



**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

September 5, 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, 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, Fire Chief Chris Fitch, Public Works Director Robert Rivera, Police Chief Bob Kochen, Parks and Recreation Director Andre Julien, Library Director Andi Figart, Community and Development Director Dale Hall, Technology and Innovations Director Robert Greene and Economic Development Director Rod Kirk.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Moment of Silence

4. Approval of August 8, 2023 Work Session Minutes

Motion was made to approve the minutes as presented.

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

5. Approval of August 15, 2023 Work Session and Regular Meeting Minutes

Motion was made to approve the minutes as presented.

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

6. Approval of August 21, 2023 Special Meeting Minutes

Motion was made to approve the minutes as presented.

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

7 Proclamation - Library Card Sign Up Month

Ronald Becker, Nancy Cote and Library Director Andi Figart accepted the parchment from Mayor Davis.

8 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:

- Heather Fiorentino, 5534 Wyoming Ave., NPR spoke regarding last year's 9/11 event attendance and this year's event at 8:30 a.m. which will include the ringing of the bells to commemorate each of the planes.
- Ken Haddock, 5205 Norfolk Ct., NPR spoke regarding the trash assessment for seasonal residents. City Manager Manns stated the points raised by Mr. Haddock will be addressed during the agenda items presented later on the agenda.
- Bertell Butler, IV, 5335 Bellview Ave., NPR spoke regarding the approval of the Parks and Recreation minutes on the consent agenda and staff turnover.
- Judith Allen, 5940 Grand Blvd., NPR gave an update on her criminal case, microphones and court cases.
- Don House, 2104 Beach Trail, Indian Rocks Bch, spoke regarding Public Works efforts during Hurricane Idalia.
- Shinikki Whiting, 5755 Indiana Ave., NPR commended staff during Hurricane Idalia. She also spoke regarding the August special meeting.
- Marlowe Jones, 6141 Pine Hill Rd., PR commended staff during Hurricane Idalia. He also spoke regarding Judith Allen's criminal case. He also spoke regarding his board and committee application.

With no one else coming forward for public comment, Mayor Davis closed Vox Pop.

9 Consent Agenda

Motion was made to accept the Consent Agenda.

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

a Purchases/Payments for City Council Approval

b Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Minutes - August 2022 - June 2023

10 Public Reading of Ordinances

a Second Reading, Ordinance No. 2023-2281: Lease Agreement w/Edward J. Campbell

City Attorney Driscoll read the proposed ordinance by title only. City Manager Manns introduced the item to Council. She stated the purpose of this agenda item was to conduct a second reading of an ordinance to lease certain city property to Edward J. Campbell. 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 ordinance upon its second and final reading.

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

b Second Reading, Ordinance 2023-2282: Modification of the Solid Waste Collection System

City Attorney Driscoll read the proposed ordinance by title only. City Manager Manns introduced the

item to Council. She stated that the purpose of this agenda item was to conduct a second and final reading of an ordinance to modify the City's solid waste system. She stated there are currently 5-6 haulers that currently service the city. She stated a three-year notice was provided to all of the haulers per Florida Statutes. She then introduced Public Works Director Robert Rivera who then made a presentation to Council. Mr. Rivera began his presentation by highlighting the current ordinance which was enacted in 1964. He then highlighted the current system which includes 6 haulers, 2x week trash collection, recycling. Mr. Rivera stated there is excessive wear and tear on the city's roads due to all of the trucks. Mr. Rivera then highlighted the current solid waste program deficiencies. City Manager Manns stated that currently it is estimated that there are 1,600 residences who do not have any trash hauling service. She then highlighted the timeline from when the Notice of Intent was given in February 2021 up until the approval of the non-ad valorem assessment in September 2023. City Manager Manns stated the best collection effort would be to place this item on the tax roll. Mrs. Dunn then presented the current and proposed rates for residential and commercial. Mr. Rivera then highlighted the single-hauler benefits. Mr. Rivera then addressed some frequently asked questions that staff has received. City Manager Manns also addressed some of the frequently asked questions.

