



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

April 5, 2016

7:00 PM

ORDER OF
BUSINESS

1. Call to Order – Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Rob Marlowe at 7:00 pm. Those in attendance were Deputy Mayor Bill Phillips, Councilman Chopper Davis, Councilman Jeff Starkey, and Councilwoman Judy DeBella Thomas.

Also in attendance were City Manager Debbie Manns, City Attorney Joseph Poblick, City Clerk Doreen Summers, Library Director Susan Dillinger, Finance Director Crystal Feast, Fire Chief Chris Fitch, Economic Development Director Mario Iezzoni, Senior Planner Chris Mettler, Public Works Director Robert Rivera, Parks and Recreation Director Elaine Smith, and Technology Solutions Director Bryan Weed.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was led by Boy Scout Troop 177 of the Gills YMCA, who are working toward their Citizenship badge.

3. Moment of Silence

A moment of silence was held to honor American servicemen and -women serving at home and abroad.

4. Approval of the March 8 Regular, March 10 Work Session, and March 22 Special Meeting Minutes

Motion was made to approve the minutes as presented.

Motion made by Chopper Davis and seconded by Judy DeBella Thomas. The Motion Passed. 5-0.
Ayes: Davis, DeBella Thomas, Marlowe, Phillips, Starkey

5. Swearing-In: Firefighters Robert LaChance and Wayne Lawson

6. Proclamation: Donate Life Month

7. Proclamation: National Library Week

- 8 Proclamation: National Volunteer Week and CARES Volunteer Recognition
- 9 Proclamation: State Initiative for Health and Wellness
- 10 Proclamation: Volunteer Recognition Day
- 11 Proclamation: Water Conservation Month
- 12 Vox Pop for Items Not Listed on the Agenda or Listed on Consent Agenda

Upon opening the floor to Vox Pop, The West Pasco Historical Society representative Dan Callahan came forward to express his appreciation for the Veteran's Walk at Orange Lake. The Historical Society has compiled a list of all the named bricks, a copy of which he presented to each member of the Council.

City resident Andrew Bocchetti voiced several concerns. He expressed surprise at receiving a 1099 form for water and learning that although he never received one before, they should always have been issued. He suggested that the funds be moved to a non-interest bearing account to avoid future 1099s. He reiterated his previous reportage of open, frequent drug trafficking on Euclid Avenue, and commented regarding lack of assistance from City police. City Manager Manns stated she would advise Council when a meeting would be scheduled between Mr. Bocchetti and Chief Bogart.

None else coming forward for Vox Pop, Mayor Marlowe returned the floor to Council.

13 Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Deputy Mayor Bill Phillips to approve all minutes except the Police Pension Board minutes, which he asked to pull for discussion. His motion was seconded by Councilman Starkey and passed unanimously.

Deputy Mayor Phillips commented regarding the tardiness of the Police Pension Board minutes, especially in notations of pension negotiations. He asked to have Police and Fire Pension Board representatives present when the City budget planning began.

Motion was made to accept the Consent Agenda in its entirety.

Motion made by Bill Phillips and seconded by Chopper Davis. The Motion Passed. 5-0. Ayes: Davis, DeBella Thomas, Marlowe, Phillips, Starkey

- a Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Minutes - February 2016
- b Approval of the Cultural Affairs Committee, Environmental Committee, and Police Pension Board Minutes
- c Purchases/Payments for City Council Approval

14 Public Reading of Ordinances

- a First Reading, Ordinance #2016-2073: Code Amendment - Urban Agriculture

City Attorney Pobllick read the proposed ordinances by title only. Deputy Mayor Phillips commented that the ordinances did not address whether urban agriculture could be allowed on rental properties. Councilman Davis asked for a work session prior to a vote being taken, in order to study the ordinances thoroughly.

Pasco County Food Policy Advisory Council member Travis Morehead stated that a like ordinance was planned for County enactment, and that the evening's proposed ordinances would motivate individuals to

move to the City.

Business owner Frank Starkey was in favor of the ordinances' passage, stating that he found them to be well-written. City resident Don Cadle mentioned that he was the only Land Development Review Board member to recommend the ordinances, and that the urban agriculture movement was not a new concept.

Virginia Avenue resident Jim Kovaleski reported that his home's street was now known as the "garden district", and that the street's property values were increasing because of it. Although she was a City rental property tenant, Faye Kroblik stated she was also an urban gardener. She was in favor of the ordinances because of the increase in community involvement and resident interaction. Also in favor was City resident Steve Wexler, who stated his and neighbors' gardens created a positive energy that brought about their neighborhood's commonality and unification, and brought residents together.

