon opening the floor to public comment, no one came forward therefore Mayor Davis returned the floor to Council. Motion was made to approve the item as presented.

Motion made by Pete Altman and seconded by Matt Murphy. The Motion Passed. 5-0. Ayes: Altman, Davis, Mothershead, Murphy, Peters

c 6602 Candice Lane – Order to Demolish Reconsideration

Mayor Davis stated this was a quasi-judicial hearing. City Council disclosed there were no ex-parte communications. City Manager Manns introduced Development Director Dale Hall who then presented the item to Council. He stated that the purpose of this agenda item was to conduct a for the reconsideration of the Order to Demolish for the structures located at 6602 Candice Lane. Mr. Hall began his presentation by giving a brief history of the property. Mr. Hall stated that since the City Council decision, the property owner has removed unfit or unsafe structures and provided additional materials necessary for establishing the structural soundness of the existing mobile home. The City Building Official has inspected the structure, reviewed the submitted materials and has determined the mobile home no longer meets the criteria for demolition. Upon opening the floor to public comment, no one came forward therefore Mayor Davis returned the floor to Council. Councilman Altman asked about receipts for the improvements and Mr. Hall stated no receipts were submitted or inspections completed. He stated the Building Official inspected the current structure and maintains it no longer meets the criteria. City Attorney Driscoll stated no substantial improvement decision needs to be made. Councilman Peters stated that it is fact that the owner doesn't take control of his properties until it comes to the point of demolition. Motion was made to withdraw the Notice of Demolition and

rescind all prior orders requiring the demolition of the structures at the property.

Motion made by Pete Altman and seconded by Kelly Mothershead. The Motion Passed. 4-1. Ayes: Altman, Davis, Mothershead, Murphy Nays: Peters

d LED Crosswalk System Purchases

City Manager Manns introduced Public Works Director Robert Rivera who then presented the item to Council. He stated that staff is making an amendment to this item and the purchase request is now for only one system. The proposal submitted from Universal Signs is now for an amount not to exceed \$42,763.45. The crosswalk will be installed at Grand Blvd. at Missouri Ave. Upon opening the floor to public comment, the following people came forward to speak:

- Shinikki Whiting, 5755 Indiana Ave., NPR spoke regarding speeding.
- Marlowe Jones, 6141 Pine Hill Rd., PR spoke regarding using the money for other things.

With no one else coming forward Mayor Davis returned the floor to Council. Councilman Altman spoke regarding the safety of our downtown and pedestrian traffic. Councilwoman Mothershead asked for clarification on the location. Deputy Mayor Murphy stated he was very happy about this purchase. He feels that it will be very helpful. Councilman Peters stated he is very happy about this purchase and agrees it is needed. Motion was made to approve the item as presented.

Motion made by Pete Altman and seconded by Matt Murphy. The Motion Passed. 5-0. Ayes: Altman, Davis, Mothershead, Murphy, Peters

e ITB23-019 Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP)/Water Treatment Plant (WTP) Bulk Chemical Purchase Bid Award

City Manager Manns introduced Public Works Director Robert Rivera who then presented the item to Council. He stated that the purpose of this agenda item was to approve the bid of \$1.44/gl. submitted by Allied Universal Corporation for the bulk purchase of sodium hypochlorite used in the treatment process at the WWTP and WTP. This is an increase of 45.7% per gallon from last year. Upon opening the floor to public comment, the following people came forward to speak:

- Marlowe Jones, 6141 Pine Hill Rd., PR asked if this would increase rates. Mr. Rivera stated no.

With no one else coming forward Mayor Davis returned the floor to Council. Councilman Peters asked about the length of the contract. Motion was made to approve the item as presented.

Motion made by Pete Altman and seconded by Mike Peters. The Motion Passed. 5-0. Ayes: Altman, Davis, Mothershead, Murphy, Peters

f Request for Council Approval for Use of Opioid Prescription Lawsuit Funds

City Manager Manns stated earlier this year the City received \$31,000 which is its initial share of settlement funds from participating in the National Prescription Opiate lawsuit. She stated she tasked the Police Chief to come up with a program on how the program funds would be used. She then introduced Police Chief Robert Kochen made a presentation to Council. He stated that the LIFT team is in place. All officers will go through training with the LIFT team and Baycare. It is a proactive approach and will help people in crisis. Upon opening the floor to public comment, the following people came forward to speak:

- Marlowe Jones, 6141 Pine Hill Rd., PR asked when the social worker was appointed. He thanked Chief Kochen for his efforts. He also suggested using future funds on diversity training.

With no one else coming forward Mayor Davis returned the floor to Council. Councilman Altman stated he agrees with the use of the funds and feels it will be very helpful to our community.

Councilwoman Mothershead expressed agreement and that it is a good step in the right direction. Councilman Peters stated he agrees with the need for education and training. Deputy Mayor Murphy stated he agrees with the need for education and training. City Manager Manns stated the City already have diversity training. Motion was made to approve the item as presented.

Motion made by Pete Altman and seconded by Matt Murphy. The Motion Passed. 5-0. Ayes: Altman, Davis, Mothershead, Murphy, Peters

9 Communications

Councilman Altman thanked the Mayor for the addition of allowing Council to address the public comments during Vox Pop. He suggested that we communicate better and should be able to ask questions before a motion. Councilman Peters stated he agrees with the statement about asking questions. Deputy Mayor Murphy stated he likes the comments after Vox Pop. Councilwoman Mothershead stated she likes the comments after Vox Pop. She is also looking Forward to Friendly Fest. City Manager Manns addressed the suggestion that she did not provide assistance to the long term residents of the Magnuson. She stated that we did provide assistance to those that left when they were asked. She also introduced the new Human Resources Director, Jill Sassone.

10 Adjournment

There being no further business to consider, upon proper motion, the meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

(signed) \_\_\_\_\_  
Nadine Ward, Deputy City Clerk

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ (date)

Initialed: \_\_\_\_\_