Upon opening the floor to public comment, the following people came forward to speak:

- Heather Fiorentino, 5534 Wyoming Ave., NPR spoke on behalf of River Mist condos regarding how those who live in condos will be assessed. City Manager Manns asked about dumpsters and Mrs. Fiorentino stated there are four.
- Heather Vecsey, 7005 Park Drive, NPR spoke regarding the appeals process. She also spoke regarding monopoly prices, working at home and whether or not residents can opt out.
- Bertell Butler, IV, 5335 Bellview Ave., NPR spoke regarding communication and whether there were any open workshops. He suggested tabling the matter.
- Marlowe Jones, 6141 Pine Hill Rd., PR spoke regarding transparency, Mrs. Fiorentino's comments and the August meeting.
- John Kane, 6041 Florida Ave., NPR spoke regarding the assessment for undeveloped lots and the yard debris program.
- Cheryl Termini, 6642 Hickorywood Lane, NPR, spoke on behalf of The Wilds and the burden this assessment will be for their residents. She suggested putting it on the utility bill instead.
- Sharon Rossi, 6636 River Rd., NPR spoke regarding the benefits for residents. She also spoke of her current service with JD Parker. She suggested putting it as a ballot initiative.
- George Romagnoli, 6235 Florida Ave., NPR spoke regarding the advantages of a single-waste hauler. He stated he did make a complaint and Mr. Rivera helped to get it corrected with his waste hauler.
- Nathan Pollock, 6153 Massachusetts Ave., NPR spoke regarding the increase for his commercial pickup. He currently has JD Parker and the new assessment would increase by 77%.
- Judith Allen 5940 Grand Blvd., NPR spoke regarding government improving service and transparency. She also spoke regarding zero waste and seasonal residents.
- George Russell, 7014 Grand Blvd., NPR, spoke regarding an audit of the numbers proposed.
- Danny Hanff, 6115 Tennessee Ave., NPR spoke regarding clarity for his address for multiple lots and debris pickup. He suggested the item be tabled.

With no one else coming forward, Mayor Davis returned the floor to Council.

Councilman Altman spoke regarding the August meeting at 4PM. He stated there was a newspaper advertisement on August 23rd and resident letters on August 24th. Councilman Altman stated he did not receive any financial information. He stated he suggested property owner or occupant but the occupant was removed. Councilman Altman stated putting it on the tax bill the comments made were that it would be more efficient. He stated in fairness the water bill adjusts each month and the assessment is a fixed amount. He stated the City of Dade City currently puts solid waste on the water bill. Councilman Altman stated it will be a big job to put together the tax roll. He stated his request is that we continue this item in order to put it on the water bill. He stated if the water bill does not get paid then it can be put on the lien assessment next year. He stated he has not seen any numbers on who does not pay bill or how we can recoup our bills. Councilman Altman stated he has not seen any

