



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
November 1, 2016
7:00 PM

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 Timothy Driscoll, 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 Iezoni, Public Works Director Robert Rivera, Library Director Susan Dillinger, Parks and Recreation Director Elaine Smith, Technology Solutions Director Bryan Weed and Assistant to the City Manager Martin Murphy.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Moment of Silence

4. Approval of October 18, 2016 Regular Meeting Minutes

Motion was made to approve the minutes as presented.

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

5. Proclamation - World Pancreatic Cancer Day

Mayor Marlowe read the proclamation proclaiming November 17, 2016 as World Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Day. Suzy and Perry Swenson along with Joanne Wazocha from the Tampa Bay Affiliate of the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network accepted the parchment.

6. Proclamation - National Adoption Month

Mayor Marlowe read the proclamation proclaiming the month of November as National Adoption Month and November 4, 2016 as National Adoption Day. Megan Slaughter with The Heart Gallery

accepted the parchment.

7 Audit Presentation of FY15 Financial Statements

City Manager Manns introduced the item to Council. She introduced Andrew Laflin and Sue Pagan from Clifton Larsen Allen who then made the presentation to Council. Mr. Laflin stated that they are towards the end of audit process and the CAFR is beginning to be prepared. Mr. Laflin stated the reports provided are the independent auditor's report, internal control, the management letter, communication to governance and independent accountant's report. Two material weaknesses the were review of transactions and reconciliation of account balances and payroll processing. Uncorrected prior year weaknesses were red light camera reconciliation, bank reconciliations, financial reporting and non-compliance in investment policy. In the management letter weaknesses were improper utility rates billed and IT security. Audit procedures performed showed risks with payroll processing and utility customer accounts. Non-traditional audit included IT controls and telecom cost savings. Significant changes from 2014 to 2015 were decrease in a charge for services and an increase on fines and forfeitures. Public safety expenses increased. Capital outlay showed some projects that were initiated. Proprietary funds showed an increase in water and sewer fund and on expense side was due to the allocations between general fund and water and sewer fund.

Mayor Marlowe stated in order for the city to correct the items that information needs to be received before end of the fiscal year. Mr. Laflin stated a more timely reconciliation of accounts will help expedite the process. Mayor Marlowe stated that it was unacceptable to receive the information so late. Councilman Starkey asked if more manpower in the Finance Department would help get the city caught up. Deputy Mayor Phillips asked if the auditors have seen a similar situation in any of their other cities. Mayor Marlowe asked if the FY16 audit would be available by spring and Mr. Laflin stated that may be an achievable goal. Councilwoman DeBella Thomas stated that we know there are internal issues but it sounds like the city is on the right track to catch up. She also asked if the proper procedures are now in place moving forward. City Manager Manns stated that a large part of the delay of the audit report is the building of the proper audit procedures. City Manager Manns stated she believed that Ms. Feast and Ms. Dunn were on the right track and three quarters of the audit findings are being remedied. Ms. Feast stated that FY16 audit will be scheduled for February/March 2017. Councilwoman DeBella Thomas suggested scheduling quarterly work sessions to review financials. Deputy Mayor Phillips stated that the police and fire pensions are audited by third parties and that we have to rely on their audits to be correct.

8 Vox Pop for Items Not Listed on the Agenda or Listed on Consent Agenda

Mayor Marlowe opened the floor for public comment. Scott Chittum came forward to see if City Council would consider renaming the Main Street Bridge after Dr. Grassin. Mr. Chittum read from a newspaper article written years ago where it stated that Dr. Grassin was instrumental in securing the first bridge.

John Gallagher came forward to comment on the audit report. He stated that the auditors only can work with the numbers they are given. He suggested to Council that they direct the City Manager to provide monthly updates on financial issues. He stated if the city is worried about the actuaries of the pension boards then the city should hire them instead of the independent boards.

Thomas Postma came forward wanting to know why his alley is the only one with no parking on the right of way. He stated he has no driveway and the only way to get in and out of his yard is through the alleyway.

No one else coming forward, Mayor Marlowe closed Vox Pop.

9 Consent Agenda

Motion was made to accept the Consent Agenda. Deputy Mayor Phillips reiterated his concerns over police pension decisions that are being made without the city knowing about it. Councilman Davis

stated he would like the minutes received in a more timely fashion. City Manager Manns stated that the minutes are taken by Board volunteers and that they would be asked to submit the minutes in a more timely manner.

