



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

April 18, 2017

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 Iezzoni, Public Works Director Robert Rivera, 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 Approval of April 4, 2017 Regular Meeting Minutes

Motion was made to approve the minutes as presented.

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

5 Oath of Office for Mayor

Mayor Rob Marlowe took the oath of office for his second term.

6 Appointment of Deputy Mayor

Councilman Davis moved that Deputy Mayor Phillips remain serving as Deputy Mayor however Councilman Phillips declined the nomination due to his work schedule. Councilman Phillips then

made a motion to appoint Councilman Jeff Starkey to serve as Deputy Mayor. Councilman Starkey accepted the nomination.

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

- 7 Introduction of New Police Officer Ryan Warner

- 8 Proclamation - PowerTalk 21 Day

Jeannine Timmins from MADD accepted the parchment from Mayor Marlowe.

- 9 Proclamation - National Medical Laboratory Professionals Week

Jose Villacis from Physician's Stat Lab accepted the parchment from Mayor Marlowe.

- 10 Proclamation - Pay It Forward Day

Christin Hamacher from Home Care Now accepted the parchment from Mayor Marlowe.

- 11 Proclamation - Beta Sigma Phi Day

Mayor Marlowe read the proclamation by title only.

- 12 Proclamation - Volunteer Recognition Day

Mayor Marlowe read the proclamation by title only.

- 13 Proclamation - National Volunteer Week and CARES Volunteer Recognition

Mayor Marlowe read the proclamation by title only.

- 14 Vox Pop for Items Not Listed on the Agenda or Listed on Consent Agenda

Mayor Marlowe opened the floor for public comment. Drew Bochetti came forward to ask that landlords be held accountable for water service. He also stated that he called 911 for a hit and run in the city and no one responded. He stated the city did not have a record of his call. City Manager Manns stated that she would look into both matters brought forth by Mr. Bochetti. With no one else coming forward for public comment, Mayor Marlowe closed Vox Pop.

- 15 Consent Agenda

Motion was made to accept the Consent Agenda.

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

- a Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Minutes - February 2017

- b Purchases/Payments for City Council Approval

- 16 Business Items

- a Consideration of Appointments to Intergovernmental Committees

City Council agreed to retain the same Intergovernmental Committee schedule of appointments as the previous year. The appointments are as follows:

Mayor Marlowe - Tampa Bay Water (Motion: JDBT2nd: CD)

Deputy Mayor Starkey - Pasco County Metropolitan Planning Organization (Motion: CD 2nd:

JDBT)

Councilman Phillips - Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council (Motion: JS 2nd: CD)

Councilwoman DeBella Thomas - Suncoast League of Cities (Motion: BP 2nd: CD)

Councilman Davis - Pasco County Tourist Development Council and alternate to the Pasco County Metropolitan Planning Organization (Motion: JS 2nd: JDBT)

Motion made by Jeff Starkey and seconded by Judy DeBella Thomas. The Motion Passed. 5-0.

Ayes: Davis, DeBella Thomas, Marlowe, Phillips, Starkey

b Quarterly Cash & Investment Report

City Manager Manns introduced Finance Director Crystal Feast who then made a presentation to Council. She stated that as part of the city's investment policy a quarterly cash and investment report is to be prepared and presented to Council for their review. Councilman Phillips asked about the net savings and if the City were to use those savings to borrow further for five to ten years how much could the City borrow with the net savings. He stated that the City was comfortable paying higher interest rates in the past but now we have savings. He stated he would like to have revenue streams identified before the strategic planning work session as there is a possibility of having to move some projects up in priority without ad valorem, Penny for Pasco or Local Option Gas Tax dollars. Mayor Marlowe asked where the City is on the audit. Ms. Feast stated that the process is ongoing and the projected timeline is to have the audit complete by the end of May.

c 2015 Downtown Landscaping Improvements Project - ITB No. 17-006 Bid Award

City Manager Manns introduced the item to Council. She stated that Council is asked to review a bid award for the Downtown Landscaping Project in the amount of \$359,065.25 to Morelli Landscaping. Public Works Director Robert Rivera then made a brief presentation to Council. He stated the main elements involve the replanting of the Drake elms, center landscape medians and landscaping at City Hall. He stated that Penny for Paso funds would be used for this project.

Upon opening the floor to public comment, no one came forward therefore Mayor Marlowe returned the floor to Council. Councilman Davis asked if Morelli Landscaping did the US19 medians. Councilwoman DeBella Thomas asked what is a Chinese palm as she is not a fan of palm trees. She also asked if it blooms. Mr. Rivera stated that it is standard palm tree and there is no bloom but it will stay green year round. It is a slow growing tree and cold tolerant. It will give frontage back to the storefronts and provide for awnings. Councilman Phillips stated that this has been talked about for three years. He stated that Council has discussed eliminating some tree grates and how it is sunny with no awnings. He stated that the Drake elms are dirty but at the end of the day we have to do something. Mayor Marlowe stated he is not a fan of palms either. Deputy Mayor Starkey stated that the City is giving Morelli a lot of money after we just gave them a lot of money for the US19 medians. He stated the perennial peanuts are dead and look worse now than when he brought it up last month. Councilman Davis agreed that the US19 medians look terrible. He stated he would like to tie phase one and two together. Mayor Marlowe stated he was just at the Tampa Bay Water Board meeting and that we are in drought conditions. Councilman Phillips asked about a timeline for phase two. He asked at what point will we be blocking US19 to plant. Mr. Rivera stated a pre-construction meeting is later this week. He stated that US19 phase two is ready to go and should be completed in 120 days. Councilman Davis stated he did not want to start phase two while we are in drought conditions. Mr. Rivera stated the type of plants chosen were chosen based on limited watering conditions. Councilman Phillips suggested work start July 1st and have the contractor sign a letter acknowledging the points made by Council and that they understand what the expectations are. Councilwoman DeBella Thomas stated that when you are planting and transplanting they need to be soaked so they will take and we are now entering into the driest season. She stated we should wait. Motion was made to approve the item as presented.