research that this is the preferred method. Deputy Mayor Murphy stated he liked that we were having a single hauler that it would be less expensive. He stated we can get better price for getting a whole city and the commercial side. He stated there are a lot of questions that still need to be answered. Councilman Peters asked about a \$150 year fee and City Manager Manns stated she would like Mr. Parker to respond. Councilman Peters asked about the increase and City Manager Manns stated it would be a 6.6% increase if it was not competitively bid. City Manager Manns stated the current rate is \$19.54 and with the 6.6% increase it would be \$20.83 and with the assessment it is only \$19.76. Councilman Peters stated that commercial pickups would see a big decrease. City Manager Manns stated if someone had one address with two lots they would only receive one assessment. Councilman Peters stated he came from a neighborhood that had only one hauler. He stated there will be less traffic, less noise and a reduced cost. Councilman Peters stated we can modify the billings for condos. Councilman Peters stated that it is beneficial for the city as a whole. Councilwoman Mothershead stated she did speak to many residents and businesses. She stated she did not see an issue with the pricing. She stated there are some issues that still need to be worked out. Councilwoman Mothershead stated we need to work through those things so we can make sure that it is beneficial. Councilwoman Mothershead stated it would be difficult for some to pay in January and can see the benefit of putting it on a water bill to ease costs. She stated we do need to move forward with a one hauler. Councilman Peters stated there are many municipalities throughout the state that utilize this plan. He stated Collier County is currently going through their renewal and because they have one hauler they were able to negotiate fees that were some of the lowest in the state. Our proposed fees are even lower. Councilman Altman stated that big cities have their own trucks and methods. He stated it will be difficult to get a tax roll done in a week. He stated we have to have a way to let property owners know when a tenant leaves. Councilman Altman stated he would support the ordinance but not putting the fee on the tax bill. Mayor Davis asked where the 1,600 residents are putting their trash. He stated there are over 40% rentals in this community and they can walk away from a water and trash bill. Mayor Davis stated we can pass the ordinance and put the fee on the water bill for a year and then reassess the non-ad valorem assessment next year.

Motion was made to approve the ordinance and strike out the following language found in Section 10.24(b) "The city manager shall not make adjustments to the commercial collection fees for intermittent, short-term, frequent or un-sustained changes in levels of service or based upon the actual use of the receptacles. Undeveloped properties shall be charged a fee for yard waste removal and administrative fees, only."

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

11 Business Items

a 2023 Muscovy Duck Survey Report

City Manager Manns asked for the item to be tabled. Mayor Davis asked George Russell, 7014 Grand Blvd. to come forward to speak on the item. He spoke regarding the recent survey. He spoke about the removal of the ducks. He also spoke about repopulation, the feces the ducks leave behind and feeding.

b Appeal of Variance #2023-05-0012; Reduction in Required Parking for 5314 Linder Place

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 consider an appeal for a parking variance for 5314 Linder Place. He stated this matter is being reheard by Council as the item failed with a 2-2 vote at the last regular meeting. Mr. Hall stated that the applicant wishes to reduce the required number of parking spaces from fourteen to seven. Mr. Hall then gave a highlight of the current site. He stated that the applicant is wanting to expand the building and it would be mostly used for record keeping. The DRC recommended denial and the LDRB approved the request.

Upon opening the floor to public comment, the following people came forward to speak:

- Mitsch Beague, 5314 Linder Pl, NPR, the property owner, stated he is looking at the addition

so he can provide more record keeping. He stated that it is almost impossible to put in the current required 9 spaces. He stated there are not that many people there where the extra spaces would be needed.

With no one else coming forward Mayor Davis returned the floor to Council. Councilwoman Mothershead asked about future use and Mr. Hall stated the LDRB recommended approval for office use. Motion was made to approve the variance as requested.

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

c Duke Energy Electric Vehicle (EV) Direct Current (DC) Fast Charging Site Host Agreement

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 a host site agreement with Duke Energy for two EV DC Fast Charging stations. Mr. Rivera stated that this would be an expansion to the Park and Plug program within the city. The term of the agreement would be ten years. To be eligible for the City must have met the following criteria:

1. 24/7 public access,
2. available parking area within five (5) miles of major corridors/hurricane routes,
3. a 25-mile separation from existing Duke Energy fast charging stations,
4. safe and well-lit area,
5. and preferably near amenities such as public restrooms, parks, and shops.

