



**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**

**July 3, 2018  
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 Jeff Starkey, Councilman Chopper Davis, Councilman Peter Altman and Councilman Matt Murphy.

Also in attendance were City Manager Debbie Manns, City Attorney Timothy Driscoll, City Clerk Judy Meyers, Police Chief Kim Bogart, Finance Director Crystal Feast, Fire Chief Chris Fitch, Economic Development Director Mario Iezzoni, Public Works Director Robert Rivera, Library Director Andi Figart, 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 June 19, 2018 Regular Meeting Minutes

Motion was made to approve the minutes as presented.

Motion made by Pete Altman and seconded by Chopper Davis. The Motion Passed. 5-0. Ayes: Altman, Davis, Marlowe, Murphy, Starkey

5. Proclamation - Parks and Recreation Month & 50th Anniversary of the Parks and Recreation Department

Mayor Marlowe presented the parchment to Parks and Recreation Director Elaine Smith.

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

Mayor Marlowe opened the floor for public comment. Don House came forward and stated he is

trying to help one of his employees buy a home. There is an issue with the flood level. He pulled up the flood map and it was marginal whether or not the property was in the flood level. The City has adopted a flood level one foot higher than what is on the map. The people he has spoken to were not aware of this rule. Staff told him that it is a State rule. He made the request that when someone comes into the development department that they receive as much information and as accurate as possible. He then disbursed flood maps to Council. City Manager Manns stated she would follow up to make sure the right path is going down in regards to this property.

Theresa Shelton came forward and stated she received a citation for mildew on one of her rental homes. She thought it was petty. She said the house will go on the market to be sold. She showed pictures of a neighbor's property and said that she felt it was unfair that rental standards were higher than homeowners. City Manager Manns stated that staff will look at the adjacent properties and will give 30 days to fix any issues. With no one else coming forward for public comment, Mayor Marlowe closed Vox Pop.

7 Consent Agenda

Motion was made to accept the Consent Agenda.

Motion made by Chopper Davis and seconded by Jeff Starkey. The Motion Passed. 5-0. Ayes: Altman, Davis, Marlowe, Murphy, Starkey

- a Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Minutes - May 2018
- b Cultural Affairs Committee Minutes - May 2018
- c Purchases/Payments for City Council Approval

8 Public Reading of Ordinances

- a Second Reading - Ordinance No. 2018-2140: Amendments to Chapter 14 Relating to Drug Paraphernalia

City Attorney Driscoll read the proposed ordinance by title only. City Manager Manns stated this ordinance was to create regulation on smoking devices. Upon opening the floor to public comment, came forward therefore Mayor Marlowe returned the floor to Council. Motion was made to approve the ordinance upon its second and final reading.

Motion made by Chopper Davis and seconded by Matt Murphy. The Motion Passed. 5-0. Ayes: Altman, Davis, Marlowe, Murphy, Starkey

9 Business Items

- a 2015 Downtown Landscape Improvements Project Close Out – Consideration for Approval

City Manager Manns introduced Public Works Director Robert Rivera who then presented the item to Council. He stated that the purpose of this agenda item was to approve a deductive change order in the amount of \$1,106.80 and a final pay request in the amount of \$53,209.97 to Morelli Landscaping, Inc. for the 2015 Downtown Landscape Improvements Project. This project included the removal of the Drake Elms, various downtown landscaping and irrigation system at City Hall. 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 Jeff Starkey. The Motion Passed. 5-0. Ayes:

Altman, Davis, Marlowe, Murphy, Starkey

b Presentation of Budget Process, Estimated Revenues, and Proposed Millage Rate

City Manager Manns introduced the item to Council. She stated that the purpose of this agenda item was to review the budget process, estimated revenues and tentative millage rate for the upcoming fiscal year. She then introduced Finance Director Crystal Feast who then made a presentation to Council. Ms. Feast began her presentation by reviewing the budget process so far. Departments have been working on their budgets since April. Department meetings were held with the City Manager and Finance Department in June to review budget requests. The Final Taxable Values are due from the Property Appraiser during the month of July. City Manager Manns stated the values should be close to an 8% increase.

