



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
September 20, 2022
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 p.m. Those in attendance were Deputy Mayor Mike Peters, Councilman Matt Murphy and Councilwoman Kelly Mothershead. Councilman Peter Altman was excused.

Also in attendance were City Manager Debbie L. Manns, City Attorney Timothy Driscoll, City Clerk Judy Meyers, Police Chief Kim Bogart, Interim Finance Director Crystal Dunn, Fire Chief Chris Fitch, Community and Development Director Dale Hall, Economic Development Director Barbara Carr, Library Director Andi Figart, Technology and Innovations Director Robert Greene, Parks and Recreation Director Terri Moore, Human Resources Manager Bernie Wharran and Construction Services Manager Martin Field.

2 Pledge of Allegiance

3 Moment of Silence

4 Approval of September 6, 2022 Special and Regular Meeting Minutes

Motion was made to approve the minutes as presented.

Motion made by Mike Peters and seconded by Kelly Mothershead. The Motion Passed. 4-0. Ayes: Marlowe, Mothershead, Murphy, Peters Absent: Altman

5 Library Special Recognition of Benjamin McAleer RE: 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten Program

Library Director Andi Figart and Youth Education Librarian Jessica Meredith congratulated Benjamin McAleer for reading 1,000 books before kindergarten.

6 Proclamation - New Port Richey Fire Department 100th Anniversary

Chief Fitch accepted the parchment from Mayor Marlowe.

7 Proclamation - National Drive Electric Week

Zach Cook accepted the parchment from Mayor Marlowe.

8 Proclamation - Constitution Week (By Title Only)

Mayor Marlowe read the proclamation by title only.

9 Vox Pop for Items Not Listed on the Agenda or Listed on Consent Agenda

Mayor Marlowe opened the floor for public comment. Don House, 2104 Beach Trail, Indian Rocks Bch, came forward to speak regarding flooding last week on Marine Parkway, the pond and the portable pumps that were brought out. He also spoke regarding permits and thanked the Rental Inspection for sending the notice to the correct address. He also complimented the police department. Kimberly Cox, 7336 Ashmore Drive, NPR, Shinikki Whiting, 5755 Indiana Ave., NPR, Sarah Parker 1543 19th St., Sarasota, Katie Samicks, Sarasota, Marlowe Jones, 6141 Pine Hill Rd., PR came forward to speak regarding Bobby Lubrido. Judith Allen, 5940 Grand Blvd., NPR came forward to speak to correct comments she made at the last meeting. She also spoke about trying to obtain a grant for her home. Michelle Wojciechowski, 5445 Gulf Drive, NPR came forward to speak about free speech. With no one else coming forward for public comment, Mayor Marlowe closed Vox Pop.

10 Consent Agenda

Motion was made to accept the Consent Agenda.

Motion made by Matt Murphy and seconded by Kelly Mothershead. The Motion Passed. 4-0. Ayes: Marlowe, Mothershead, Murphy, Peters Absent: Altman

a Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Minutes - May 2022

b Library Advisory Board Minutes - July 2022

c Quarterly Investment Report

d Purchases/Payments for City Council Approval

11 Public Reading of Ordinances

a First Reading, Ordinance No. 2022-2260: Sidewalk Cafe Outdoor Cooking

City Attorney Driscoll read the proposed ordinance by title only. Upon opening the floor to public comment, no one came forward therefore Mayor Marlowe returned the floor to Council. Mayor Marlowe asked for two items to be added before second reading he would like to see it changed to the downtown zoning district and costs that were fair for businesses. City Attorney Driscoll stated this ordinance would give holders of permits the availability to provide outdoor cooking. City Attorney Driscoll stated this provision could be added to their existing permit. Motion was made to approve the ordinance upon its first reading.

Motion made by Mike Peters and seconded by Matt Murphy. The Motion Passed. 4-0. Ayes: Marlowe, Mothershead, Murphy, Peters Absent: Altman

12 Business Items

a Adoption of the Library's Strategic Plan for FY 2023-2027

City Manager Manns introduced the item to Council. She stated that the purpose of this agenda item was to approve the adoption of the Library's Strategic Plan for FY 2023-2027. As Council is aware, Library staff have been working with representatives from Library IQ to create a Strategic Plan for the last five months. Library Director Figart stated they have gathered input from a community survey in addition to public focus groups and individual stakeholder meetings. She stated that the plan created gives an overview that will take the library well into the future. Upon opening the floor to public

comment, no one came forward therefore Mayor Marlowe 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. 4-0. Ayes: Marlowe, Mothershead, Murphy, Peters Absent: Altman

- b Fifth Amendment to the Lease Agreement between the City of New Port Richey and the Greater Pasco Chamber of Commerce, Inc.