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

- a Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Minutes - September 2016
- b Police Pension Board Minutes - September 27, 2016
- c Purchases/Payments for City Council Approval

10 Public Reading of Ordinances

- a First Reading, Ordinance #2016-2098: Land Use Plan Amendment - Hyundai of New Port Richey

City Manager Manns stated that Development Director Fierce would be introducing the item to Council. City Attorney Driscoll then read the proposed ordinance by title only. Ms. Fierce then made a presentation to Council. She stated the proposal is for Hyundai to expand its inventory space of the property. Ms. Fierce stated the project engineer was in attendance representing the applicant. Ms. Fierce stated the applicant is requesting to change the land use category so that it matches the current zoning. Deputy Mayor Phillips asked if Council could request a larger buffer requirement and Ms. Fierce stated that Council could ask for more buffer but deferred the question to the city attorney. Ms. Fierce stated that this proposal does meet concurrency requirements and is consistent with the Comprehensive Plan. City Attorney Driscoll stated that land use and zoning must be consistent. Roland Dove from Spring Engineering came forward to state that a retention pond and landscaping buffers would be there to provide substantial buffering. He stated that not all ten acres will be used for parking.

Upon opening the floor to public comment, Mary Ann Lawrence came forward and asked for clarification that there is a wetland on the north side of the property. If it confirms that there is a wetland then development cannot take place. Diane Gelman came forward and asked when the wetland survey expected to be completed and what was the process after the results are completed.

With no one coming forward, Mayor Marlowe returned the floor to Council. Motion was made to continue the item until the results of the jurisdictional survey were received.

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

- b First Reading, Ordinance #2016-2095: Comprehensive Plan Amendment - Downtown and Downtown Core Categories Revised

City Manager Manns stated that Development Director Fierce would be introducing the item to Council. City Attorney Driscoll read the proposed ordinance by title only. Ms. Fierce then made a presentation to Council. She stated this is an increase in density from 15 to 20 units and downtown core increase from 30 to 40 units per acre.

Upon opening the floor to public comment, no one came forward so Mayor Marlowe closed public comment and returned the floor to Council. Deputy Mayor Phillips asked if the Residences at Orange Lake will maximize the development and Ms. Fierce stated yes. Councilman Davis inquired about parking and Ms. Fierce stated that staff was currently working on commercial and multi-use parking regulations. Councilman Starkey asked about Mr. Starkey's development and Ms. Fierce stated that once the property is sold to Mr. Starkey all of the property will be rezoned. Councilman Starkey stated that the city needs to take steps to assure that design standards are upheld. Ms. Fierce stated that

there are only design guidelines in the downtown district. Councilwoman DeBella Thomas stated that the kind of developments the city are looking for are similar to Mr. Starkey's project. She also stated that the city needs to stay on top of code issues.

Motion was made to approve the ordinance upon its first reading.

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

c First Reading, Ordinance #2016-2091 Relating to Noise

City Attorney Driscoll read the proposed ordinance by title only. Upon opening the floor to public comment, Ron Holliday came forward. He stated that he hoped this ordinance will be the issue in his neighborhood. He also addressed the concerns raised by Mr. Postma during Vox Pop. With no one else coming forward, Mayor Marlowe closed public comment and returned the floor to Council. Deputy Mayor Phillips asked Chief Bogart to provide insight on the proposed ordinance. Chief Bogart stated that the police routinely gets complaints regarding noise throughout the city. Chief Bogart stated the current code is very subjective and the purpose of the ordinance was to provide measurable amount levels for both daytime and nighttime hours. Councilman Starkey asked how this would be measured. Chief Bogart stated that the ordinance is to ensure the proper person is held responsible as stated in Section 14-23(b) of the proposed ordinance. Deputy Mayor Phillips stated he wanted the information disseminated to all the non-residential areas. He also asked what about consistently barking dogs.

Motion was made to approve the ordinance upon its first reading.

