



**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

February 27, 2025

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 Kelly Mothershead, Councilwoman Matt Murphy, Councilman Peter Altman and Councilman Bertell Butler, IV.

Also in attendance were City Manager Debbie L. Manns, City Attorney Timothy Driscoll, City Clerk Judy Meyers, Finance Director Crystal Dunn, Public Works Director Robert Rivera, and Police Chief Bob Kochen.

2 Pledge of Allegiance

3 Moment of Silence

4 Business Items

a. Resolution No. 2025-12: Intent Resolution to Use Uniform Method of Non-Ad Valorem Assessments to Collect Solid Waste Delinquencies - Page 3

City Attorney Driscoll read the resolution by title only. City Manager Manns began her presentation by giving a history of the this issue. She stated this has been a topic of discussion in the city for over three years. She stated that there was a concerning number of residential properties not registered for the pick-up and hauling of solid waste. She then highlighted the current issues. City Manager Manns stated that the current amount delinquent is \$156,618. City Manager Manns staff is seeking payment through August 2025 and if there is still a delinquency then to have those amounts added as a non-ad valorem assessment to tax bills. Mayor Davis asked City Attorney Driscoll to then read the current rules for public comments. He also read rules on decorum.

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

- John Kane, 6041 Florida Ave., NPR spoke regarding the collection and billing being handled by the City instead of the hauler. He stated that the haulers would know who is not paying and it could be referred to Code Enforcement.
- Lisa Tinker, 7017 Park Dr., NPR spoke regarding her concern the accuracy of the billing

system before it was added to the tax bill.

- Angela Napolitano, 6013 Adams St., NPR spoke about the service itself being delinquent.
- Peter Amato, 6100 River Road, NPR spoke regarding putting a lien on the property.
- Charles Weis, 6013 Adams St., NPR spoke regarding about a variety of items including celebrating the spirit of democracy, the single-hauler meetings last year, a single-hauler easing the burden on the roads as the main reason why people couldn't keep the service they were satisfied with, proposed multi-family homes, single-hauler effects versus agenda, development grant to the Mayor's landlord, Councilman Butler's displacement, single mothers, cutting through the excuses and smoke screen deployed, attempting to kick out snowbirds and low income residents, liens and snatching properties, pricing out of homes and environmental disasters, rewarding the corrupt and submissive, Schwettman and losing the contract, sabotage and blaming people, celebrity snowbirds, cultural commencement ceremony, and the history of inhumanity being a burden.

With no one else coming forward Mayor Davis returned the floor to Council. Councilman Altman spoke about the service and who it is for along with the embarrassment about not being able to pay the hauler. He spoke about the water bills being able to have a lien placed on it. He stated he has asked for explanations on costs but has not received the information. He stated the hauler will have to wait until next April to be paid. He stated we are not obligated to pay the hauler any more than we collect. He stated he would not be opposed to putting the delinquencies on the tax bill if they are indeed delinquent. Councilman Butler spoke about his experience being billed without service. He stated we are the administrator of the payment. He suggested giving it back to the people where it belongs. Deputy Mayor Mothershead stated she will be voting for the item because it is our fiduciary responsibility. Councilman Murphy stated we can try to collect until August and then anything left it can go on the tax bill. City Attorney Driscoll stated the vote taken tonight will be for the intent to put it on the tax bills he stated there will be further discussion regarding the final numbers. City Manager Manns spoke regarding not issuing bills in renters name so there are no financial implications. She stated that we do have an opt out opportunity for vacation. She stated there was an opportunity to have the trash service suspended for those affected by the hurricanes and the form will be made available online. Motion was made to approve the item as presented.

Motion made by Matt Murphy and seconded by Kelly Mothershead. The Motion Passed. 3-2. Ayes: Davis, Mothershead, Murphy Nays: Altman, Butler

- b. Resolution No. 2025-13: Intent Resolution to Use Uniform Method of Non-Ad Valorem Assessments - Solid Waste Collection Fees - Page 55

City Attorney Driscoll read the resolution by title only. City Manager Manns introduced the item to Council. She stated that the purpose of this agenda item was to conduct a public hearing and approve a resolution authorizing the use of the uniform method of collecting non-ad valorem assessments to collect solid waste fees. She stated that the payment of solid waste collection services by the uniform collection method would be a more effective means by which to collect these fees as opposed to other direct billing methods.