The stations would be on the south end of the Gloria Swanson Parking Lot. 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 Matt Murphy and seconded by Kelly Mothershead. The Motion Passed. 5-0. Ayes: Altman, Davis, Mothershead, Murphy, Peters

d 2023 West & East Grand Neighborhood Improvements Sidewalk Project - Engineering Services Task Order

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 a Task Order from Environmental Consulting & Technology, Inc. (ECT), for engineering services in the amount not to exceed \$199,500 for the proposed 2023 West & East Grand Neighborhood Improvements sidewalk project. Funding is through the FDEO. The main elements of the project will include the construction of approximately 10,602 linear feet of six-foot-wide concrete sidewalks where none currently exist or where there are gaps between existing sidewalks in the West & East Grand Neighborhoods. 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 Mike Peters. The Motion Passed. 5-0. Ayes: Altman, Davis, Mothershead, Murphy, Peters

e Board Re-Appointment: David Dorsey, Firefighters' Pension Board

City Manager Manns introduced the item to Council. She stated that the purpose of this agenda item was to approve the re-appointment of David Dorsey as the board-elected trustee to the Firefighters' Pension Board. Mr. Dorsey was appointed as the board-elected trustee to the Firefighters' Pension Board in 2019. Mr. Dorsey's current term expired in June therefore he has submitted his application for re-appointment. At their regular meeting on August 15, 2023, the remaining trustees re-elected David Dorsey to the trustee position. Pursuant to Section 17-38 of the City's Code:

"The fifth trustee shall be chosen by a majority of the previous four (4) trustees as provided for herein, and such person's name shall be submitted to the city council. Upon receipt of the fifth

person's name, the city council shall, as a ministerial duty, appoint such person to the board as its fifth trustee."

Mr. Dorsey's term as board-elected trustee is for four years and will be up for renewal on June 18, 2027. 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 Kelly Mothershead. The Motion Passed. 5-0. Ayes: Altman, Davis, Mothershead, Murphy, Peters

f Resolution No. 2023-22: Initial Assessment Resolution for Solid Waste Collection Services

City Attorney Driscoll read the proposed resolution by title only. Upon opening the floor to public comment, the following people came forward to speak:

- Bertell Butler, IV, 5335 Bellview Ave., NPR asked about changing items on the agenda and whether a motion is needed. City Attorney Driscoll stated the Mayor can change the order of the items during the meeting. Mr. Butler spoke regarding a ballot item, confusion of staff, public dialogue and answering questions.
- John Kane, 6041 Florida Ave., NPR spoke regarding refining our recycling program and sustainability.
- Deedra Vecsey, 7005 Park Drive, NPR asked why this is a rush and taking away a right to choose. She stated the majority of the people do not want it.
- Marlowe Jones, 6141 Pine Hill Rd., PR asked to table the item.
- Judith Allen 5940 Grand Blvd., NPR spoke regarding a citizens advisory board and how much it is going to cost residents.
- George Romagnoli, 6235 Florida Ave., NPR stated there is no rush if Council will put it on the water bill. He suggested tabling this item.
- George Russell, 7014 Grand Blvd., NPR stated tabling it would allow for the pricing to be looked at. He stated the annual increase should be capped.

With no one else coming forward Mayor Davis returned the floor to Council. Councilman Altman stated that a final hearing has already been published and now would be the time to address some comments and that they could be relayed at the hearing. City Attorney Driscoll stated to move forward with the non-ad valorem all items need to be approved. He stated Council could vote against the next three items and the award if Council did not want to move towards the non-ad valorem. Motion was made to deny the item as presented.

Motion made by Pete Altman and seconded by Kelly Mothershead. The Motion Passed. 3-2. Ayes: Altman, Mothershead, Murphy Nays: Davis, Peters

g Interlocal Agreement b/t the City of New Port Richey and the Pasco County Property Appraiser RE: Solid Waste

Motion was made to deny the item as presented.

Motion made by Pete Altman and seconded by Kelly Mothershead. The Motion Passed. 3-2. Ayes: Altman, Mothershead, Murphy Nays: Davis, Peters

h Interlocal Agreement b/t the City of New Port Richey and the Pasco County Tax Collector RE: Solid Waste

Motion was made to deny the item as presented.

Motion made by Pete Altman and seconded by Kelly Mothershead. The Motion Passed. 3-2. Ayes: Altman, Mothershead, Murphy Nays: Davis, Peters

i Award of RFP23-023 – Single Solid Waste Hauler

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 award RFP23-023 submitted by Waste Pro of Florida, Inc. dba JD Parker and Sons. The agreement would be for seven years with a one three-year renewal option for a single trash hauler service to operate within the city limits.

