



**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**

November 7, 2023

7:00 PM

**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, 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.

2 Pledge of Allegiance

3 Moment of Silence

4 Approval of October 17, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes

Motion was made to approve the minutes as presented.

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

5 Audit Presentation by Mauldin & Jenkins

Wade Sansbury from Mauldin & Jenkins made the audit presentation to Council via Microsoft Teams.

6 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:

- Laurie Baker, 5853 Lafayette St., NPR spoke regarding the City's Centennial and proposed uses for the Schwettman property.

- Pat Rogers, 4838 Sunset Blvd., PR spoke regarding the Schwettman property.
- Rita King, 10926 Bounty St., NPR spoke regarding a CRA advisory board.
- Mary Beth Isaacson, 8805 Forest Lake Dr., PR spoke regarding the Richey Suncoast Orchestra and their upcoming concert this Sunday.
- Judith Allen, 5940 Grand Blvd., NPR spoke regarding grant documents and a citizens advisory committee.

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

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.

7 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 Cultural Affairs Committee Minutes - September 2023

b Library Advisory Board Minutes - August 2023

c Purchases/Payments for City Council Approval

8 Business Items

a Board Re-Appointment: Anna Mae Petokas McNally, Cultural Affairs Committee

City Manager Manns introduced the item to Council. She stated that the purpose of this agenda item was to approve the re-appointment of Anna Mae Petokas McNally to the Cultural Affairs Committee. Ms. Petokas McNally has been a member of the Cultural Affairs Committee since 2019 and currently serves as secretary for the committee. Ms. McNally's term expired on September 3, 2023 therefore she has submitted her application for re-appointment. If approved, Ms. McNally's term will be for two years and will be up for renewal on September 3, 2025. 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 Mike Peters. The Motion Passed. 5-0. Ayes: Altman, Davis, Mothershead, Murphy, Peters

b Board Re-Appointment: Heather Fiorentino, Police 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 Heather Fiorentino to the Police Pension Board. Mrs. Fiorentino was appointed to the Board earlier this year to fill the remaining term of a vacant member. The current term is due to expire on November 10, 2023 therefore Mrs. Fiorentino has submitted her application seeking re-appointment to the Board. If approved, Mrs. Fiorentino's term will be for four years and will be up for renewal on November 10, 2027. Upon opening the floor to public comment, no one came forward 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

c Request for Approval to Reinstate Ron Becker to the Pasco County Library Cooperative Board

City Manager Manns introduced the item to Council. She stated that the purpose of this agenda item was to approve staff's recommendation to re-appointment Mr. Ronald Becker to the Pasco County Cooperative Library Advisory Board. During the October 23, 2023, Library Advisory Board Meeting, board members voted unanimously to recommend Mr. Ron Becker be re-appointed to the Pasco County Library Cooperative Board. Upon opening the floor to public comment, Mr. Becker came forward to speak about the Library. With no one else coming 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

d Litigation Engagement Agreement RE: Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances

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 authorize entering into a legal services agreement between the City of New Port Richey and the law firms of Baron & Budd, P.C., Cossich, Sumich, Parsiola & Taylor LLC, Young & Partners LLP, and Hobby & Hobby, P.A. regarding Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances. Mr. Rivera stated that in September of 2023 the City was notified about two proposed class action settlements that involve the DuPont and 3M Companies due to the fact that Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) have been detected in water supplies/sources related to chemicals manufactured by both companies since the 1940's. PFAS are fire extinguishing foam, water repellants used on fabrics, carpets, non-stick cookware, shampoos, cosmetics, fast food containers, and paint products. These contaminants are found in our water, soil, air, and food. Mr. Rivera stated that as City Council may recall, on March 22, 2019 the City purchased Orangewood Lakes Services, Inc. (OLS) a private utility located south of Massachusetts Ave. and west of Osteen Rd. Subsequent to the purchase of the utility, the City's utility department abandoned the existing OLS well in accordance with SWFMD that supplied water to the OLS customers and connected the OLS system into the City's water system. In October of 2023, discussions were held between staff and Mr. Clark Hobby, P.A. of Hobby & Hobby about PFAS and how the City may be affected by the proposed class action suits. Water sampling records indicated that the OLS's well had detected PFAS at various levels, thus making the City eligible to be a part of the class action settlement. The settlement could range between \$500,000 to \$1,000,000.

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

- Clark Hobby of Hobby & Hobby, P.A., stated the reason he brought this to the City Manager's attention was that there is a proposed settlement that has a fairness hearing in December and another in February. He stated there was an elevated level in a capped well in OLS. He stated there could be a significant recovery. The agreement is the same that is in place with Pasco County and the City of Zephyrhills.

With no one else coming forward Mayor Davis returned the floor to Council. Motion was made to approve the item as presented and that the City does not want to opt out of the pending settlement.

