



**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**

**September 6, 2016**

**5:00 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 pm. Those in attendance were, Deputy Mayor Bill Phillips, Councilwoman Judy DeBella Thomas, Councilman Jeff Starkey and Councilman Chopper Davis.

Also in attendance were City Manager Debbie Manns, City Clerk Judy Meyers, Chief of Police Kim Bogart, Finance Director Crystal Feast, Development Director Lisa Fierce, Fire Chief Chris Fitch, Economic Development Director Mario Iezzoni, Public Works Director Robert Rivera, Library Director Susan Dillinger, Parks and Recreation Director Elaine Smith, and Technology Solutions Director Bryan Weed.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

2 2015/2016 Downtown Landscaping Improvements Project - 2nd Design Presentation - Page 2

City Manager Manns introduced the agenda item to Council. She stated that Jim Gilman from the Genesis Group was present to present the proposed changes to the project to Council.

Jim Gilman from Genesis Group gave a review of the previous presentation that was done in regards to the landscaping project. Mr. Gilman then proceeded to present to Council the proposed changes to the project. West of the river leave trees in the median and increase ground cover. Mr. Gilman said that the species were selected in order to create uniformity in the downtown and the US19 project. Proposed species included various species of palms, elms, shrubs and crape myrtle trees. Mr. Gilman stated that different low ground covers were chosen to be planted in the non-tree grates to help the commercial signage from being covered by trees. Councilman Starkey asked if staff plants the different ground coverings instead of using mulch that there is enough resources and staff to maintain it. Mr. Rivera stated yes there were resources available. The proposed minima jasmine is a hearty plant and a good choice for high traffic areas. The east gateway included planting elms around the retention pond along with a two other types of plantings. Along Grand Boulevard there would be elms relocated that would provide shade over the sidewalk. Deputy Mayor Phillips stated he had gone out and took different pictures today around the downtown area and wanted to verify that the city owns all of

the property down Grand Boulevard past Cecelia. Councilman Starkey stated the sod across the Chamber looks good and that the landscaping could be planted around the grass. He stated that he does have the jasmine in his yard and that it does leave footprints if you walk on it but it is a good alternative to mulch. Councilwoman DeBella Thomas stated if the city is trying to create a walkable downtown there will be no shade provided by palm trees. Mayor Marlowe stated that the non-shade was the issue he had with the palms. Deputy Mayor Phillips stated that the elms that were planted did not survive. Deputy Mayor Phillips stated he wanted to make sure that the plantings chosen need to last. Mr. Rivera stated that by going with palms then businesses could use awnings. Councilwoman DeBella Thomas stated that to create a walkable downtown you needed shade trees. Councilman Starkey stated that perhaps the design committee from NPRMS could come up with ideas for awnings. Councilwoman DeBella Thomas stated that she did not believe enough options were reviewed regarding the different types of trees but Mr. Gilman explained that many different species were reviewed and due to the limited size that is why the recommendation of the palms and crape myrtles were chosen. He stated that awnings were the best way to create the shade that was needed. He stated he would plant palms and put in awnings and that would alleviate the problem. Deputy Mayor Phillips stated he was looking for something that was less maintenance, more uniform, minimal and the elimination of some trees that would open things up. He stated he wanted to return the downtown back to how it used to be. He stated that by planting elms down the road it will buckle the sidewalks. Mayor Marlowe asked how difficult it would be to retrofit awnings on buildings that do not have them now. Ms. Fierce stated it would depend on the soundness of the structure. She suggested hiring a consultant to come in and do a study of the downtown. Councilman Davis stated that Main Street is an east-west road. He stated that he liked the recommendations presented by Mr. Gilman. It was the consensus of Council to direct Mr. Gilman to continue his work on the project and bring back a final plan to Council for approval.

3 Proposed 2016-2017 Capital Improvement Program - Page 3

City Manager Manns introduced the item to Council. She stated that the remaining items of the Capital Improvement Plan would be presented to Council. Mr. Rivera then began the presentation to Council and stated he would be describing the projects that would be completed in the upcoming year. The first project was for miscellaneous irrigation. The second project was for smart readers. The next project was the inflow infiltration or smoke testing with the engineering phase and testing. The sewer manhole project is an annual project that identifies old clay lines isolate infiltration. The reclaimed extension funds are set aside for wells or water systems that have failed. The bulk meter backflow upgrade project would provide for needed upgrades to the system. Potable systems and replace older lines to avoid failure. The 2014-2015 Water Utility System improvements replacing areas of pipe that have reached the end of their service years. Sewer utility improvement will have upgrades to the lift station near the old Community Hospital property and forced main system. Sewer systems miscellaneous provides funds for any failed septic systems. Mr. Rivera stated that most of the septic system areas are outside of the city limits and are just service areas.

Ms. Feast stated the redevelopment projects are the Hacienda Hotel restoration, business incubator facility improvements Hacienda are grant funding so funds will be matched. \$25k to incubator for restrooms, kitchen and outside façade.

Street improvement fund - The 2014 street improvement project is deferred to Council as staff is trying to implement the Pavement Management Plan. Deputy Mayor Phillips asked where are the LOGT funds today. He stated he came away from the August 23rd special meeting with two points - to talk about what done in past, prove what you have done with the money, and that he was alright with paying for collector roads but not alright with the residential program. He asked where the revenue funds have been so we can qualify to go back to the county for LOGT funds. Councilman Davis stated the program was not organized and Deputy Mayor Phillips replied that if staff answered Mr. Nurrenbrock's question would get you 75-80% down the road but if you cannot demonstrate and show 3-5 years point by point we cannot win the presentation. Ms. Feast stated that there was a fund that shows the estimated funds balance of

LOGT. Deputy Mayor Phillips stated that staff should be cognizant of formulas and how they have been tweaked. Understanding the dynamics of the two different areas.

The following projects were also proposed:

Road and sidewalk improvements to Circle Boulevard. Resurfacing and ADA improvements.

Streetscape expansion Central Avenue - Deputy Mayor Phillips said developer until the development is complete and then can tie together.

Streetscape Madison (Main Street to Massachusetts) - same amenities that are currently located in downtown. Mutiluse path connected to the new path installed on Vermont.

Marine Parkway - Multiuse trail from US19 to Grand Boulevard.

Neighborhood Improvement Project - sidewalk installation and/or upgrades.

Roadway Striping Project - annual program puts down roadway markings Lincoln Street and Main Street LED crosswalk.

4 Adjournment

There being no further business to consider, upon proper motion, the meeting adjourned at 6:24 pm.

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

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

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

Judy Meyers, Interim City Clerk