



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

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

**September 18, 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, Human Resources Manager Bernie Wharran, Fire Chief Chris Fitch, 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 Assistant Public Works Director Colin Eichenmuller.

2 Pledge of Allegiance

3 Moment of Silence

4 Business Items

a. First Public Hearing - FY23-24 Operating Budget & Capital Improvement Program - Page 3

City Manager Manns introduced the item to Council. She stated the purpose of this agenda item was to conduct a first public hearing for the FY23/24 Operating Budget and CIP. The proposed budget is a policy document and is based on priorities Council have advanced and objectives in the Strategic Plan. City Manager Manns stated the document is based on fiscal prudence and incorporates being in advance of the State's requirement for minimum wage. Property tax growth the past year was 16.4%. City Manager Manns stated the proposed millage is 8.4000 mills. The total proposed budget is \$95,321,150.

City Manager Manns then introduced Finance Director Crystal Dunn who then made a presentation to Council. Mrs. Dunn began her presentation by highlighting the sources of revenue for the city and what percentage each fund makes up of the General Fund budget. She then highlighted the proposed expenditures which total \$31,937,670. Mrs. Dunn then highlighted the ten-year history of the reduction in millage. Property taxable values increased 11.51% over the previous year. Mrs. Dunn then highlighted the proposed additional positions. City Manager Manns then explained the need for each

of the proposed positions. Mrs. Dunn then highlighted the CIP which totaled \$27,172,900.

Councilman Peters asked about the Water & Sewer Fund in the CIP and asked about the \$2M for Leisure Lane and the proposed Fleet Maintenance Warehouse. City Manager Manns stated there has not been any General Fund revenue allocated for that project. Councilman Altman asked if it will be paid through loan proceeds and City Manager Manns stated yes. Councilman Altman stated there were three to four areas of the budget he wanted to speak on. He began by speaking about interest income and the Florida Pool Cash Fund which is currently about 5.5%. Councilman Altman then spoke regarding RAC membership fees and eliminating the city membership and increasing daily fees. He stated the numbers did not show the county resident revenue. Mayor Davis stated that membership didn't include summer programs. City Manager Manns stated we have our banking services out for bid so that we can gain a better relationship. City Manager Manns stated she has spoken with the County Administrator about entering into an Interlocal Agreement for recreation services. Councilman Altman then spoke about the septic tanks off of Trouble Creek. He also spoke about Gunther Flaig and his property for environmental purposes. Councilman Altman then spoke about CRA transfers from the TIF funds. He stated the budget may have to be updated once the CRA Plan Update is complete. City Manager Manns stated the marketing activity is in the current CRA Plan and will be included in the next update.

City Attorney Driscoll then read Resolution No. 2023-11 by title only. Mayor Davis opened the floor for public comment. Marlowe Jones, 6141 Pine Hill Rd., PR came forward and spoke about professional services, transparency and accountability. With no one else coming forward, Mayor Davis returned the floor to Council. Motion was made to approve Resolution No. 2023-11 adopting the tentative millage rate as presented. Motion made by Councilman Altman and seconded by Councilman Peters. Councilman Peters spoke regarding the reduction in the millage rate. Motion passed 5-0 at 7:47 p.m.

City Attorney Driscoll then read Resolution No. 2023-12 by title only. Mayor Davis opened the floor for public comment. Marlowe Jones, 6141 Pine Hill Rd., PR came forward and asked about providing answers in writing. He asked about the wage study being able to be released to the public. With no one else coming forward, Mayor Davis returned the floor to Council. Motion was made to approve Resolution No. 2023-12 adopting the tentative budget for FY23/24 and the CIP as presented. Motion made by Councilman Altman and seconded by Councilwoman Mothershead. Motion passed 5-0 at 7:56 p.m.

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

5 Communications

Councilman Peters spoke about membership at the RAC. Councilman Altman stated he was not asking for it to be free but a few dollars. Councilman Peters suggested surveying current members for feedback. City Manager Manns stated tomorrow morning the BOCC will be considering the Interlocal Agmts. for Leisure Lane and Van Doren. She said it was pulled from their consent agenda and will be open for discussion. She urged available Council members to attend.

6 Adjournment

There being no further business to consider, upon proper motion, the meeting adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

(signed) \_\_\_\_\_  
Judy Meyers, CMC, City Clerk

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

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