



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

March 7, 2023

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 Peter Altman, Councilman Matt Murphy 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, Fire Chief Chris Fitch, Public Works Director Robert Rivera, Police Chief Bob Kochen, Library Director Andi Figart, Technology and Innovations Director Robert Greene, Parks and Recreation Director Terri Moore and Human Resources Manager Bernie Wharran.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Moment of Silence

4. Approval of February 21, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes

Motion was made to approve the minutes as presented.

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

5. Proclamation - Florida Loquat Day

Dell deChant accepted the parchment from Mayor Marlowe.

6. Proclamation - Red Cross Month

Tina Sweeten and Sharon Christian accepted the parchment from Mayor Marlowe.

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

Mayor Marlowe opened the floor for public comment. The following people came forward:

- Stephen Blanchard, 5100 Providence Cir., NPR spoke regarding golf carts crossing US 19 at Marine Parkway and additional safety efforts.
- Robin Knight, 6519 Celeste Ln., NPR spoke regarding the crosswalk at Massachusetts and Congress.
- Bertell Butler, IV, 5335 Bellview Ave., NPR spoke regarding SRO Officer G.

With no one else coming forward for public comment, Mayor Marlowe 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, Marlowe, Mothershead, Murphy, Peters

- a Purchases/Payments for City Council Approval

9 Public Reading of Ordinances

- a First Reading, Ordinance 2023-2272: Parking Enforcement Specialists

City Attorney Driscoll read the proposed ordinance by title only. City Manager Manns introduced the item to Council. She stated that the purpose of this agenda item was to conduct a first reading of an ordinance which would authorize the City's Code Enforcement Officers to issue parking citations when they observe violations. She stated currently only police officers are the only ones who can issue citations. Chief Kochen stated under State Law if Code Enforcement Officers are certified they can be used for parking enforcement in order to assist patrol. 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 ordinance upon its first reading.

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

- b First Reading, Ordinance No. 2023-2271: Amendments to Golf Cart Ordinance RE: Marine Parkway

City Attorney Driscoll read the proposed ordinance by title only. City Manager Manns introduced the item to Council. She stated that the purpose of this agenda item was to conduct a first reading of an ordinance which would amend the City's current golf cart ordinance to allow for use on Marine Parkway from U.S. Highway 19 to Grand Boulevard and on Grand Boulevard from Gulf Drive to Ridgewood Drive. She stated this agenda item is in reference to the City's application process to request the Florida Department of Transportation to approve golf cart crossing at the intersection of Marine Parkway and U.S. Highway 19 and the intersection of Gulf Drive and U.S. Highway 19. 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 ordinance upon its first reading.

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

10 Business Items

- a Board Appointment: Heather Fiorentino, Police Pension Board

City Manager Manns introduced the item to Council. She stated that the purpose of this agenda item was to approve the appointment of Heather Fiorentino to the Police Pension Board for the remaining term Al Renedo's term. If approved, Mrs. Fiorentino's term on the Police Pension Board will be up for renewal on November 10, 2023. 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 Pete Altman and seconded by Matt Murphy. The Motion Passed. 5-0. Ayes: Altman, Marlowe, Mothershead, Murphy, Peters

b 2023 Chasco Fiesta Alcoholic Beverage Special Event

City Manager Manns introduced the item to Council. She stated that the purpose of this agenda item was to approve the ABSEP for the upcoming Chasco Fiesta. The organizers wish to sell beer/wine as follows:

Friday, March 24th 5:00 pm - 11:00 pm, Saturday, March 25th 1:00pm - 11:00pm, Sunday, March 26th 1:00pm - 9:00pm / Monday, March 27th 5:00pm-11:00pm, Tuesday, March 28th 5:00pm - 11:00pm, Wednesday, March 29th 5:00pm - 11:00 pm / Thursday, March 30th 5:00pm - 11:00pm, Friday, March 31st 4:00pm -11:00pm, Saturday, April 1st 1:00pm - 11:00pm.

