



**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

May 2, 2023

7:00 PM

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**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 Matt Murphy, Councilman Peter Altman, Councilman Mike Peters and Councilwoman Kelly Mothershead.

Also in attendance were City Manager Debbie L. Manns, City Attorney Timothy Driscoll, Deputy City Clerk Nadine Ward, Finance Director Crystal Dunn, Fire Chief Chris Fitch, Police Chief Bob Kochen, Human Resources Manager Bernie Wharran, Community and Development Director Dale Hall, Technology and Innovations Director Robert Greene, Economic Development Director Rod Kirk, Assistant Public Works Director Colin Eichenmuller, and Systems and Services Librarian Stephanie Jones.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Moment of Silence

4. Approval of April 18, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes

Motion was made to approve the minutes as presented.

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

5. Proclamation - Municipal Clerks Week (By Title Only)

6. Proclamation - Older Americans Month (By Title Only)

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

Mayor Davis opened the floor for public comment. The following people came forward to speak:

- Ginny Lane, 6509 Spring Flower Drive, NPR, spoke regarding her recent visit to the police department. She also suggested that the Thin Blue Line flag be removed from the fence.
- Jennifer Eichenberger, 5842 Illinois Ave, NPR spoke regarding crafting the best city possible. She also spoke regarding increasing citizen participation.
- Angela Addino Napolitano, 6013 Adams St., NPR spoke regarding the agenda item regarding public speaking that was removed.
- Charles Weis, 6013 Adams St. NPR spoke regarding the agenda item regarding public speaking that was removed.
- James Adamiak 6819 Ave., NPR spoke regarding, acknowledging public concerns with a citizen's review board.
- Ashley Adamiak, 6819 Lassen Ave., NPR spoke regarding, free speech and the agenda item that was removed from the agenda.
- Bertell Butler, IV, 5335 Bellview Ave., NPR spoke regarding the agenda item that was agenda. He also spoke regarding the later agenda item regarding the creation of a Community Response Team.
- Kimberly Cox, 7336 Ashmore Dr., NPR spoke regarding the agenda item regarding public speaking that was removed. She also suggested citizen participation via Zoom or call ins.
- Marlowe Jones, 6141 Pine Hill Rd., PR spoke regarding the agenda item regarding public speaking that was removed. He also spoke about Pine Hill community sidewalks.
- Judith Allen, 5940 Grand Blvd., NPR spoke regarding open government statutes, the city web page, and her missing documents.
- Paul Black, 5844 Madison St, NPR spoke regarding the upcoming Day of Prayer.

With no one else coming forward for public comment, Mayor Davis 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 Kelly Mothershead. The Motion Passed. 5-0. Ayes: Altman, Davis, Mothershead, Murphy, Peters

- a Environmental Committee Minutes - November 2022 and February and March 2023
- b Purchases/Payments for City Council Approval

## 9 Public Reading of Ordinances

- a Second Reading, Ordinance No. 2023-2267: Regulating Smoking in City Parks

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 second and final reading of an ordinance to prohibit smoking in city parks. She stated that during the 2022 Florida Legislative Session, a Bill was passed which regulated smoking in public places. The law, in short, allows for counties and municipalities to restrict and/or ban smoking in public places including city parks. City Manager Manns stated that this ordinance would not apply for special events and there would be a designated smoking area during those events.

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

- Bertell Butler, IV, 5335 Bellview Ave., NPR spoke regarding the exceptions for special events.

- Nathan Pollack, 6153 Massachusetts Ave., NPR spoke regarding cigars and pipes still being allowed.
- Angela Adino Napolitano, 6013 Adams St., NPR spoke regarding the fines and process. City Manager Manns presented comments regarding the ordinance. Fines would be related to Ordinance violation codes already in place. City Attorney Driscoll explained in more detail.
- Charles Weis, 6013 Adams, NPR spoke regarding the financial impact and health.
- Marlowe Jones, 6141 Pine Hill Rd., PR spoke regarding safe communities and who will issue the fines.
- Steve Blanchard, 5100 Providence Circle, NPR asked about a smoking area.
- Kimberly Cox 7336 Ashmore Ave., NPR spoke regarding the financial impact and transparency.
- Judith Allen, 5940 Grand Blvd., NPR asked about the fines and who will enforce. She suggested that Council table the ordinance.

