



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

November 21, 2017

5:30 PM

ORDER OF
BUSINESS

1 Call to Order - Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Rob Marlowe at 5:30 pm. Those in attendance were, Deputy Mayor Jeff Starkey, Councilwoman Judy DeBella Thomas and Councilman Chopper Davis. Councilman Bill Phillips was excused.

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, Library Director Andi Figart, Parks and Recreation Director Elaine Smith, Technology Solutions Director Bryan Weed, Human Resources Manager Bernie Wharran and Assistant Public Works Director Barret Doe.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

2 2018 Legislative Delegation Priorities - Page 2

City Manager Manns introduced the item to Council. She stated the purpose of the work session was to formalize the list of legislative priorities to be presented at the Pasco County Legislative Delegation meeting on Monday, November 27th at Wesley Chapel High School. She stated the meeting is the time where city officials can urge the legislature on certain bills. The upcoming session is looking to be more spirited than last year's session in regards to home rule and protection of services. City Manager Manns recommended supporting each of the Florida League of Cities' priorities outlined in their Action Agenda. The first priority was Community Redevelopment Agencies. This legislation should be supported as the City has a city-wide CRA. This should be the first and foremost issue. Councilman Davis stated that without CRA's that could be the end of some cities. Mayor Marlowe stated that may be the intent of the legislature to strangle some of the smaller cities as local government is the closest to the people. Councilman Davis stated that decisions made by local government affect people every day. Councilwoman DeBella Thomas agreed that this may be a control issue by the State. City Manager Manns stated that this issue was so critical it may warrant hiring a lobbyist to represent

the city. The next issue was to increase funding for transportation projects. Would like a standardized method used for calculation. The next issue was water quality issues. Legislation that provides water infrastructure improvements would be of benefit to the city. The next issue was public records reform and the need to reduce tactics and disrupt city operations. We are routinely a party to public records requests and any errors can be very costly. Mayor Marlowe stated that needs to be addressed. Another issue was effective public notice and would request to be allowed to advertise public notices in other avenues besides traditional print media. The next issue was sober homes. City Manager Manns stated back in 2010 there were funds allocated to substance abuse but did not provide for oversight. In turn, many communities have a high number of sober homes without any certification of what is going on. Deputy Mayor stated that Rotary is working with families to help get them out of extended stay motels into affordable housing. Additional topics to be addressed included asking for support for municipal projects such as the US19 Pedestrian Overpass, the Multi-Use Trail and Downtown Parking Garage. In addition, a request for reform in the communications tax reform as different providers charge different amounts. Regulated fees would make it a fair playing field. Mayor Marlowe stated he would like to add our opposition to any legislation regarding tree removal as we are a Tree City USA. Deputy Mayor Starkey stated that he goes to different counties and sees the different sports complexes that are built and asked if any state funding ever comes for the development of those types of things. Councilman Davis stated that the current bed tax just increased. Ms. Smith came forward and stated that most of the funding she is familiar with comes from the bed tax. She stated that private funding provides a lot for facilities. Councilwoman DeBella Thomas stated that the FLC also was asking for support of Proposal 61.

3 Adjournment

There being no further business to consider, upon proper motion, the meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Approved: _____ (date)

_____ (signed)

Initialed: _____

Judy Meyers, City Clerk