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

c 2023 Fitzgerald's St. Patrick Day Event Railroad Square and Alcoholic Beverage Applications

City Manager Manns introduced the item to Council. She stated that the purpose of this agenda item was to approve the ABSEP for Fitzgerald's St. Patricks Day event. The organizers wish to sell beer/wine as follows:

Wednesday, March 15th 5:00 pm - 10:30pm, Thursday, March 16th 5:00 - 12:00 am, Friday, March 17th 11:00 am - 12:00 am.

City Manager Manns stated it should be noted that March 17th before noon is a non-traditional time for sales of alcohol at an event. Upon opening the floor to public comment, Chopper Davis, 6110 Florida Ave., NPR came forward to state that we need to adapt the time to the day of the week. 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 Matt Murphy and seconded by Pete Altman. The Motion Passed. 5-0. Ayes: Altman, Marlowe, Mothershead, Murphy, Peters

d Consideration of Adoption of Police Classification and Wage System

City Manager Manns introduced the item to Council. She stated that there was a discussion several years ago about attracting and keeping employees in the workforce. She stated that at that time a study was to be conducted every three years. This year was the study for the police department employees. She stated the purpose of this agenda item was twofold. The first was to adopt the recommendations advanced in the Compensation Study prepared by Evergreen Solutions, LLC and the Compa-Ratio method. The second was to authorize the City Manager to enter into a Memorandum of Agreement between the City and West Central Florida Police Benevolent Association, Inc., in respect to pay increases for FY 2022-2023 and FY 2023-2024 commencing upon ratification of the agreement. She stated there are six elements which include:

1. Execution of the pay plan will be in accordance with a two-year schedule;
2. There will be no COLA increases during the first year of the Compa-Ratio pay plan;

3. There will be a COLA increase during the second year of the Compa-Ratio option (FY 23-24) in the amounts to be agreed upon by the parties at a future date;
4. Members will advance one step in their ladder construction on their anniversary dates every two years, with the first advancement occurring in FY 2023-2024;
5. Salary increases during the first year of the implementation of the pay plan will be capped at \$6,000;
6. Institute a stipend in the amount of \$3,000 payable each fiscal year for bargaining unit members that are assigned to the Detective Bureau.

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

- Bertell Butler, 5335 Bellview Ave., NPR spoke regarding step, Compa-Ratio and compression.
- Wayne Scott, 5500 Riva Del Place, NPR, spoke regarding reconsideration for COLA for years not making market rates.

City Manager Manns stated there are different ranks and not every rank or officer would have been at a loss. She stated there were some that were determined to be at market. She stated we collectively negotiated what was presented in totality. She stated that is why a COLA was not appropriate for this year. 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 Pete Altman and seconded by Mike Peters. The Motion Passed. 5-0. Ayes: Altman, Marlowe, Mothershead, Murphy, Peters

e RFP23-011 Disaster Recovery and Debris Removal 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 award RFP23-011 Disaster Recovery and Debris Removal Services to DRC Emergency Services. He stated that these services would be for after storm events. He stated the dollar amount in the proposal and this would accommodate any field that may be used during a storm event. Upon opening the floor to public comment, no one came forward therefore Mayor Marlowe turned 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, Marlowe, Mothershead, Murphy, Peters

f RFP23-012 Disaster Management, Monitoring, Oversight, and Recovery 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 award RFP23-012 Disaster Management, Monitoring, Oversight and Recovery Services to Thompson Consulting Services. He stated that this agenda item was like the previous one and would be for after storm events. 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. 5-0. Ayes: Altman, Marlowe, Mothershead, Murphy, Peters

g ITB23-007 Fire Station No. 2 Relocation Project Bid Approval/Project Award

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 award ITB23-007 Fire Station No. 2 Relocation Project to E&L Construction Group Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$4,290,074.00 and approve the corresponding budget amendment. Mr. Rivera then highlighted the dollar amounts and projects associated with the budget amendment. He stated that we will not utilize all funds budgeted in this year. He stated the three bids that were submitted ranged from \$2.9 to \$5.5 million. Mr. Rivera stated a contingency of \$200k was added. The bids also included two alternates. He stated the station will be constructed at the northeast corner of Marine Parkway and Grand Blvd. Upon opening the floor

to public comment, no one came forward therefore Mayor Marlowe returned the floor to Council. Deputy Mayor Peters asked about ground stabilization studies and Mr. Rivera stated they had been done and are budgeted for in the project. Motion was made to approve the item and budget amendment as presented.