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

- Lisa Tinker, 7017 Park Dr., NPR spoke regarding the collection fee for County and asked when JD Parker is paid. She also stated that people dumping trash within the city it not necessarily done by just city residents.
- Peter Amato, 6100 River Rd., NPR stated putting on the tax bill is an unfair assessment and if there are issues with the hauler there is no recourse. He stated it is an unfair burden.
- John Kane, 6041 Florida Ave., NPR stated there are people who own vacant lots that will be charged. He stated they should not be charged for service that they do not use. He stated it is baffling to him why the city wants this.
- Ray Dunn, 6606 Crossbow Ln., NPR stated placing it on the water bill will allow for the hauler to be paid quicker.
- Mike Peters, 6446 River Rd., NPR spoke about the benefits of single hauler and a seven percent decrease in cost. He stated most people pay their bills monthly. He stated the fee can

be incorporated into a rent payment or escrowed with their mortgage payment. He stated everyone benefits from living in a clean city. He stated this is about economics and doing it this way ensures the hauler to be paid.

With no one else coming forward Mayor Davis returned the floor to Council. Councilman Murphy stated as far as collection this will ensure it gets paid. He spoke regarding the opt out for vacation or extended time away from your home. He stated the hauler has a contract with the whole city and it is a lot easier for them. If there are complaints we will go to them. Being a single hauler they are more than willing to comply. He stated by having the city collect instead of the hauler it lowers the cost of the service. Deputy Mayor Mothershead stated she feels this is the most economical way to do it as well. She stated there are exceptions for those who have extenuating circumstances. Councilman Butler spoke regarding the history and how it was the choice of the people. He then spoke about the points made in the City Manager's presentation regarding the need not being there, the opt out, and penalties. He stated this is about economics. He stated there is no opportunity for another company who could do a better job until the next bid process. Councilman Altman stated he has not heard any comments from any colleagues about any other methods including ones that he has posed. He stated he was for single trucks on the road system. He stated his theory was we had a better chance of collecting our money by placing it on the water bills. He stated it does not cause any more money to place it on the water bill. He stated we can turn the leak off now and place it on the water bill. He stated the city is losing money in addition to the hauler not being paid because the program is costing more money than it is bringing in. He stated this is wrong all the way through. Mayor Davis stated if we put the water and trash bill together one would go to the renter and the other the property owner. City Manager Manns stated that sanitary is listed first on the water bill then water because we cannot lien for water. Motion was made to approve the item as presented.

Motion made by Matt Murphy and seconded by Kelly Mothershead. The Motion Passed. 3-2. Ayes: Davis, Mothershead, Murphy Nays: Altman, Butler

- c. Interlocal Agreement between the City of New Port Richey and the Pasco County Property Appraiser RE: Solid Waste - Page 107

City Manager Manns introduced the item to Council. She stated that the purpose of this agenda item was to approve entering into an Interlocal Agreement with Mike Wells in his capacity as the Property Appraiser of Pasco County regarding the placement of the fees for solid waste, yard debris, residential recyclable materials, and transportation services on the tax bills through the uniform method of tax collection. She then introduced Finance Director Crystal Dunn who then made a presentation to Council. She stated that Florida Statutes provide the Property Appraiser the ability to include fees which are not based on millage on the tax roll for collection by the Tax Collector. In that regard, earlier this evening you considered two resolutions:

- Resolution No. 2025-12: Intent Resolution to Use Uniform Method of Non-Ad Valorem Assessments to Collect Solid Waste Delinquencies
- Resolution No. 2025-13: Intent Resolution to Use Uniform Method of Non-Ad Valorem Assessments - Solid Waste Collection Fees

She stated if approved, these resolutions would authorize the use of the uniform method of collection relating to solid waste, yard debris, residential recyclable materials, and transportation services. The purpose of this agenda item is subject to the approval of the resolutions and relates to entering into an agreement with the Property Appraiser in respect to this matter and thereby place the fees on the tax bills in October of 2025.