City resident Cindy Cadle stated she was a grower and a Tasty Tuesday participant. She reported the event's recent SNAP/EBT acceptance, which not only grew the event's size, but helped provide healthy food for those in the community for less outlay than chain-store supermarkets' prices.

City resident Denise Houston stated that the ordinances would attract the type of people the City desired as residents. Will Clark reported that the Virginia Avenue vista was what decided them to move to New Port Richey.

Environmental Committee Chair Dell deChant stated he was very impressed with the ordinances' wording, and recommended passage. He reiterated the City's prospective improvement and that the gardens would be well cared for by their owners and not neglected, causing code enforcement issues.

None else coming forward for public comment, Mayor Marlowe returned the floor to Council. Councilman Starkey did not see the need for a work session, stating that the ordinances were trend-setting and that residents taking part in the program would take care of their gardens.

Councilwoman DeBella Thomas questioned why hydroponics were not allowed in back yards, and suggested garden design guidelines to prevent a blighted appearance, plus photographs of residents' gardens. Additionally, she questioned why a permit would be required to grow food for one's own use.

Mayor Marlowe was in favor of allowing urban agriculture in homes' front yards. Deputy Mayor Phillips stated he would vote in favor of the ordinances upon first reading, but asked for a work session to further clarify the ordinances prior to their second reading, which would occur after the State's DEO approval. Councilman Davis commented that the City's 45% renter population would not maintain their gardens and would eventually move out, leaving ruined yards behind. Also, he felt that standing water in buckets and pails would contribute to mosquito breeding.

Motion was made to approve the ordinance upon its first reading.

Motion made by Jeff Starkey and seconded by Bill Phillips. The Motion Passed. 5-0. Ayes: Davis, DeBella Thomas, Marlowe, Phillips, Starkey

b First Reading, Ordinance #2016-2074: Comprehensive Plan Amendment - Urban Agriculture

Motion was made to approve the ordinance upon its first reading.

Motion made by Jeff Starkey and seconded by Bill Phillips. The Motion Passed. 5-0. Ayes: Davis, DeBella Thomas, Marlowe, Phillips, Starkey

c First Reading, Ordinance #2016-2076: Golf Carts on City Roadways

City Attorney Pobllick read the proposed ordinance by title only, noting the following corrections.

- Section 9.10, a: strike through "Bank St." and replace with "Grand Blvd."
- Section 9.10, d: strike through "from Gulf Dr. to Louisiana Ave." and replace with "south of Gulf

Dr."

Upon opening the floor to public comment, City resident Sean McCart thanked the City for the ordinance, and asked if there would be reciprocity with Port Richey. Additionally, he asked for carts to be allowed on that section of Indiana Avenue (9.10, h) that was excepted due to emergency vehicle use. He questioned why there was a minimum 5-year age limit if the ordinance required carts to have seat belts.

City Attorney Pobllick informed City resident Joan Nelson Hook that registered street-legal carts would not require a City inspection. None else coming forward for public comment, Mayor Marlowe returned the floor to Council.

Deputy Mayor Phillips commented that Port Richey needed to select a new city manager before reciprocity could be discussed. He suggested cart regulations for Sims Park. In response to Councilwoman DeBella Thomas's query, City Attorney Pobllick stated he would add an exception for rented/loaned golf carts for special event organizers.

Councilman Davis suggested that a cart-allowed street map and a copy of cart guidelines be supplied to City residents when they applied. Mayor Marlowe suggested cart charging stations. Both Mayor Marlowe and Councilman Starkey questioned Woodridge Estates cart access; Public Works Director Rivera responded that the portion of Congress Street in question was County-owned.

Motion was made to approve the ordinance upon its first reading.

Motion made by Bill Phillips and seconded by Jeff Starkey. The Motion Passed. 5-0. Ayes: Davis, DeBella Thomas, Marlowe, Phillips, Starkey

d First Reading, Ordinance #2016-2077: Code Amendment - Front Porches

City Attorney Pobllick read the proposed ordinance by title only. Senior Planner Chris Mettler added that a grant allowed porch construction reimbursement if the minimum income requirement was met.

Upon opening the floor to public comment, business owner Frank Starkey voiced his approval of the ordinance, stating that front porches would increase neighbors' interaction and property values. None else coming forward for public comment, Mayor Marlowe returned the floor to Council.

