



**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

October 16, 2018

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 Chopper Davis, Councilman Peter Altman and Councilman Matt Murphy.

Also in attendance were City Manager Debbie Manns, City Attorney Timothy Driscoll, Deputy City Clerk Joyce Haasnoot, Police Chief Kim Bogart, Fire Chief Chris Fitch, Public Works Director Robert Rivera, Library Director Andi Figart, Parks and Recreation Director Elaine Smith, Development Director George Romagnoli, Technology Solutions Director Bryan Weed and Human Resources Manager Bernie Wharran.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

2 Interlocal Service Boundary Agreement - Page 2

City Manager Manns introduced the item to Council. She stated the purpose of this work session was to discuss entering into an Interlocal Service Boundary Agreement for municipal services with Pasco County. City Manager Manns explained that rather than annexation, Florida Statute allows this as an alternate means for providing municipal services outside of the City boundaries. The reason for an Interlocal Agreement is to provide sensible services and avoid duplication of services. Services that are normally included are:

- Public Safety
- Fire and Emergency Medical Services
- Water and Wastewater
- Road Ownership, Construction and Maintenance
- Conservation, Parks and Recreation
- Stormwater Management and Drainage

In order to determine to move forward with an Interlocal Agreement Council must identify a

municipal service area within the unincorporated area of Pasco County. If Council decides to move forward with an agreement, the first step would be a resolution of intent to enter negotiations within a pre-determined area at a future council meeting.

City Attorney Driscoll summarized Chapter 171, Florida Statutes. The resolution must establish a boundary area including a map or legal description. The resolution must designate what services the city wants the county to consider. The county will then have 60 days to introduce their own resolution to begin negotiations, which is considered a response to the city resolution. Then another 60 day period where both agencies negotiate the terms of the agreement. When both agencies reach an agreement, it is approved via an ordinance. Terms can be 20 years or less and may be renewed at the same terms.

Councilman Davis asked if we already have an agreement in place with the County. City Manager Manns stated we have an Interlocal Agreement to provide water and sewer services to areas outside the city boundaries. Councilman Davis inquired about fire and emergency services and City Manager Manns stated we do have a mutual aid agreement with Pasco County. City Manager Manns clarified that a mutual aid agreement is different than an Interlocal Agreement. Mutual aid agreement subsidizes the County services. An Interlocal Agreement provides services in lieu of the county providing those services to their residents.

Deputy Mayor Starkey asked for clarification on the reason for the work session. He asked if the County approached the City in regards to an Interlocal Agreement or are we trying to give them aid without them asking for it. Councilman Altman stated that several years ago it was a suggestion to him by the Planning Department in Pasco County and Councilman Altman read the statute and saw it as an alternative to annexation. Councilman Altman stated that we already provide services to Pasco County through our library and recreation center. Councilman Altman suggested to use the Interlocal Agreement as an opportunity to demonstrate to the county that we can provide services for when the City is ready to annex.

City Manager Manns advised Council that she has spoken to County Administrator Dan Biles previously in regards to an Interlocal Agreement and this work session. County Administrator Biles said the city needs specific parameters before we propose an Interlocal Agreement to Pasco County, such as what will we be asking for in relation to services provided and what are we proposing.

Deputy Mayor Starkey asked if the reason we are having this work session is because we are already helping the county without any form of payment. Councilman Altman said that is the issue. Mayor Marlowe stated he has no problem pursuing an Interlocal Agreement as long as the County is interested but does not want to invest time in the project until they show an interest.

Councilman Altman stated that we have a financial interest in pursuing an Interlocal Agreement because the General Fund needs to grow and with our CRA and potential to extend it, the CRA will freeze the General Fund due to money going to a trust fund for re-development. The City can use this to open discussions between departments within the City and County. Councilman Altman stated the City has no ambulance and relies on the County for transport, he would like the City to have an ambulance. This could be an example of the Interlocal Agreement services. Deputy Mayor Starkey agreed that it is a perfect example of doubling resources and asked for an explanation why the City can not have transport services. Fire Chief Fitch clarified that Pasco County controls all the transports within the county and runs the transport for all the municipalities within Pasco County. City Manager Manns stated County Administrator Biles told her Pasco County subsidizes the cost of the ambulance with their general fund and it isn't profit driven on their part. City Manager Manns said the emergency transport topic is something we can discuss with County Administrator Biles if Council chooses to.