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

- Lisa Amato, 6100 River Rd., NPR spoke about checks and balances. She also spoke regarding compliance.
- John Kane, 6041 Florida Ave., NPR asked if the hauler gets paid quarterly when the bills are paid. He asked if the hauler is already under contract for payment can changes be made.
- John Gilliss, 6658 River Rd., NPR spoke regarding the questions raised by Mr. Kane. Mayor

Davis explained that Council cannot answer questions during public comment. Mr. Gilliss spoke about an experience earlier today regarding his trash pickup.

With no one else coming forward Mayor Davis returned the floor to Council. Councilman Altman stated the taxes are based on value and assessments on the fiscal year we are in. He stated the money for the services will not be in until November. He stated he will continue to pursue putting the fees on the water bills. Councilman Butler stated he would like to receive communications regarding compliance. Councilman Murphy stated he wanted to address the option of a referendum and petition to remove the single hauler he stated as residents you have that option however we can be sued as we are currently in a multi-year contract with the current hauler. Motion was made to approve the item as presented.

Motion made by Kelly Mothershead and seconded by Matt Murphy. The Motion Passed. 3-2. Ayes: Davis, Mothershead, Murphy Nays: Altman, Butler

d. Interlocal Agreement between the City of New Port Richey and the Pasco County Tax Collector RE: Solid Waste - Page 112

City Manager Manns introduced the item to Council. She stated that the purpose of this agenda item was to approve entering into an Interlocal Agreement with Mike Fasano, the Pasco County Tax Collector to accept payments for solid waste, yard debris, residential recyclable materials and transportation services using the uniform method of collection for non-ad-valorem assessments. She then introduced Finance Director Crystal Dunn who then made a presentation to Council. She stated that Florida Statutes provide cities with the authority to impose a non-ad valorem assessment for fees which are not based upon millage. Earlier this evening you were asked to approve two resolutions:

- Resolution No. 2025-12: Intent Resolution to Use Uniform Method of Non-Ad Valorem Assessments to Collect Solid Waste Delinquencies, and
- Resolution No. 2025-13: Intent Resolution to Use Uniform Method of Non-Ad Valorem Assessments - Solid Waste Collection Fees

which authorized the collection of payments for solid waste, yard debris, residential recyclable materials and transportation services using the uniform method of collection.

In that respect, and subject to the approval of these resolutions which authorizes the collection of payments using the uniform method of collection the purpose of this agenda item is to enter an Interlocal Agreement with the Tax Collector to accept the payments from property owners and to transmit the payments to the city. She stated the Tax Collector will charge an administrative fee in the amount not to exceed 2% to cover the costs associated with the collection and processing of the fines.

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

- Mike Peters, 6446 River Road, NPR came forward to speak in support of this item. He then stated this will be the most economical way for this service to be provided. He stated the extra savings will be passed along to residents.
- John Kane, 6041 Florida Ave., NPR spoke regarding yard debris.

With no one else coming forward Mayor Davis returned the floor to Council. Councilman Altman stated the method of collection on the tax bills charges more than the services received. Motion was made to approve the item as presented.

Motion made by Matt Murphy and seconded by Kelly Mothershead. The Motion Passed. 3-2. Ayes: Davis, Mothershead, Murphy Nays: Altman, Butler

5 Communications

Councilman Altman stated he is looking forward to the Mardi Gras event this weekend. He stated he is interested in hearing the resiliency conversation as well as the School Board agreement. He stated

Chasco is in a month and will have a kid zone. He stated there will be swamp cabbage available on Native American night. He thanked the City Manager and Mr. Rivera for clearing the properties so that the carnival can be hosted there. He stated the dragon boat races will also be back the morning of the street parade. Councilman Butler thanked the City Manager and staff for the reports he received. He also thanked Mr. Rivera and his staff. He also thanked JD Parker and the effort for collection to ensure a clean city. Deputy Mayor Mothershead thanked staff for their efforts to keep the city clean. She stated she wanted to tell her colleagues how much she appreciates working with them. Councilman Murphy spoke about the lawn debris pickup. He spoke about the effort to write a referendum to alleviate a contractual obligation. He then spoke about the carnival and dragon boat races. Mayor Davis spoke about the Mardi Gras event. He spoke regarding the presentation to the Board of Realtors with Mayor Hoover from Port Richey.

6 Adjournment

There being no further business to consider, upon proper motion, the meeting adjourned at 8:58 p.m.

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

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

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