With no one else coming forward Mayor Davis returned the floor to Council. Attorney Driscoll explained that fines and enforcement are already established with the ordinance code. Councilman Altman spoke regarding the idea of smoking areas. Attorney Driscoll will add amendment to add smoking areas. Councilman Peters spoke regarding designated areas in small parks. Councilwoman Mothershead stated her agreement with designated smoking areas. Motion was made to approve the ordinance upon its second and final reading with the amendment to add an additional exception that applies to any other designated city smoking area.

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

## 10 Business Items

### a Board Re-Appointment: Louis Parrillo, Land Development Review Board

City Manager Manns introduced the item to Council. She stated that the purpose of this agenda item was to approve the re-appointment of Louis Parrillo to the Land Development Review Board. Mr. Parrillo's current term expires on May 6, 2023 therefore he has submitted his application seeking re-appointment to the Board. If approved, Parillo's term will be for three years and will be up for renewal on May 6, 2026. Upon opening the floor to public comment, Louis Parillo, 5624 Montana Ave., NPR came forward and spoke regarding his application and his 4-month absence each year. With no one else coming forward Mayor Davis returned the floor to Council. Motion was made to approve the item as presented.

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

### b Request for Extension of Stay on Order for Patriot Stogies

City Manager Manns introduced the item to Council. She stated that the purpose of this agenda item was to to ask the City Council to consider extending the stay on the order which denied the appeal of the City administrative decision finding the sign at 6153 Massachusetts Avenue to be in violation of the City's Land Development Code for a second period of one year. She stated that Mr. Nathan Pollock appeared before Council on May 3, 2022 in order to appeal a determination that the existing pole sign located at his business, Patriot Stogies, is a non-conforming sign. At the conclusion of Council's deliberation, it was decided that a stay would be placed on the order which denied the appeal for a period of one year. She stated that it would be her recommendation that Council extend the implementation timeframe for removal of the non-conforming sign by one year. This would make the sign need to be brought into compliance by May 3, 2024. Upon opening the floor to public comment, Nathan Pollock, 6153 Massachusetts Ave., NPR came forward and stated that with his understanding of the code, he believes the sign is within code. He stated he cannot financially afford to replace the sign. With no one else coming forward Mayor Davis returned the floor to Council. Motion was made to approve the extension of the Stay on the Order by one additional year making the new compliance date May 3, 2024.

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

c 2022-23 LMS Report and RLF Management Plan - Consideration for Approval

City Manager Manns introduced the item to Council. She stated that the purpose of this agenda item was to review and approve the CRS Recertification progress report. She then introduced Development Director Dale Hall who then made a presentation to Council. He stated that the City participates in the National Flood Insurance Plan Community Rating System (CRS) which provides for a reduction in flood insurance premiums to our citizens. Mr. Hall stated presently we have a 7 Rating, which equates to a 15% reduction in premiums of policy holders with insurable property in flood zones areas. He stated the working group is to ensure flood issues are addressed accordingly. Upon opening the floor to public comment, the following people came forward to speak:

- Angela Adino Napolitano, 6013 Adams St., NPR spoke regarding a previous request for stop sign, drainage points and lack thereof.
- Marlowe Jones, 6141 Pine Hill Rd., PR spoke regarding allocation of funds for all neighborhoods that need drainage improvements.
- Steve Blanchard, 5100 Providence Ct., NPR spoke about flooding in his area and possible solutions.
- Judith Allen, 5940 Grand Blvd., NPR spoke regarding resiliency with the flooding.

With no one else coming forward Mayor Davis returned the floor to Council. Mayor Davis suggested a meeting be set with City Manager Manns, Angela Napolitano and Judith Allen to discuss. Councilman Peters asked for examples of things that would be done to improve our ratings with CRS. Councilman Altman spoke about the regional action plan at Tampa Bay Water. 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, Davis, Mothershead, Murphy, Peters

d Annual Summer Membership Sale

City Manager Manns introduced the item to Council. She stated that the purpose of this agenda item was to approve a discount of 20% off of the summer memberships rate to the Recreation and Aquatic Center for the annual Summer Membership Drive. The membership drive would take place from May 3, 2023 until June 1, 2023.

