



**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  
September 6, 2016  
7:00 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 7:00 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 Attorney Michael Davis, 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, Technology Solutions Director Bryan Weed, and Human Resources Manager Bernie Wharran.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Moment of Silence

4. Regular Meeting Minutes and CIP Work Session Minutes - August 16, 2016

Motion was made to approve the minutes as presented.

Motion made by Bill Phillips and seconded by Jeff Starkey. The Motion Passed. 5-0. Ayes: Davis, DeBella Thomas, Marlowe, Phillips, Starkey

5. Special Recognition of New Port Richey Police Department Sergeant Christopher Trapnell

City Manager Manns made a brief introduction on this item. She stated Chief Bogart would provide further information. Chief Bogart stated that Sgt. Trapnell aided in the apprehension of a suspect who was the subject of a large man hunt by the Pasco County Sheriff's Office. The PCSO also honored Sgt. Trapnell for his bravery at a special ceremony. Chief Bogart presented Sgt. Trapnell with a certificate on behalf of the City for his outstanding work on this matter.

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

Mayor Marlowe opened the floor for public comment. None coming forward for public comment,

Mayor Marlowe closed Vox Pop.

7 Consent Agenda

The Police Pension Board minutes were pulled by Deputy Mayor Phillips for discussion. Deputy Mayor Phillips stated that after having the opportunity to read over the minutes, there are a number of items in the Minutes that need more information on. He stated that we need to understand better how the Board is functioning. In reading the minutes, he stated that due to the size of the fund, he tried to find what the value was of the fund but did not see anything documented for that amount. He stated that the performance of the fund and because of our obligation to our officers and the fact that the Board had tasked the City Manager with an assignment, that a representative of the Board should come before Council so that Council may make the appropriate task. He stated the Board is making major decisions on consultant agreements that are not only paying fees to the financial groups but also to the attorneys. Deputy Mayor stated that they had the attorney come and see us to make a presentation and that any underperformance of the fund Council would have to make up the difference. Deputy Mayor stated he was not sure what potential obligations there were or extended recovery and they had dropped some groups out of the funds. The Board is also signing contracts with financial consultants and he wanted to know what are the representation elements. If not funded properly then city has to make up the difference.

After the discussion, the motion was made to approve the minutes and the remainder of the consent agenda as presented.

Motion made by Bill Phillips and seconded by Chopper Davis. The Motion Passed. 5-0. Ayes: Davis, DeBella Thomas, Marlowe, Phillips, Starkey

- a Purchases/Payments for City Council Approval
- b Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Minutes - June 14, 2016
- c Police Pension Board Minutes - July 26, 2016

8 Business Items

- a Recommendation of City Attorney - Timothy P. Driscoll, Esq.

City Manager Manns introduced item to Council. She stated that the request was to fill the vacancy by Judge Poblack. There were several firms that submitted proposals. Four top rated firms were interviewed. Timothy Driscoll has municipal experience and special magistrate and she felt he is well qualified to handle all city matters. Mayor Marlowe opened the floor for public comment, none coming forward, Mayor Marlowe closed public comment and returned the item back to Council. Motion was made to approve the item as presented.

Motion made by Chopper Davis and seconded by Jeff Starkey. The Motion Passed. 5-0. Ayes: Davis, DeBella Thomas, Marlowe, Phillips, Starkey

- b Non-Emergency Resolution #2016-17 - Abatement and Removal of Unsafe Structure at 5427 Tangerine Drive

City Manager Manns introduced the item to Council. She stated the purpose of the item was to hold a quasi-judicial hearing on this item. City Attorney Davis stated that per city ordinance a date certain must be provided. The resolutions are reflected to show a date of September 30, 2016. Ms. Fierce then made a presentation to Council regarding the property. She stated that staff fulfilled all requirements under law for this process. She stated that so far there has been no reply. The property owner, Tony Robertson came forward and stated that there is no insurance on the property and there was a squatter living on the property. asked for an extension to see if he could sell the property or see if the city is interested in purchasing the property. Councilman Davis asked why he had not responded to the letters he received. The property owner stated he was tied up pursuing other legal actions.