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

h Utility Service Agreement – New Port Corners

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 a Utility Service Agreement between the City and Lennar Homes, LLC for the New Port Corners development. The development site is east of Osteen Road and south of Massachusetts. He stated the overall site is over 700 acres. The proposed development site consists of the construction of 287 single-family homes and 44 townhomes. The development site is approximately 120 acres in unincorporated Pasco County outside the City's corporate limits but within the City's utility service area. The agreement requires the Developer to construct the potable water, sanitary sewer, and reclaimed water utility systems in accordance with the City's Utility Standards prior to the City's acceptance of ownership. Mr. Rivera then highlighted the next agenda item regarding impact fee credits and reclaimed water service. 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 Pete Altman and seconded by Matt Murphy. The Motion Passed. 5-0. Ayes: Altman, Marlowe, Mothershead, Murphy, Peters

i Resolution No. 2023-07: Impact Fee Credits New Port Corners Development

Upon opening the floor to public comment, no one came forward therefore Mayor Marlowe returned the floor to Council. City Attorney Driscoll read the proposed resolution by title only. Motion was made to approve the item as presented.

Public Works Director Robert Rivera presented the details of this agenda item along with the previous Utility Service Agreement agenda item

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

j Wastewater Treatment Plant – ITB22-06 Biosolids Hauling and Disposal Contract Extension

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 the first of two one-year contract extensions with Merrell Bros., Inc. The existing cost for the disposal is \$69.44 per ton under the current contract. He stated Pasco County is responsible for 49% of the costs associated with this agenda item. 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 Mike Peters and seconded by Kelly Mothershead. The Motion Passed. 5-0. Ayes: Altman, Marlowe, Mothershead, Murphy, Peters

k Fuel Tank Sump Pump Replacement Project

City Manager Manns introduced the item to Council. She stated that the purpose of this agenda item was to approve the proposal from Veterans Fuel Management in the amount not to exceed \$24,915.63 for the replacement of the City existing fuel tank sump pump system and the approve the corresponding budget amendment. She stated that the pump system and tank are 15 years old and has served its useful time. Corrosion and a minor fuel leak have been detected and warrants the proposed work prior to a protentional spill into the existing soil environment. 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 and budget amendment as presented.

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

11 Communications

Mayor Marlowe stated the Salvation Army Corps Women's Group is praying for the city. He stated that a business owner that fronts Railroad Square commented today about decreasing pavement when the renovations are being done. He stated there was an amazing event there on Saturday night. Mayor Marlowe stated it was nice to see the space being used. Deputy Mayor Peters stated the Florida Legislative Session started this week and there are a number of bills that could impact the city. He referenced an article in today's paper about some proposed bills which could reduce revenue and increase operation costs. He stated he would like to discuss and formulate a plan to present to our legislators. He suggested a work session. He also suggested attending the FLC Legislative Action Days. Deputy Mayor Peters spoke regarding a proposed bill regarding water use. He also highlighted legislation regarding property tax. Councilwoman Mothershead stated she would like to have a work session on that as well. She stated that with Chasco coming they need volunteers. Councilman Altman spoke regarding the striping on Lemon/Lime Street. He stated that in respect to legislative issues, an important one is regarding a proposal from Port Orange to prohibit non-partisan elections. Councilman Altman spoke regarding the theme for the Chasco parade and the FLC's Common Grounds to highlight the city and foster public support. Councilman Murphy stated he agrees with the comments regarding the legislative session. He stated that we are elected to represent our people. He stated we need to discuss it and present a united front. Mayor Marlowe stated there has been a broad range of political backgrounds during his times on Council. He stated good city government is good city government period. He stated we need to make our voices known to those in Tallahassee. Mayor Marlowe stated we are all unique communities.

12 Adjournment

There being no further business to consider, upon proper motion, the meeting adjourned at 8:42 p.m.

(signed) _____
Judy Meyers, CMC, City Clerk

Approved: _____ (date)

Initialed: _____