



**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**

**December 3, 2024**  
**6:00 PM**

**\*Please note the meeting times for regular city council meetings has been changed to 6:00 p.m. effective for all meetings after April 1, 2024.\***

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**ORDER OF**  
**BUSINESS**

1. Call to Order – Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Chopper Davis at 6:00 p.m. Those in attendance were Deputy Mayor Kelly Mothershead, Councilwoman Matt Murphy, and Councilman Peter Altman. Councilman Bertell Butler, IV arrived at 6:01 p.m.

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, Library Director Andi Figart, Technology Solutions Director Leanne Mahadeo, Assistant City Manager Gregory Oravec and Human Resources Director Arnel Wetzel.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Moment of Silence

4. Approval of November 19, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes

Motion was made to approve the minutes as presented.

Motion made by Matt Murphy and seconded by Pete Altman. The Motion Passed. 4-0. Ayes: Altman, Davis, Mothershead, Murphy Absent: Butler

5. Special Recognition of Patricia “Patty” Spiers, Tampa Bay Water, Water Wise Award Program

6. Presentation by Chuck Carden RE: Tampa Bay Water and Long-Term Master Water Plan Update

7. Vox Pop for Items Not Listed on the Agenda or Listed on Consent Agenda

City Attorney Driscoll read aloud the rules governing Vox Pop. Mayor Davis then opened the floor for public comment. The following people came forward to speak:

- Matt Abbott, Pasco County Mosquito Control District, 2308 Marathon Rd., Odessa, FL spoke regarding the mosquito born illness outbreak due to the recent storms.

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

- a Purchases/Payments for City Council Approval

## 9 Business Items

- a Board Re-Appointment: Allan Safranek, III, Land Development Review 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 Allan Safranek, III to the Land Development Review Board. If approved, Mr. Safranek's term will be for three years and will be up for renewal on December 3, 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, Butler, Davis, Mothershead, Murphy

- b Recreation and Aquatics Annual Membership Drive

City Manager Manns introduced Parks and Recreation Director Andre Julien who then presented the item to Council. He stated that the purpose of this agenda item was to approve a discount of 20% off for residents as well as 10% off for non-residents of the annual membership to the Recreation and Aquatics Center for the Annual Membership Drive. The membership drive will be held for a two-week period beginning on December 9, 2024 and ending on December 23, 2024. 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 Bertell Butler and seconded by Kelly Mothershead. The Motion Passed. 5-0. Ayes: Altman, Butler, Davis, Mothershead, Murphy

- c Approval of Florida Department of Law Enforcement SAFE Grant

City Manager Manns introduced Police Chief Robert Kochen who then presented the item to Council. He stated that the purpose of this agenda item was to approve the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) supplemental State Assistance for Fentanyl Eradication (SAFE) grant for police overtime and equipment to combat illegal fentanyl activity in the amount of \$33,365.29 and corresponding budget amendment. The SAFE Grant will pay for our officers' overtime, provide equipment, and provide monies to allow specially trained and equipped NPRPD officers to combat this fentanyl epidemic. Additionally, FDLE will provide resources and manpower to assist our police department with strategic drug interdiction operations. 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 Kelly Mothershead and seconded by Bertell Butler. The Motion Passed. 5-0. Ayes: Altman, Butler, Davis, Mothershead, Murphy

d RFQ 24-026 Award - Professional Engineering Services/City Engineer

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 accept the rankings by staff and approve the attached Professional Engineering Services Agreement with Colliers Engineering & Design, Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$60,000. Upon opening the floor to public comment, no one came forward therefore Mayor Davis returned the floor to Council. Motion was made to accept the rankings by staff and approve the Professional Engineering Services Agreement as presented.