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

e Recommendation of Firm for RFP24-001 State Lobbying Services

City Manager Manns introduced the item to Council. She stated that the purpose of this agenda item was to approve the recommendation of The Southern Group for state lobbying services in an amount not to exceed \$43,200 per year. As Council is aware, a request for proposals was let to solicit proposals from qualified and experienced individuals and or firms for lobbying services on behalf of the City to the legislature and executive branches of the State of Florida. A total of six responses were received, viewed and ranked by the selection committee. The top three firms selected to make a presentation to the committee were Pittman Law Group, Sunrise Consulting Group and The Southern Group. At the conclusion of the interviews, the committee ranked The Southern Group as the top firm. 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 Renewal of Agreement w/Jones Edmunds RE: GIS Services

City Manager Manns introduced the item to Council. She stated that the purpose of this agenda item was to review and consider the approval of the attached proposal for the renewal of professional services agreement with Jones Edmunds for Graphical Information Systems (GIS) services in an amount not to exceed \$34,000.00 on a Time-and-Materials basis. 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

g Renewal of Agreement for ESRI Software

City Manager Manns introduced the item to Council. He stated that the purpose of this agenda item was to review and consider the approval of the attached proposal to enter into an Enterprise Agreement with Environmental Systems Research Institute, Inc. (ESRI) in an amount not to exceed \$29,300.00 per year for three years. Mr. Greene spoke regarding the software that will be utilized and the benefits to the City. 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 Mike Peters and seconded by Kelly Mothershead. The Motion Passed. 5-0. Ayes: Altman, Davis, Mothershead, Murphy, Peters

h Approval of Florida Firefighter Cancer Decontamination Equipment Grant Award and Equipment Purchase

City Manager Manns introduced the item to Council. She stated that the purpose of this agenda was two-fold. First for Council's consideration, is the approval to accept a Florida Firefighter Cancer Decontamination Equipment Grant award in the amount not to exceed \$48,712.50 from the State of Florida Fire Marshal's Office, Chief Financial Officer Jimmy Patronis. Second is to consider approval of the direct purchase of a Plymo Vent source capture exhaust removal system from Safe Air Corporation in the amount of \$64,950.00. The grant requires a 25% match. 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

i Approval of United States Department of Justice Grant

City Manager Manns introduced the item to Council. She stated that the purpose of this agenda was to approve the United States Department of Justice Reducing Violent Crime through Technology and Community Engagement Project grant for the New Port Richey Police Department in the amount of \$183,120.00. The grant will bring the New Port Richey Police Department's crime scene capabilities up to accreditation standards and will bring the department in line with larger police agencies' crime scene abilities. There is no match required for this grant. 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

j City Hall HVAC Replacement Project Close Out

City Manager Manns introduced Public Works Director Robert Rivera who then presented the item to Council. He stated that the purpose of this agenda was to approve a deductive change order in the amount of \$21,697.00 and final pay request in the amount not to exceed \$37,543.92 from Air Mechanical and Service Corporation for the replacement of the HVAC system at City Hall. 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 Mike Peters and seconded by Pete Altman. The Motion Passed. 5-0. Ayes: Altman, Davis, Mothershead, Murphy, Peters

k Water Treatment Plant – Ground Storage Reservoirs 1 & 2 – Maintenance Repairs

City Manager Manns introduced Public Works Director Robert Rivera who then presented the item to Council. He stated that the purpose of this agenda was to approve the proposal submitted by Razorback LLC. of Tarpon Springs, Florida in the amount not to exceed \$142,917 for the sandblasting, cleaning, and painting of the City's Water Treatment Plant Ground Storage Reservoirs. 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

l Request to Purchase Jet/Vacuum Sewer Cleaner – Stormwater Utility

City Manager Manns introduced Public Works Director Robert Rivera who then presented the item to Council. He stated that the purpose of this agenda was to approve a proposal from Jet-Vac Equipment Company, LLC., for the purchase of a 2024 Combination Jet/Vacuum Sewer Cleaner in the amount of \$499,824.56 utilizing Truist Equipment Finance to finance the purchase. This unit is replacing the City's 2003 Combination Jet/Vacuum Sewer Cleaner that currently has 84,299 miles registered on the odometer and 17,535 hours of pumping activity or a converted total mileage of 207,745. The existing Jet/Vacuum Sewer Cleaner would be declared surplus equipment. 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 purchase as requested, financing for the item as requested and to declare the current Jet/Vacuum Sewer Cleaner as surplus equipment to be sent to public auction.