Motion made by Chopper Davis and seconded by Bill Phillips. The Motion Passed. 4-1. Ayes:

Davis, Marlowe, Phillips, Starkey Nays: DeBella Thomas

d 2015 Marine Parkway Multi-Use Path Project Close-Out

City Manager Manns introduced the item to Council. She stated that the agenda item was twofold. First to request a deductive change order in the amount of \$14,804.50 and then to authorize a final pay request in the amount of \$154,841.37. Upon opening the floor to public comment, no one came forward therefore Mayor Marlowe returned the floor to Council. Motion was made to approve the item as presented.

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

e Resolution No. 2017-18: Supporting Temporary Resolution No. 12914 Regarding the Removal of the Federal Tax Exemption on Interest Earned from Municipal Bonds

City Attorney Driscoll read resolution by title only. City Manager Manns introduced the item to Council. She stated that the purpose of this agenda is to influence deliberations going on to repeal the tax exemption on municipal bonds. The tax exemption allows the City to enhance public facilities. City Manager Manns asked Council to formally declare their opposition to this legislation. Upon opening the floor to public comment, no one came forward therefore Mayor Marlowe 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

f Cotee River Seafest - Revised Site Plan

City Manager Manns introduced the item to Council. She stated that this item was approved by Council at their meeting on April 4, 2017 and was back before them this evening with a revised site plan as New Port Richey Main Street is now requesting a partial street closure. Upon opening the floor to public comment, no one came forward therefore Mayor Marlowe returned the floor to Council. Deputy Mayor Starkey asked about the safety of the cars traveling down the alley and Mayor Marlowe replied that neither he nor any of the businesses affected have had any traffic issues. Councilman Phillips asked if this was the only change as it appeared there were more vendors and boats on the revised map. City Manager replied that yes the street closure is the only change. Motion was made to approve the item as presented.

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

g Three Minute Report: Parks and Recreation

17 Communications

Mayor Marlowe stated he is thrilled to be back as mayor. He stated that there are challenges such as downtown parking and residential streets. He stated we need to look at annexation especially near Southgate. He suggested working with Port Richey to see what can be annexed and hold a joint work session. He stated he received a phone call from a resident near Massachusetts who stated that he is a City of New Port Richey water customer and proceeded to ask when he can get sewer and annexed into the city. He stated that traffic enforcement is a priority especially regarding red light cameras as the contract is coming up for renewal. He was pleased to see enforcement by the Post Office last weekend. He suggested looking at traffic enforcement as its own section in the police department and that it should be looked at as we begin budget season.

Councilman Phillips stated the movies in the park continues to grow. Next time the Environmental

Committee comes to talk about Loquat Festival we need to find a larger home as Frances Avenue Park was overrun. He wanted to thank Elaine Smith for the special meet and greet with Skylar Diggins. He thanked the street parade group who put together the Chasco float and suggested putting the group back into the Parks and Recreation Department as the the float displayed city pride instead of just passing out beads. He stated he would not be in attendance for the Kids to Parks Day and he would be attending the May 2, 2017 Council meeting via Skype. He congratulated Mayor Marlowe on his re-election. He stated he just let the negative mailers pass as they were full of misinformation. He would like by the end of the week to understand the set up and agenda for work session next Tuesday. He stated we need to follow what the state legislature is proposing in regards to the filing of financial details. Finally, he stated that during the election the other candidate did not have to show his property address but in his mailers he put his address. If there was liability back to the city he wanted to make sure that all papers were filed correctly. He wanted clarification on when Mayor is elected. He stated it should have been last year and not this year. He wanted to make sure we are in compliance with our Charter.

Councilwoman DeBella Thomas congratulated Mayor Marlowe on his re-election and Councilman Starkey on his deputy mayor appointment. She stated that she has speaking engagements all over West Pasco and it is exciting to see the places she goes where the people are deciding where to go for lunch since there are so many restaurants in the downtown area. She stated that as far up as Hudson there are people talking about our city. It is exciting to hear people talk about New Port Richey.

Deputy Mayor Starkey congratulated Mayor Marlowe on his re-election. He agreed with the Mayor's comments that we do have issues but we are working on downtown parking. He stated there is a lot of positive buzz about the city and the downtown area.

Councilman Davis congratulated Mayor Marlowe on his re-election. He stated that he has brought up numerous times the ALICE report and how the percentage of residents in need has dropped from 65% to only 63% and that we need to look at residents and see how to help.

18 Adjournment

There being no further business to consider, upon proper motion, the meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm.

(signed) _____
Judy Meyers, City Clerk

Approved: _____ (date)

Initialed: _____