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

11 Business Items

a Confirmation of Joan Nelson Hook to the Pasco County Library Board

City Manager Manns introduced the item to Council. She stated that the Friends of the Library were seeking Council's approval of their nomination of Ms. Joan Nelson Hook to serve as their representative on the Pasco County Library Board. Upon opening the floor to public comment, no one came forward therefore Mayor Marlowe closed public comment and returned the floor to Council. Motion was made to approve the item as presented.

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

b Mural Design - Little Corona's Cigar Lounge - 6324 Grand Boulevard

City Manager Manns introduced the item to Council. She stated that the purpose of the agenda item was to establish a mural on the south wall of their establishment. Upon opening the floor to public comment, no one came forward therefore Mayor Marlowe closed public comment and returned the floor to Council. Councilwoman DeBella Thomas asked if the mural that was in the packet was an actual rendering of the mural and Ms. Quaretti stated that yes it was. Motion was made to approve the item as presented.

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

c 2015/2016 Roadway Striping Project Close-Out

City Manager Manns introduced the item to Council. She stated that the purpose of the agenda item was to request approval for the final deductive change order and approve the final pay request. Upon opening the floor to public comment, no one came forward therefore Mayor Marlowe closed public

comment and returned the floor to Council. Motion was made to approve the item as presented.

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

d Fee Resolution for Parks and Recreation

City Manager Manns introduced the item to Council. She stated that this agenda item was brought back before Council after the revisions requested by Council in October were incorporated. Upon opening the floor to public comment, no one came forward therefore Mayor Marlowe closed public comment and returned the floor to Council. Mayor Marlowe stated that he received an e-mail from Bob Smallwood asking for a larger cityresident discount and Ms. Manns stated that 15% was the industry standard. Councilwoman DeBella Thomas stated that the City of Clearwater charges an additional fee for non-users instead of offering a resident discount. Councilman Davis stated that the stats on Largo is that it is a larger city population and physical size. Largo's fees are based on usage of facilities. Deputy Mayor Phillips recommended putting the proposed fees in to effect and then revisit after the first of the year. Councilwoman DeBella Thomas wanted to see a higher residential discount. Councilman Starkey proposed 20% and Councilman Davis suggested 25%. Councilwoman DeBella Thomas amended motion to 20%. City Attorney Driscoll read the resolution by title.

Motion was made to approve the item.

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

e Three Minute Report: Police Department

12 Communications

Mayor Marlowe thanked the Friends of the Hacienda for their event. He stated that December 3rd will be the next tours. He agreed with pursuing naming the Main Street bridge after Dr. Grassin. He agreed with Mr. Gallagher's comments about regular financial updates. He stated that Mr. Ottaway has reported that people are visiting the new Beef's and then coming to his place for ice cream.

Councilman Starkey stated that he had also received the same e-mail as the rest of his colleagues about being turned away on Saturday however you cannot hold city responsible for the crowd that turned out for the event. He agreed that Sims Park has taken a beating with all of the events that are going on in the park. He thanked Ms. Manns for getting the playground surface cleaned and will that it will be cleaned on monthly basis. He agreed with Deputy Mayor's comments about the seawall on Drinkard Drive and how it was built without permit.

Councilwoman DeBella Thomas thanked those who spoke at Vox Pop. She stated that when the electronic sign boards are used crowds for events are larger.

Deputy Mayor Phillips asked about the seawall on Drinkard Drive. The actions taken have deeply caused some residents to consider moving out of the city. He stated he would like to give serious consideration to naming the bridge after Dr. Grassin. He stated that Mr. Gallagher has made some valid points in regards to pension board liabilities, the independent study and budget schedules. He would like to know a firm date for the CAFR to be completed. He extended a thank you to the Bikefest organizers but stated he would not be able to attend the thank you party. He would like to utilize message boards for the parks master plan. He expressed his concerns that organizers are using and damaging the park and the city does not know about it. He reiterated his comments from earlier about taking a time out to see where finances stand.

Councilman Davis stated he was at the Hacienda tours on Saturday. He thanked Greg Smith and his wife for the event. He also thanked public works crews and fire department staff.

City Manager Manns introduced the new Assistant to the City Manager, Martin Murphy.

13 Adjournment

There being no further business to consider, upon proper motion, the meeting adjourned at 10:22 pm.

(signed) _____
Judy Meyers, City Clerk

Approved: _____ (date)

Initialed: _____