



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 21, 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, Technology and Innovations Director Robert Greene.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Moment of Silence

4. Approval of November 7, 2023 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

5. Proclamation - Small Business Saturday

6. Proclamation - Marine Corps League Day

7. 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:

- Mary Beth Isaacson, 8805 Forest Lake Dr., PR spoke regarding the Richey Suncoast Orchestra concert that was held last week at River Ridge.

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.

8 Consent Agenda

Motion was made to accept the Consent Agenda.

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

- a Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Minutes - September 2023
- b Library Advisory Board Minutes - September 2023
- c Purchases/Payments for City Council Approval

9 Business Items

- a Recommendation of Firm for RFP23-022 Banking Services

City Manager Manns introduced the item to Council. She stated that the purpose of this agenda item was to approve staff's recommendation of South State Bank to become the provider of Treasury Services to the City. Mrs. Dunn highlighted the RFP process and criteria for firm interviews. She stated that South State offers an interest rate equal to the Federal Funds Rate minus 33 basis points and is effective for the entire term of the contract. The rate is currently at 5%. The bank has agreed to waive all fees for treasury services. Additionally, if South State Bank is selected armored car services will be covered at the cost of the bank, which is approximately \$3,400, annually. 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

- b Agreement w/Granicus RE: Website Redesign

City Manager Manns introduced the item to Council. She stated that the purpose of this agenda item was to approve a proposal from Granicus to redesign the City of New Port Richey website. The proposal is estimated not to exceed \$89,000.00. Mr. Greene highlighted the features of the project. 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 Matt Murphy. The Motion Passed. 5-0. Ayes: Altman, Davis, Mothershead, Murphy, Peters

- c Fire Station No. 2 Construction Project – Change Order No.1/Budget Amendment

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 Change Order No.1 in the amount not to exceed \$129,131.00 and the corresponding budget amendment in the amount not to exceed \$129,131.00 for the Fire Station No. 2 Construction Project. Prior to the construction phase, a subsurface analysis of the site was performed by Central Florida Testing Laboratories as a sub-consultant of Spring Engineering, Inc. Subsequent to the testing, an estimated 200 to 300 cubic yards of grout was estimated to stabilize the subsurface. During the grouting process, a total of 545 cubic

yards of grout was injected. 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 and corresponding budget amendment as presented.

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

d 2023/2024 Street Improvement Project Task Order No. 1 - Engineering Services

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 Task Order No. 1 from the Florida Design Consultants, Inc. for engineering services in the amount not to exceed \$150,250.00 for the proposed 2023/24 Street Improvement Project design, bidding, and construction phases. The streets included in this task order are identified as paving group cycle seven and include:

1. Grand Boulevard from Sims Lane to Broadway Avenue
2. Marine Parkway from US19 to Grand Boulevard
3. Florida Avenue from Madison Street to Congress Street
4. Pennsylvania Avenue from Madison Street to Congress Street
5. Central Avenue from Madison Street to Harrison Street
6. Harrison Street from Old Main Street to Indiana Avenue
7. Polk Street from Old Main Street to Indiana Avenue

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

e 2019 Fleet Maintenance/Utility Purchasing Warehouse & Storage Building Construction Project – Engineering Services Task Order No. 1

City Manager Manns introduced the item to Council. He stated that the purpose of this agenda item was to approve Task Order No. 1 from Stroud Engineering Consultants, Inc. in the amount not to exceed \$155,200.00 for engineering services associated with the design and construction phases of the City's Fleet Maintenance/Utility Purchasing Warehouse & Storage Building. 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

f Solid Waste Single Hauler Program Overview

City Manager Manns introduced the item to Council. She stated that the purpose of this agenda item was for Council to conduct a discussion related to the adoption of the City's single waste hauler program elements and methodology. She then introduced Public Works Director Robert Rivera who then made a presentation to Council. Mr. Rivera began his presentation by stating that at the September 5, 2023 City Council meeting staff presented and City Council awarded RFP23-023 to Waste Pro of Florida, Inc. dba JD Parker and Sons. Mr. Rivera then highlighted key discussion points regarding the billing process. Mr. Rivera stated that direct billing made more sense than utility billing. It is staff's recommendation that residential services are to be billed quarterly and commercial services and HOA's to be billed monthly. Mr. Rivera stated that it is staff's recommendation that the property owner be direct billed for the services and not the tenant. He stated that HOA's could register with the City to override the general billing. Mr. Rivera stated that it is staff's recommendation to delay implementation of the program until March 2, 2024.