Deputy Mayor Phillips suggested allowing porch cover variants such as pergolas. Motion was made to approve the ordinance upon its first reading.

Motion made by Judy DeBella Thomas and seconded by Chopper Davis. The Motion Passed. 5-0. Ayes: Davis, DeBella Thomas, Marlowe, Phillips, Starkey

15 Business Items

a Cotee River Seafest - Alcoholic Beverage Special Event Permit

None coming forward for public comment, Mayor Marlowe returned the floor to Council. Deputy Mayor Phillips asked to be provided with a list of Main Street board members and their contact information. He suggested moving vendor placement to minimize landscape damage and provide clear vistas. Motion was made to approve the permit.

Motion made by Chopper Davis and seconded by Jeff Starkey. The Motion Passed. 5-0. Ayes: Davis, DeBella Thomas, Marlowe, Phillips, Starkey

b RESTORE Act Subaward Agreement: City of New Port Richey and Pasco County

This item was tabled.

c Pinehill Park Lease Agreement

None coming forward for public comment, Mayor Marlowe returned the floor to Council. Deputy Mayor Phillips suggested a review of the agreement in its second year, to consider returning the property to City jurisdiction. Councilman Starkey concurred, stating that the County had no plans to improve the property and that it was too small to accommodate its current users. Motion was made to approve the agreement.

Motion made by Bill Phillips and seconded by Jeff Starkey. The Motion Passed. 5-0. Ayes: Davis, DeBella Thomas, Marlowe, Phillips, Starkey

d 2015/2016 Roadway Striping Project

None coming forward for public comment, Mayor Marlowe returned the floor to Council. Motion was made to approve the agreement.

Motion made by Bill Phillips and seconded by Chopper Davis. The Motion Passed. 5-0. Ayes: Davis, DeBella Thomas, Marlowe, Phillips, Starkey

e Grand Boulevard Vacation of Right of Way

None coming forward for public comment, Mayor Marlowe returned the floor to Council. Deputy Mayor Phillips suggested reviewing the resolution to ensure it was not overridden by Ordinance One. Motion was made to approve the resolution.

Motion made by Judy DeBella Thomas and seconded by Chopper Davis. The Motion Passed. 5-0. Ayes: Davis, DeBella Thomas, Marlowe, Phillips, Starkey

f Invitation to Bid-16-009, As Needed Misc. Pipeline Construction Bid Award

None coming forward for public comment, Mayor Marlowe returned the floor to Council. Motion was made to approve the bid.

Motion made by Bill Phillips and seconded by Chopper Davis. The Motion Passed. 5-0. Ayes: Davis, DeBella Thomas, Marlowe, Phillips, Starkey

g Summary of Uncollected Special Events

Mayor Marlowe, Deputy Mayor Phillips, and Councilman Starkey commented regarding the Finance Department's failure to bill special events for City expenditures. City Manager Manns responded that Fiscal Year 2014-2015 expenditures were being invoiced, and most organizations were grateful to be able to balance their books. No action was required.

h Three-Minute Report: Library

No action was required.

i Three-Minute Report: Technology Solutions

No action was required.

16 Communications

Councilman Starkey reported the successful Police Department prostitution sting, in which ten "johns" were arrested; City Manager Manns added that a press release was issued. Mr. Starkey reminded those assembled to vote in the April 12 City election, and to encourage others to do so.

Councilman Davis stated he was pleased with the City's economic development. Councilwoman DeBella Thomas was pleased with the sting's outcome, and expressed her pride for the City's police force. She thanked City staff for the bridge flags and their beautification efforts. She reported the Holiday Rotary's Chasco Parade presence, and commended Public Works for their first-place float win; she asked that those employees attend the April 19 Council Meeting to be officially recognized and thanked.

Deputy Mayor Phillips also expressed his thanks for a successful parade. He reported his Raise the Roof attendance, and noted Sims Park's positive atmosphere. He asked to meet the new Main Street director, and reminded those assembled of the April 9 Skylar Diggins event at the Recreation & Aquatic Center.

Mayor Marlowe was pleased with the Chasco Fiesta attendance, and noted that even at 9:00 pm the park and playground were full. He suggested a discussion with the Chasco Fiesta event coordinators regarding inebriated parade attendees who then congregated in Sims Park afterwards.

17 Adjournment

There being no further business to consider, upon proper motion, the meeting adjourned at 9:53 pm.

(signed) _____
Doreen M. Summers, CAP-OM, CMC, City Clerk

Approved: _____ (date)

Initialed: _____