



**MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION**  
**CITY OF NEW PORT RICHEY**

NEW PORT RICHEY CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
5919 MAIN STREET, NEW PORT RICHEY, FLORIDA

March 15, 2023

6:00 PM

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**ORDER OF  
BUSINESS**

1 Call to Order - Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Rob Marlowe at 6:00 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 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, and Human Resources Manager Bernie Wharran.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

2 Discussion Regarding Proposed Legislative Bills

City Manager Manns introduced the item to Council. She stated the purpose of this work session was to conduct a discussion regarding proposed legislative bills. She stated the legislative session is underway and the FLC Legislative Action Days will be held April 3-5, 2023. City Manager Manns stated there are several the pre-empt local authority. She stated she spoke with Representative Yeager earlier today and expressed opposition to the Financial Disclosure bill.

City Manager Manns then spoke regarding the FLC legislative bill summaries. Mayor Marlowe stated that he looked at Form 6 this afternoon and it is his guess that it would be over four figures in fees to have someone prepare it. Councilwoman Mothershead stated that the form would be for volunteer boards as well. Deputy Mayor Peters stated that on the FLC call on Monday there does not seem to be sympathy for filling them out. He stated that at some point in time you have to say enough is enough. He stated that well qualified candidates may not seek running for office. Deputy Mayor Peters suggested each Council member call our local representatives.

Mayor Marlowe then spoke regarding the police chief bill, communication services tax and Constitutional Amendment. Councilman Murphy stated there are not a lot that are being asked to

be supported.

The discussion then moved on to HB 1331 regarding municipal utilities. Councilman Altman stated that this bill would cut the surcharge from 25% to 10%. He stated that in our agreement it states we cannot charge more than the County. Deputy Mayor Peters stated this bill would also regulate us by the PSC. Mr. Rivera stated the process we use now by using a consultant for rate studies would have to be approved by the PSC. They would have the authority to deny it.

Council then discussed SB 682/HB 671 regarding building permit fees. The discussion then moved on to SB798/HB 975 regarding solid waste management. Deputy Mayor Peters stated he knows Sen. Ingoglia and he is pro-business and wants businesses to operate competitively. He stated he thinks the purpose of the bill was to make the waste haulers compete competitively.

The discussion moved on to CS/HB 401 and SB 604 regarding Sovereign Immunity. City Manager Manns stated the limits have increased by millions. Deputy Mayor Peters stated there was an amendment that was filed yesterday.

Councilman Murphy spoke regarding the bills related to political advertisements and the prohibition on nonpartisan elections. Mayor Marlowe spoke regarding voter disenfranchising. Deputy Mayor Peters stated he would be opposed to this bill just due to the expense.

Councilman Altman stated he would like to monitor the temporary commercial kitchens and opioid funding bills. Councilwoman Mothershead stated that funding needs to be local as each community is different.

The discussion then moved to the Constitutional Amendment regarding the revised limitation on increases of Homestead Property Tax Assessments.

Council then briefly discussed bills regarding local ordinances, land use regulations, municipal boundaries, temporary commercial kitchens, local official employment contracts, code violation exemption, polystyrene, resilience districts, mitigation credits, and recycling electronic devices.

Mayor Marlowe spoke briefly about SB 1070 sponsored by Senator Hooper regarding electric vehicles. Deputy Mayor Peters stated that Florida has one of the lowest vehicle registration fees.

3            Communications

None.

4            Adjournment

There being no further business to consider, upon proper motion, the meeting adjourned at 7:22 p.m.

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

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

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

Judy Meyers, CMC, City Clerk