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

- Marlowe Jones, 6141 Pine Hill Rd., PR stated the majority of the residents did not want this. He also spoke about social media.

With no one else coming forward Mayor Davis returned the floor to Council. Councilman Altman spoke regarding commercial service and how it is different. He stated the commercial property could be extracted from this process. He also spoke regarding adding the fees to the utility bills. He stated that collections are not easy. Councilman Altman stated that we do know who needs service and when it is turned on and off. He stated this will cause an increase in postage and return mail. Councilman Peters stated that he thinks that staff has done analysis in billing both ways and have made the decision that we can move forward with this recommendation. He stated most people will pay quarterly. He stated there is trouble with collections from time to time and with the property owner there is recourse. He stated he will support staff's recommendation. Deputy Mayor Murphy stated that he would support staff's recommendation and if we need to change something later we can do that. Councilwoman Mothershead stated we have to move forward and if we struggle this year we can look at ad valorem next year. Mayor Davis stated that there is a majority of renters in the city. He stated he is a renter and trash is included in his rent.

Motion was made to approve staff's recommendations as follows:

- Residential services are to be billed quarterly
- Commercial services and HOA's billed monthly
- Property owners directly billed for services
- Implementation delayed until March 2, 2024

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

10 Communications

Councilman Altman spoke regarding the Great Explorations visit. He stated he is excited to see a positive use of the building. He spoke regarding Richey Suncoast Theatre and the Rocky Horror Picture Show and that it is was quite crowded. He would like to determine if they have applied for grants. He stated he also attended the orchestra's concert and it was excellent. Councilman Altman stated he had a request from St. Leo College's Biology Department for off campus work to visit Schwettman on December 14th. He stated this is a way to bring more attention to the river. He stated that Agriculture Commissioner Simpson is interested. Councilman Altman wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving. Councilman Peters stated that he also attended a show at the Richey Suncoast Theatre. He stated the new theatre board is putting some exciting shows together. He stated there are some capital expenditures they have applied for grants on. He stated he is looking forward to the CRA planning meeting. He stated we need to begin working on overlays and alleys. Councilman Peters stated that we have to have the right roadmap in place for development and longevity of the city. He stated half of our budget is within public safety. Councilman Peters stated that we have to take steps for economic vitality. He also wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving. Councilwoman Mothershead stated that there is a lot more that can be done with the theatre. She suggested to Doug Jones that on weekends when there are no shows to have characters out in the streets. She stated we should work with them to write grants. Councilwoman Mothershead stated she did a pie giveaway at the Hacienda last weekend and over 100 pies were given out. She stated there is a lot going on this time of year and including the boat and street parade. She stated everyone should get involved to give back to the community. Deputy Mayor Murphy stated that anything we can do with the Theatre to help them as they are vital to the community. He stated it is important for our overall culture. He stated he has a Tampa Bay Leadership meeting next Friday. He spoke regarding combining local MPO's into a region MPO for funding. He stated we have been mandated to look at that option. Deputy Mayor Murphy stated that there are many holiday events everyone can participate in. He wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving. Mayor Davis thanked Billy Rogers for the turkey giveaway at the Rec Center. He stated that the water table is still low so watering restrictions will begin on December 1st and will be once a day. Mayor Davis stated that the steering committee is still being formed. City Manager Manns stated appointment letters have been sent out. Mayor Davis asked about the Missouri LED crosswalk and Mr. Rivera stated the work will begin soon. Mayor Davis stated that traffic going in and out of town on Friday and Saturday nights is over the speed limit. He spoke about the Theatre and budgeting for next

fiscal year. City Manager Manns stated that she is grateful for the people she works with and wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

11 Adjournment

There being no further business to consider, upon proper motion, the meeting adjourned at 8:37 p.m.

(signed) _____
Judy Meyers, CMC, City Clerk

Approved: _____ (date)

Initialed: _____