



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

May 16, 2017

6:00 PM

**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 Jeff Starkey, Councilman Bill Phillips and Councilman Chopper Davis. Councilwoman Judy DeBella Thomas appeared telephonically.

Also in attendance were City Manager Debbie Manns, City Attorney Timothy Driscoll, City Clerk Judy Meyers, Finance Director Crystal Feast and Public Works Director Robert Rivera.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

2 Stormwater & Street Lighting Assessments Rate Studies - Page 2

City Manager Manns introduced the item to Council. She stated that the City contracted with Ayres Associates for an updated study of stormwater and streetlight assessments. Finance Director Crystal Feast introduced Jan Ash and Michael Stoffel from Ayres Associates who then presented the findings of the study to Council. Ms. Ash highlighted the services performed by their company and a history of the company. She stated that Ayres represents many utilities in the Tampa Bay area.

Mr. Stoffel then spoke as to the findings of the study. He stated Ayres reviewed the City's existing methodology and how costs are allocated and if the City is recovering all the costs through the assessment. Mr. Stoffel then discussed special assessments and how they are imposed and what laws they fall under.

Mr. Stoffel then presented an overview of Florida's Stormwater programs:

- Approximately 165 stormwater utilities across the state
- Supreme Court upholds validity
- Public support for user fees vs. general taxes
- Unfunded mandates continue to increase as government pass down regulations
- 70% use impervious method for calculating assessment

- Average ERU 2,842 (NPR 2,629)- data from 2011
- Average revenue \$3.66 million (NPR \$1.05 million) but skewed due to difference in populations of communities
- Annual average rate \$78.84 (NPR \$77.36)

Mr. Stoffel stated the City's stormwater assessments were implemented in 2001 and are collected as part of the tax bill. Undeveloped parcels are not charged but undeveloped parcels with impervious surfaces are.

Revenue requirements include operation and maintenance expenditures, in the 5-Year CIP, and the additional costs to comply with MS4 permit.

The five year assessable costs average \$1.25 million.

Apportionment methodology going forward recommended that general parcel be charged one ERU 2,629 sq ft of impervious area. Undeveloped parcels charged 35% of one ERU per average residential parcel size= 7,204 sq. ft. Final recommendation is no rate increase in stormwater rate for the next five years.

City Council then discussed the possibility of rounding up to \$80/ERU to be able to address more problem areas, other stormwater projects and where the city falls in the Florida average.

Mr. Stoffel then presented an overview of the City's Streetlight Assessment program:

- Implemented in 2003
- Based on building square footage
- Collected on tax bill
- Undeveloped parcels are not charged

Mr. Stoffel stated that revenues showed a reduction due to the lighting along US19 is provided by FDOT. The five year Proforma showed total assessable costs at \$477,441. He then discussed the City's apportionment methodology of 1 ERU charged per residential parcel, general parcels charged 1 ERU per 1,860 sq. ft of building area, undeveloped parcels charged 26% of 1 ERU. Mr. Stoffel stated that at the current rate the City would under collect by \$53 over five years.

City Council then discussed streetlighting and the lack of lighting in certain areas. Mr. Rivera stated that 81 lights needed immediate attention and that the inventory was just updated to include gps coordinates.

The next steps included the Council acceptance of the final rate study on June 20th, Assessment resolutions in September, and would appear on the tax bill in October.

3 Adjournment

There being no further business to consider, upon proper motion, the meeting adjourned at 6:53 pm.

Approved: _____ (date)

_____ (signed)

Initialed: _____

Judy Meyers, City Clerk