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

m ITB23-025 Mowing & Grounds Maintenance Contract 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 was to approve a proposal from Design Landscape Management, Inc. in the amount not to exceed \$102,798.55 for the annual mowing of right of ways and grounds maintenance facilities. In addition, staff would request City Council to review and consider for approval, the second lowest bid in the amount not to exceed \$128,160 from Average Joe Landscape to be utilized as a contingency if needed. 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 Mike Peters and seconded by Kelly Mothershead. The Motion Passed. 5-0. Ayes: Altman, Davis, Mothershead, Murphy, Peters

n ITB23-026 Landscape Maintenance Management Contract 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 was to approve the bid award of the lowest bid

submitted by Design Landscaping Management, Inc. in the amount not to exceed of \$50,667.50 for the City's annual landscape maintenance. In addition, staff would request City Council to review and consider for approval, the second lowest bid in the amount not to exceed \$54,600 from Average Joe Landscape to be utilized as a contingency if needed. 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

o ITB23-027 US Hwy 19 Center Medians Landscape Maintenance Services 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 was to approve the bid award of the lowest bid submitted by Design Landscaping Management, Inc. in the amount not to exceed of \$29,661.48 for the annual mowing and landscape maintenance of US Hwy 19 center medians. In addition, staff would request City Council review and consider for approval, as a contingency, the second lowest bid in the amount not to exceed \$39,000 from Average Joe Landscape. 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 Kelly Mothershead and seconded by Pete Altman. The Motion Passed. 5-0. Ayes: Altman, Davis, Mothershead, Murphy, Peters

p Ratification of the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the West Central Florida Police Benevolent Association and the City of New Port Richey RE: Pay Provisions and Work Week and Overtime

City Manager Manns introduced the item to Council. She stated that the purpose of this agenda item was to approve the proposed amendments to the collective bargaining Agreement between the West Central Florida Police Benevolent Association (PBA) and the City of New Port Richey related to the "normal work period" and a cost-of-living adjustment. The City's negotiation team reached a tentative agreement with PBA on October 10, 2023. The PBA ratified the changes on October 20, 2023. The agreed upon changes are as follows:

1. The normal work period for all bargaining unit employees will consist of eighty-four (84) hours per pay period.
2. All bargaining unit members shall receive a cost-of-living adjustment of (5%).

Upon opening the floor to public comment, no one came forward therefore Mayor Davis returned the floor to Council. Motion was made to ratify the agreement as presented.

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

9 Communications

Councilwoman Mothershead spoke regarding the paving on River Road. She stated she attended the NPRMS membership meeting and they did a good job and had residents jump in to participate. She asked for an update on the pools. City Manager Manns stated the pumps have been removed from the pump house and are currently being rebuilt. Electrical work is also underway. She stated the lap pool will be the first pool restored. Deputy Mayor Murphy there are some businesses who have already begun to decorate for the holidays and he is looking forward to the holiday season. Councilman Peters spoke regarding Florida Sports Coast and the extended scallop season. The board did not recommend a full month for the season next year but rather four full weekends. Councilman Altman spoke regarding water quality and discussions regarding a grant in the area of Trouble Creek. Councilman Altman stated the Great Explorations people were in town and looked at the former Health Department building. The museum is looking to expand its footprint. He stated the board approved for them to make a proposal to the City regarding the building. He spoke regarding annexation and the utility agreement and

proposed resolution to be sent to the City Attorney. The statute calls for direct involvement of both parties. He spoke regarding recreational facilities. He also stated we would need to draw a map. Councilman Altman suggested relaying to the County that this would be for next fiscal year. He also spoke regarding low-income housing in mixed use areas and tax exemptions. He also spoke about annexing the county property off of Louisiana. Councilman Peters stated the FRA Annual Conference had a lot of great sessions. He stated we have to get our CRA Plan updates on the fast track. He stated we have to have our rules and regulations in place. Mayor Davis stated our wages versus Wesley Chapel is half. Mayor Davis suggested the people who spoke at Vox Pop reach out to Gary Gann as the Friends of the Hacienda are looking for a new project. Councilman Altman spoke regarding workforce housing. He also spoke regarding advisory committees. Mayor Davis stated he attended the Lunch and Learn at the Hacienda at it was well attended. He spoke regarding the change to Stage II watering restrictions which begin December 1st. Mr. Rivera stated once it is approved then a public outreach will begin. City Manager Manns commended Mr. Sansbury on the audit presentation. She stated this was Mrs. Dunn's first year of doing the audit on her own. She commended Mrs. Dunn for her hard work. City Manager Manns addressed Ms. Allen's comment on the Housing Rehabilitation and she is unaware of any documents or process being held up. She stated the FDEO is holding up the Housing Assistance Plan.

10 Adjournment

There being no further business to consider, upon proper motion, the meeting adjourned at 9:13 p.m.

(signed) _____
Judy Meyers, CMC, City Clerk

Approved: _____ (date)

Initialed: _____