Deputy Mayor Phillips stated there had been issues with other property owners in the same area. The property owner stated he was not aware that there was such a short time to do anything with the property. He stated that he has talked to some investors but no solid offers. Councilman Davis suggested that he take the house down himself. Ms. Fierce said that two legal notices, certified letter, phone calls and a notice on the property. City attorney stated that according to city code the owner can pull permits up to September 30th to abate the property and then the city manager could grant an extension but must show reasonable grounds. Councilman Starkey stated that the property in the condition as it is attracts vagrants. He also asked why the shed was an issue in trying to sell the property. Councilwoman DeBella Thomas asked what kind of timeframe we were looking at. Trying to recoup as much as possible before selling the property. Stated they were squatters and not renters. Jim Evetts stated that it was 50% Florida Building Code and not FEMA. When the value to repair is more than the value then it must come up to Code. Councilwoman DeBella Thomas asked what would happen if he sold the property before September 30th. City attorney Davis suggested having the city manager enter into an agreement with the property owner that he is actually going to do the items that he says he will.

Deputy Mayor Phillips proposed adopting the resolution with a deadline date of October 7, 2016.

Motion made by Bill Phillips and seconded by Judy DeBella Thomas. The Motion Passed. 5-0. Ayes: Davis, DeBella Thomas, Marlowe, Phillips, Starkey

- c Non-Emergency Resolution #2016-21 - Abatement and Removal of Unsafe Structure at 5820 Missouri Avenue

City Manager Manns introduced the item to Council. Ms. Fierce stated that damage as a result of a vehicle that crashed into the structure. Interested parties, Brigitte and Kim Ballard from Orlando came forward to ask Council for more time as the tax deed sale for this property was scheduled for September 29, 2016. Deputy Mayor Phillips made a motion to extend the effective date until October 14, 2016. The Ballards asked for some additional time. Councilman Starkey asked what their plans were in regards to the property and Ms. Ballard stated they want to fix the property and either sell it or rent it. Councilman Davis made a motion to extend the effective date until October 28, 2016.

Motion made by Chopper Davis and seconded by Bill Phillips. The Motion Passed. 5-0. Ayes: Davis, DeBella Thomas, Marlowe, Phillips, Starkey

- d 2016 Report on Repetitive Loss Floodplain Management Plan

City Manager Manns introduced the item to Council and stated that Ms. Fierce would provide further information to Council. Ms. Fierce stated that this is the progress report that must be done each year for the state. The report notes the accomplishments of enforcing stormwater regulations, removed fifty pounds of debris through bi-annual clean up efforts, purchased property in high hazard areas and continue to participate with Pasco County OEM. Mayor Marlowe opened the floor for public comment. None coming forward, Mayor Marlowe closed public comment and returned the item back to Council.

Councilman Starkey stated that the loss ratio has been 30% since the 1970's but national flood program continues to squeeze homeowners to pay for others across the country. There are no cap on the rates. Councilman Starkey stated that there will be alot of more options for state backed insurance.

Deputy Mayor Phillips stated that we have done a good job to inform the public and that has helped the community with savings on policies.

Mayor Marlowe stated the City of New Port Richey started this plan back twenty years and stormwater assessments for the same length of time. The city has fixed drainage problems whereas the county has deferred repairs. He stated that is why the city faired well during the last storm event.

Motion made by Jeff Starkey and seconded by Bill Phillips. The Motion Passed. 5-0. Ayes: Davis,

DeBella Thomas, Marlowe, Phillips, Starkey

9 Communications

Councilman Starkey thanked the department heads and staff for their hard work during the storm.

Councilwoman DeBella Thomas wished Dr. Cadle a happy birthday. She stated this Sunday is the 9/11 ceremony at 5:00 p.m. in Sims Park.

Mayor Marlowe stated that September 17th is the coastal cleanup and a great opportunity to clean up the city. He stated that Public Works and the Police Department did a great job during the storm. Public Works was out pumping before the storm.

Deputy Mayor Phillips stated he stayed home as staff did not need a Council person telling them how to do their jobs. He offered kudos to the areas we responded to.

Councilman Davis stated that the news had reported evacuations in New Port Richey. He stated that, "In the response to Crystal Feast's letter dated August 26<sup>th</sup>, in trying to build a budget for, you know, coming up here, we're trying to do this with two year old figures because we don't have a FY2015 audit meaning we're using the figures from two years ago. He proposed that an amendment be added to this year's budget stating that no new monies be spent on four different projects:

1. New projects
2. New capital improvements
3. Filling any opening spots
4. Any kind of across the board pay raises or cost of living raises

He stated that this addendum would last for thirty days. After we get the FY2015 audit, after it's been presented to us and give us time to look it over and based on this review then these items can be go ahead and be adopted." He asked Council to take a look at that and think about that.

City Manager Manns thanked all staff for their contributions during the storm event.

10 Adjournment

There being no further business to consider, upon proper motion, the meeting adjourned at 8:03 pm.

(signed) \_\_\_\_\_  
Judy Meyers, Interim City Clerk

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

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