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

e Ratification of PBA Union Contract

City Manager Manns introduced Human Resources Director Arnel Wetzel who then presented the item to Council. He stated that the purpose of this agenda item was to ratify the proposed collective bargaining agreement between the City of New Port Richey and the West Central Florida Police Benevolent Association (PBA) for the period spanning from October 1, 2024 through September 30, 2027. The terms and conditions that have been agreed upon by the Union and the City's negotiating team are as follows:

1. Language - There is clean-up and updating of language throughout the agreement where such language was either outdated, listed in the wrong article or no longer relevant to current practice.
2. PBA Representatives - Agreed to recognize and increase the number of Union alternative representatives from 1 to 2.
3. Grievance Procedure - Provide consistent language and increase the number of days in which to respond to a grievance at each step by 5 days. The response time will now be 15 days. An Arbitrator will be limited to considering only those issues and articles allegedly violated that are presented at Step 2.
4. Pay Provisions (Wages):
  - Step Plan
    - The Step Plan for each classification has been modified and changed. In addition, the new Step Plan will allow for movement each year between steps rather than every two years under the previous plan. The new Step Plan for each classification will be as follows:
      - Dispatcher-13 Step Plan with annual movement between steps based on anniversary date.
      - Officer-14 Step Plan with annual movement between steps based on anniversary date.
      - Corporal-8 Step Plan with annual movement between steps based on promotional anniversary date.
      - Sergeant-8 Step Plan with annual movement between steps based on promotional anniversary date.
    - The base starting salary for each classification was increased to make the City of New Port Richey more competitive with surrounding municipalities and agencies. The increase to the base starting salary should assist with both the recruitment and retention of staff.
  - Slotting
    - Agreed to a slotting process for Existing Bargaining Unit Members only that were employed as of October 1, 2024. The slotting process will place a member by classification at the appropriate step on the modified Step Plan in the proposed agreement. A member will be given proportional credit for both current and previous experience as a sworn law enforcement officer in the State of Florida, outside the State of Florida, and/or for the United States Government. A maximum of four (4)

- steps can be credited for previous experience.
  - Rehires
    - If a bargaining unit member separates from the City, they must return within one (1) year in order to be placed at the step at which they left the City.
  - Shift Differential
    - Increased the shift differential from \$.50/hr. to \$1.00/hr. for hours actually worked between 1900 and 0700.
  - Future Wages
    - For Fiscal Year 2025-2026, increases to wages within each Step Plan, if any, will be established through reopener negotiations.
    - For Fiscal Year 2026-2027, increases to wages within each Step Plan, if any, will be established through reopener negotiations.
5. Seniority, Layoff and Recall - The Probationary period can be extended for a period up to six (6) months at the discretion of the Police Chief upon written notice.
  6. Miscellaneous - Reimbursement for Loss or Damage of Personal Property
    - Agreed to increase the reimbursement for the loss or damage of personal property from \$110 to \$300 per incident. In addition, the City Manager may authorize an additional reimbursement payment not to exceed \$300 at the request of the Police Chief.
  7. Pension - DROP
    - Agreed to extend the Deferred Retirement Option Plan (DROP) that a member can elect to participate in to 96 months.

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 Bertell Butler. The Motion Passed. 5-0. Ayes: Altman, Butler, Davis, Mothershead, Murphy

## 10 Communications

Councilman Altman stated he spent the day at USF yesterday to join in the post-hurricane discussion. He stated there are funds in FEMA that are available for properties that need to be demolished. He stated that there are also funds for inundated lift stations. He wished everyone a happy holiday. Councilman Butler read from an email he received regarding the recent Taylor Swift tribute concert in the park. He stated the new school superintendent is looking to do a communications summit and he would like to see Council conduct a work session that would be similar. Councilman Altman stated the County has an annual conversation with us but it is often structured so he stated he would be open to having a roundtable open discussion and economic path work session. Mayor Davis stated the topics should be advanced ahead of the work session. Deputy Mayor Mothershead stated January is a good time to have it but also should have a follow up work session closer to budget season. Mayor Davis suggested having a town hall meeting. Deputy Mayor Mothershead thanked Mr. Abbott for his presentation. She stated tours are available at Pasco County Mosquito Control District to help educate the public. She is looking forward to the tree lighting, boat and street parades. Councilman Murphy also thanked Mr. Abbott for his attendance. He stated it is an amazing organization. He stated his father worked there for about thirty years. He is looking forward to all of the holiday events that are coming up. He stated he did get a chance to try the new location for Get Hooked. Mayor Davis stated he worked part-time at Mosquito Control back in the 1990's. He stated he will not be able to attend the events on Friday but will be back for the boat and street parades.

## 11 Adjournment

There being no further business to consider, upon proper motion, the meeting adjourned at 7:16 p.m.

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

Judy Meyers, MMC, City Clerk

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

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