City Manager Manns introduced the item to Council. She stated that the purpose of this agenda item was to approve an amendment to the Lease Agreement with the Greater Pasco Chamber of Commerce which authorizes an increase in monthly rent payments from \$450 to \$550 per month for the property located at 5443 Main Street. She stated the Chamber has leased the property from the City since 1971. City Manager Manns stated the Chamber is in a prime location to help visitors as they come into the city. Upon opening the floor to public comment, no one came forward therefore Mayor Marlowe returned the floor to Council. Marlowe Jones, 6141 Pine Hill Rd., PR came forward to speak about embezzlement. Mayor Marlowe stated it was the former Central Pasco Chamber president. Jeremy Connors came forward to speak about pedestrian deaths on US19. Councilwoman Mothershead stated the Holiday Parade will be put on by the Holiday Rotary only this year. Motion was made to approve the item as presented.

Motion made by Kelly Mothershead and seconded by Matt Murphy. The Motion Passed. 4-0. Ayes: Marlowe, Mothershead, Murphy, Peters Absent: Altman

- c Grand Blvd. Park Improvements

City Manager Manns introduced the item to Council. She stated that the purpose of this agenda item was to approve a proposal from Top Line Recreation Inc., in an amount not to exceed \$185,625.03 for the Grand Blvd. Park Improvement Project. The project includes:

- The installation of a shade structure over the playground area.
- The removal and replacement of the existing playground equipment.
- The removal of the existing playground area much and the installation of a padded surface.
- Parking lot shell refurbishing.
- Exterior lighting improvements.
- Bench and trash receptacle removal and replacements where needed.

Upon opening the floor to public comment, Michelle Wojciechowski, 5445 Gulf Drive, NPR came forward to ask about the removal of the existing playground. City Manager Manns stated that the existing play equipment is in poor condition and structural integrity has been compromised. With no one else coming forward Mayor Marlowe returned the floor to Council. Councilman Murphy stated he wishes it could be paved instead of shell. Deputy Mayor Peters suggested possibly installing pavers. He also asked about park access by the bridge project. Mr. Field stated it would not be affected. City Manager Manns stated she would follow up on the paving. Motion was made to approve the item as presented.

Motion made by Matt Murphy and seconded by Kelly Mothershead. The Motion Passed. 4-0. Ayes: Marlowe, Mothershead, Murphy, Peters Absent: Altman

- d Request for Authorization to Use Forfeiture Funds to Purchase Ballistic Shields

City Manager Manns introduced the item to Council. She stated that the purpose of this agenda item was to authorize the use of forfeiture funds to purchase replacement ballistic shields at a total cost of \$21,450.00. This expenditure would replace all of the existing shields. Upon opening the floor to public comment, Shinikki Whiting, 5755 Indiana Ave., NPR came forward to state her concern over the cost. Chief Bogart stated the shields would be in supervisor vehicles. Kimberly Cox, 7336 Ashmore Drive, NPR came forward and stated the County has this equipment. Judith Allen, 5940 Grand Blvd., NPR came forward to suggest using the funding for defusing instead.

Michelle Wojciechowski, 5445 Gulf Drive, NPR came forward to ask how a shield deteriorates. Chief Bogart then provided examples of how the shields are used. Marlowe Jones, 6141 Pine Hill Rd., PR came forward to ask that this item be tabled. Katie Samicks, Sarasota came forward to ask what for situations where shields were used. With no one else coming forward Mayor Marlowe 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. 4-0. Ayes: Marlowe, Mothershead, Murphy, Peters Absent: Altman

13 Communications

Councilman Murphy stated that the Hacienda Gala turned out nice and was a great event. He stated he is glad the hotel is finally open. Deputy Mayor Peters thanked Council and staff for the thoughts and kind words on the passing of his mother. Councilwoman Mothershead stated that there is a video from the 9/11 Memorials events. She also stated that she hopes everyone remembers all of the positive things going on in the city. City Manager Manns stated that our police department is trained regularly and routinely and has been trained in conflict resolution. She stated that she is proud of them for what they do every day. Mayor Marlowe stated the Hacienda opened last week. The GHS Alumni showed up after the game. The concert Saturday night was good. He stated he has talked to staff about the city calendar.

14 Adjournment

There being no further business to consider, upon proper motion, the meeting adjourned at 8:24 p.m.

(signed) _____
Judy Meyers, CMC, City Clerk

Approved: _____ (date)

Initialed: _____