Ms. Feast then discussed revenues and challenges. Positive changes included increase in property values and population. Overall pension costs for police and fire are due to decrease in the upcoming fiscal year. There are no anticipated in costs for health insurance. City Manager Manns stated when she started four years ago contributions were almost 45% for pension costs and through collective bargaining the unions have agreed to the decrease. Ms. Feast stated that challenges included a slight increase in FRS rates. Anticipate a 10% increase in General Liability, Property and Flood Insurance. There is also a proposal for a COLA of 3%.

Ms. Feast then highlighted the City's revenue sources. Projected ad valorem is \$4.8 million. She stated that the proposed millage rate would be 8.9000. The City has consistently worked to lower the millage over the last four years. State revenues are projected to be \$2.5 million. Once the State releases the final projections they will be incorporated in the budget draft. Licenses and permits are estimated to be \$1.6 million. Charges for services are estimated to be \$940k. Fines & forfeitures are estimated to be \$2.2 million. Special Assessments rates are being proposed as the same as last year. Penny for Pasco funds are estimated \$2.5 million. Ad Valorem for the CRA is estimated to be \$1.1 million. This increase is due to increased property values within the CRA. Water & sewer services are estimated at \$15.1 million due to a 4% increase in rates. LOGT is estimated to be \$807k. New to the budget is direct funding for CDBG funds estimated at \$750k.

Ms. Feast then highlighted the next steps which included budget work sessions for department presentations, CRA Budget review and approval of certification of taxable value. Budget hearings will be held in September.

Councilman Altman asked for the dollar amount of the taxable value. Ms. Feast stated it was around \$573 million. Councilman Altman talked about the Supreme Court ruling about sales tax for online purchases. Councilman Altman stated he would like to see an in-depth analysis for the entire cost of the red light camera program. In regards to water and sewer revenue, the volume and size makes up almost half of the city. In 2002 the base property values were established at \$367 million. By 2008 the base values were at \$780 million. The large tax increment gave city the fuel to secure the bonds to fund redevelopment activity. Financial report in 2014 showed CRA increment less than 20% of what it was during the good years. The solution at the time was a transfer from utilities to pay off one third of debt and the City's General Fund to have and to hold that debt intergovernmentally with the CRA. Gave a couple of years for the CRA to breathe before payments from back to the General Fund. When you reflect on the revenue coming in from the ad valorem taxes it is really not General Fund revenue but CRA.

Mayor Marlowe stated the internet sales tax is a mixed blessing. Historically retailers have not had to deal with sales tax issue for out of state sales. There are over 4,000 taxing authorities each with their own taxing rate and collection processes. If the new ruling results in better collection then we can expect our share. He agreed with Councilman Altman's comments regarding right hand turns under the red light camera program.

Deputy Mayor Starkey asked Chief Bogart unless it says you can turn right on red he was pretty sure it was against the law to do rolling right turns. Chief Bogart replied if an officer sees right on red and the driver does not stop he can cite them. Process to review if they receive the citation. Deputy Mayor

stated his wife was in an accident at Main and US19 when she stopped to make her right on red. He thanked City Manager Manns for her renegotiations regarding CDBG funds. He attributes the increase in ad valorem to the positive changes in our city that are finally paying off.

c Three Minute Report: Police Department

10 Communications

Mayor Marlowe stated the Main Street event was interesting. Downtown business owners group is becoming increasingly active. The first event was a bike ride and attracted 202 people. They are planning various events this month. He stated that Bob Langford talked about the Hacienda to the group of riders. He acknowledged Marilyn deChant as she is the new director for New Port Richey Main Street and wished her luck.

Deputy Mayor Starkey would like to see the sidewalks downtown pressure washed. Hope everyone enjoyed the fireworks. Not happy with the commercialization of the park during certain events and referred to the several cars that were brought in from KIA. He stated that he met with the Cultural Affairs Committee chair about using the incubator as a children's museum.

Councilman Altman wanted to follow up with Deputy Mayor's comments and asked if we could we sponsor a bollard to keep cars from entering Sims Park and City Manager Manns stated she would prefer to establish a curb on Main Street. The newest brewpub is having difficulty with existing ordinance regarding outdoor seating and fencing. He discussed the issue with the City Manager and stated if anything needed to be done by Council in the interim until the new ordinance was in place it would try to be addressed. He stated that he had a conversation earlier today with the high school regarding using the incubator for school programming for the arts.

11 Adjournment

There being no further business to consider, upon proper motion, the meeting adjourned at 8:22 p.m.

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

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

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









