



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

April 6, 2023

5:00 PM

**ORDER OF
BUSINESS**

1 Call to Order - Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Rob Marlowe at 5:00 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 and Public Works Director Robert Rivera.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

2 2023 Main Street Downtown Corridor Level of Service (LOS) Traffic Study - Page 2

City Manager Manns introduced the item to Council. She stated the study was commissioned with Florida Design Consults with the purpose to assess traffic conditions on Main Street from Madison to US 19. She then introduced Public Works Director Robert Rivera who then made a brief presentation to Council. He stated that the report shows that Council's policy does a good job blending motor vehicle and pedestrian traffic. He stated that adjustments to the traffic signals will be made by Pasco County over the next few weeks. He then introduced David Fleeman from Florida Design Consultants who presented the study to Council. Mr. Fleeman began his presentation by highlighting the study area and methodology used. Mr. Fleeman explained that the LOS is based on the delay. Mr. Fleeman then explained the existing levels from A-E. He then highlighted the delay in seconds at the intersections. Mr. Fleeman then highlighted the considerations when evaluating additional LOS improvements. Mayor Marlowe stated that it has been a top priority of Council to make the city more pedestrian and bicycle friendly. He stated that in his opinion the traffic lights at Bank St. and Grand are the problems. He stated the flow of traffic would improve by replacing the lights with four-way stops. Deputy Mayor Peters stated that he would be troubled if the model put too much emphasis on the back up on side streets. He stated that he worried about putting stop signs up instead of lights. He stated if we flow the traffic from River Rd. he wondered about a backup occurring at Adams St. Councilman Murphy asked if the lights were synchronized at Bank and Grand. Mr. Rivera stated the lights are not talking to each other like on US19 but simply to themselves. Deputy Mayor Peters asked if pushing the crosswalk button would have any impact on the light and Mr. Rivera

stated it depended on where the light was in the cycle. Councilman Altman stated that the NB traffic gets out faster at the stop sign at Adams. He stated his support would be there to try to optimize the technology as it continues to get busier and busier. He stated that there are some that cut down Green Key and then use River Rd. to get into the downtown. Councilman Altman stated it was suggested to him that all of the flyovers in Pinellas were painful to the commercial and retail that were there. He then spoke regarding the area around the parking garage and Acorn Street and another way out to US19. Mr. Fleeman stated that FDOT promotes cross access to get to a common access point. Deputy Mayor Peters asked if there was any consideration of traffic flow if there was a four-way stop at River Rd. Mr. Rivera stated that we did not consider doing an analysis there as there are multiple turn lanes. It is a different intersection makeup than that at Adams. Mayor Marlowe asked for public Comment. Chopper Davis suggested extending green lights during rush hour preferably from 4-6PM. Councilman Altman then spoke briefly about installing a turn lane at Cecilia. Mr. Rivera stated it would involve obtaining ROW and also a joint project with the County as they maintain Ceceilia.

3 Proposed Single Waste Hauling Program - Page 106

City Manager Manns introduced Public Works Director Robert Rivera who then presented the item to Council. He began his presentation by highlighting the current system. Mr. Rivera stated that Pasco County increased their costs last year. He stated that there are currently 6 haulers who have permits to operate within the city. Mr. Rivera stated there was a Franchise Fee Analysis done in 2019 and it was recommended the city enter into an exclusive arrangement with one trash hauler and collect fees as part of the real estate tax assessment. Displacement notices were sent out in 2021. In February 2022 Council conducted a work session and gave the direction to move to a dual hauler system. Mr. Rivera then highlighted the elements to the RFP that was let in April 2022. City Manager Manns stated that when we received the rates they were lower than what was being currently charged. Mr. Rivera stated the discussion moving forward should be whether or not Council wanted to move forward with a single hauler, if they wanted residential containers to be uniform and the fee for the service. Mr. Rivera then highlighted the pros and cons for placing the fee on the tax bill or utility bill. Councilman Altman then spoke about placing the fee on the utility bill as it does not increase taxes and can be placed as a lien. He asked to have a discussion regarding sharing revenue. Deputy Mayor Peters stated he did not see the downside to a single hauler as it will decrease costs for residents. He also highlighted other benefits such as reduced noise. Councilman Murphy stated he is in favor of a single hauler. He would be willing to put it on the tax bill if we could negotiate a lower fee with the tax collector. He suggested putting in a backup plan and Mr. Rivera stated that could be added to the RFP. Councilwoman Mothershead stated she would also favor a single hauler. She would lean towards putting it on the tax bill. Councilman Altman stated we would be paying haulers for eight months before we can get the revenue from tax bills. Mayor Marlowe asked for public comment and Denise Houston stated that \$24 is more than what she is paying now. Mr. Rivera then highlighted the RFP proposal and current yard debris program. Estimated weekly pickup if done by the city was \$800k. Council then held a brief discussion regarding weekly pickup by the City versus a weekly pickup by the hauler.

4 Communications

None.

5 Adjournment

There being no further business to consider, upon proper motion, the meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Approved: _____ (date)

_____ (signed)

Initialed: _____

Judy Meyers, CMC, City Clerk