Councilman Altman stated Pasco County puts a 1.8 millage on their fire services, so he does understand ambulance service is not monetized. New Port Richey, based on our CRA limits, our fire budget is equal to about 10 mils. This is due to the EMS we provide along US 19. The

City should coordinate with the County to be able to get 1.8 mils from Gulf Harbors through an Interlocal Agreement to gain revenue for fire services.

Councilman Davis asked if there is a transport available at Morton Plan Hospital on Madison Avenue as well as the county fire station off Massachusetts Avenue. Chief Fitch confirmed there is a transport at both locations, however the ambulance could be at any location in the county and the City is first on scene to aid victims until the County gets to the location. Councilman Altman said he has spoken to Commissioner Wells and they look forward to working with the City and jointly purchasing equipment also. Councilman Davis said that he would like to talk to Pasco County first and see what they are receptive to. Councilman Davis does not feel we should do a resolution or begin any project until we have spoken with Pasco County.

Councilman Murphy would like to hear from City Department Heads first to get an idea of what direction they feel is best and how it can or can not benefit their department. He also stated that if we provide additional services, can the city afford that and will there be extra fees for anything.

Deputy Mayor Starkey agreed and stated that he feels it is best to get the County's feel for this. Deputy Mayor Starkey stated that he does not believe the County would want to pursue this in regards to parks and recreation as they have not gone forward with their own parks and recreation improvements because there is no funding or a priority.

Councilman Altman discussed areas outside the city boundaries that he feels would be best to include in an Interlocal Agreement with Pasco County. He discussed areas where we could add sewer and stormwater, areas that we could help with emergency services quicker than the County and noted that if we entered into an agreement with Pasco County we can state in the agreement that Pasco County will not object to our annexation of those areas. An Interlocal Agreement for stormwater is important to discuss with the county. Councilman Altman was told by Commissioners that the County is considering creating a tax increment financing plan for the Harbors Redevelopment Area, and we can coordinate with them in regards to the Harbors areas within our city that we use CRA funds for. Commissioner Starkey has indicated that she would like to see our signage and look of US 19 match up with Pasco County.

Councilman Altman mentioned his concerns that starting this project could deter Pasco County from agreeing to our CRA Extension and we have received warnings from County Commissioners at joint meetings not to use our CRA as it may not be around that long. We need to make sure we have a good relationship with them. If we tie up general funds in the CRA for the next 30 years, we need to have a plan to keep our fire and emergency services functioning. The City can look into an agreement with library services and use Zephyrhills as an example. The City of Zephyrhills has a joint agreement and used Pasco County employees in their library. We jointly own Green Key Beach and Commissioner Mariano has pushed for revenues to go out for improvements such as the roads at the beach. Deputy Mayor Starkey stated he does not believe that they want revenues out to parks based on the bond referendums on this November ballot in regards to parks and recreation.

Councilman Altman discussed the county has a fire department on US 19 behind the former Kmart building. If the bond issue passes on the November ballot, they plan to expand the station and how will that pair up with the City capital improvement plans. The County has trained ladder companies. He questioned if the city needs to buy a ladder truck if we have a mutual aid agreement with the County for fire services and they are purchasing a new truck.

Councilman Davis asked that the City Manager speak to each Department Head in the City first to see if there is any desire to have discussions with Pasco County.

Councilman Altman has spoken to 4 of the 5 County Commissioners and they stated they are looking forward to seeing how we can work together. There is an opportunity for both of us to help each other.

Deputy Mayor Starkey asked if we have any scheduled meetings between the County and the City and if we can talk to County Administrator Biles about scheduling a meeting. City Manager Mans stated she will discuss a meeting with County Administrator Biles the next time she meets with him. Mayor Marlowe agreed it is a good idea and we should discuss the options with the county to see what they think.

3 Adjournment

There being no further business to consider, upon proper motion, the meeting adjourned at 6:48 p.m.

Approved: _____ (date)

_____ (signed)

Initialed: _____

Joyce Haasnoot, Deputy City Clerk