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

- Bertell Butler IV, 5335 Belleview Ave NPR spoke regarding understaffing. He suggested a wage increase for those current employees during this sale.
- Marlowe Jones, 6141 Pine Hill Rd., PR spoke regarding the rates and period. He suggested extending the time period.
- Angela Napolitano, 6013 Adams St., NPR spoke regarding the rates being too high at the RAC.

With no one else coming forward Mayor Davis returned the floor to Council. Council Altman spoke regarding giving much deeper discounts to city residents. Motion was made to approve the item as presented.

Motion made by Mike Peters and seconded by Kelly Mothershead. The Motion Passed. 4-1. Ayes: Davis, Mothershead, Murphy, Peters Nays: Altman

e Request for Authorization to Terminate School Resource Officer Agreement with the District School Board of Pasco County

City Manager Manns introduced Police Chief Bob Kochen who then presented the item to Council. He stated that the purpose of this agenda item was to request authorization for staff to terminate the School Resource Officer (SRO) Agreement with the District School Board of Pasco County. He stated that the New Port Richey Police Department is establishing a Community Response Team

(CRT) that will focus on mental health, addiction, homeless outreach, and community policing initiatives within the City of New Port Richey. Gulf Middle School and Gulf High School will be staffed with SROs from the Pasco County Sheriff's Office, and the New Port Richey Police Department will be lending support as needed.

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

- Kimberly Cox, 7336 Ashmore Dr., NPR spoke in opposition of the officers that Chief Kochen mentioned.
- Charles Weis, 6013 Adams St, spoke regarding his concerns about accountability and transparency of the new program.
- Shinnikki Whiting, 5755 Indiana Ave, NPR, spoke in opposition of the officers that Chief Kochen mentioned.
- Bertell Butler, IV, 5335 Bellview Ave., NPR, spoke regarding scholarships for the RAC, funding and revenue questions.
- Marlowe Jones, 6141 Pine Hill Rd., PR, spoke in opposition of the officers that Chief Kochen mentioned.
- Angela Napolitano, 6013 Adams St., NPR spoke about her concerns regarding the relationships that the kids currently have with the resource officers currently in place, as well as response times of the new system.

With no one else coming forward Mayor Davis returned the floor to Council. Councilman Peters stated a response team would report to any emergency as they are in the city limits. Deputy Mayor Murphy stated that Pasco County will be able to build relationships as NPR does. Councilwomen Mothershead stated she agrees with the need for a CRT. Councilman Altman stated that Council has supported this idea for quite some time. Focus should be on CRT not cost saving, shouldn't have mentioned the officers. Mayor Davis commented on the number of schools and officers involved in the county program. 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, Davis, Mothershead, Murphy, Peters

#### 11 Communications

Councilwoman Mothershead spoke regarding Pedal for Prevention next week. Deputy Mayor Murphy stated he will be attending the MPO meeting next week. Councilman Altman stated he will not be in attendance for the May 16th meeting. He stated he would like to have Council get advanced notice of agenda items and the process for public comments. He reminded everyone of the need to stay on topic regarding the agenda item that is being discussed and to not go off in different directions. Councilman Peters spoke regarding Florida Sports Coast and stated that tour operators are here from Germany promoting international tourism. He stated that the Hacienda will receive an award at the FSC banquet Friday night. He suggested changing the Communication segment to be after Vox Pop instead of at the end of the meeting. Mayor Davis stated he was not sure about the Communication time slot change. He reiterated that he has an open door policy. City Manager Manns spoke regarding the accusations made about Officer Patsch. She stated he is well suited for the CRT role and is a credit to the department. She feels he is a good officer and has served NPR well.

#### 12 Adjournment

There being no further business to consider, upon proper motion, the meeting adjourned at 9:26 p.m.

(signed) \_\_\_\_\_  
Nadine Ward, Deputy City Clerk

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

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