Upon opening the floor to public comment, the following people came forward to speak:

- Donna Korman, 5934 Wyoming Ave., NPR asked about the 1,600 that are not paying and if it would be a benefit and City Manager Manns stated yes.
- Deedra Vecsey, 7005 Park Dr., NPR asked if she could opt out if it is put on the water bill. City Manager Manns stated there is an ordinance in place that requires each property to have solid waste services.
- Stephen Kennedy, 4037 Stratfield Dr., NPR asked about the number of trucks.
- David Wallis, 12131 Lacy Dr., NPR asked about the questions on fees raised.
- Danny Hanff, 6144 Tennessee Ave., NPR stated the property on Craft Street does not produce garbage.
- Judith Allen, 5940 Grand Blvd., NPR spoke regarding the 1,600 without service.
- Bertell Butler, IV, 5335 Bellview Ave., NPR asked about who to contact with a problem with their service. City Manager Manns stated it would be JD Parker.
- Heather Vecsey, 7005 Park Dr., NPR asked about the seven year agreement. She asked about the fee and Mr. Rivera stated it is based on the CPI.
- Marlowe Jones, 6141 Pine Hill Rd., PR asked about the price of the bid. Mr. Rivera stated it was presented in the powerpoint.

With no one else coming forward Mayor Davis returned the floor to Council. Motion was made to approve the item as presented.

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

j Resolution No. 2023-21: Adopting a Per Diem and Travel Expense Policy

City Manager Manns asked for the item to be tabled.

12 Communications

Councilman Altman commended staff for their hard work during the storm. He is looking forward to getting a list of what properties were flooded. He suggested looking into purchasing the remaining 10 acres near the Grey Preserve and then annex it into the city to use for stormwater efforts. Councilman Peters also commended staff for their efforts during the storm. He stated we did not get a lot of rain but did have a lot of water from the storm surge. Councilwoman Mothershead also thanked staff for their hard work. She stated several of her neighbors were underwater on River Road. She said her Rotary held a fundraiser to help those affected. She said our community comes together to help each other out. Deputy Mayor Murphy also thanked staff and commended the fire department for a house on his street that caught fire. Councilman Peters stated he saw police and fire helping those get out who were flooded on Avery. Councilman Peters stated he toured some of the affected areas with local, state and federal officials. Mayor Davis also thanked staff for their hard work. Mayor Davis stated that staff did a great presentation with the trash hauler items tonight. City Manager Manns thanked Council for acknowledging. There were over 900 parcels and 650 mobile homes that were affected. She stated there were other staff members beside police and fire who were essential. She stated the City is a Cat A and will be reimbursed for debris pickup. City Manager Manns stated staff responded to 125 calls for service even after four attempts to urge residents to evacuate. City Manager Manns addressed the comments made by Judith Allen regarding the disbandment of the citizens advisory board which was done under a previous city manager. She also addressed the comments regarding her court case about the dead tree on her property. City Manager Manns stated there are programs available should Ms. Allen reach out to her. City Manager Manns stated the Fall Citizens Academy was cancelled but Ms. Allen can attend the Spring Citizens Academy. City Manager Manns addressed Mr. Jones' comments about his application for board/committee membership. City Manager Manns stated all applications

are vetted and may be advanced in the future. She addressed Mr. Butler's comments about staff turnover and the statistics he is referring to. City Manager Manns stated the theft of the money was fully investigated and that CDBG money used for pool resurfacing was inaccurate. She stated she has had two department heads asked to come back. She relayed to Mr. Butler she wished he had known that and had all the facts before speaking at Vox Pop.

13 Adjournment

There being no further business to consider, upon proper motion, the meeting adjourned at 10:33 p.m.

(signed) \_\_\_\_\_

Judy Meyers, CMC, City Clerk

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

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