



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 2, 2019
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 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, 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, Development Director George Romagnoli, Technology Solutions Director Bryan Weed and Lt. Lauren Letona.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Moment of Silence

4. Approval of March 19, 2019 Regular Meeting Minutes

Motion was made to approve the minutes as presented.

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

5. Proclamation - National Library Week

Joan Nelson Hook accepted the parchment from Mayor Marlowe.

6. Proclamation - Wear An Aloha (Hawaiian) Shirt Day

Elaine Smith accepted the parchment from Mayor Marlowe.

7. Proclamation - Beta Sigma Phi Day (By Title Only)

Mayor Marlowe read the proclamation by title only.

8 Proclamation - Volunteer Recognition Day (By Title Only)

Mayor Marlowe read the proclamation by title only.

9 Vox Pop for Items Not Listed on the Agenda or Listed on Consent Agenda

Mayor Marlowe opened the floor for public comment.

Judith Allen came forward. Ms. Allen stated she is a current City Council candidate and on Saturday, March 23rd her car tires were vandalized. M.J. Faqouseh, a former candidate, also had his car vandalized recently. She does not feel it is a coincidence. Additionally, she's been approached by current employees, past employees and business owners who have discussed concerns they have in regards to the City. She would like to meet with Mayor Marlowe to discuss.

Wendy Brenner came forward. Ms. Brenner discussed issues with her neighbors dock permit. The permit allowed for their dock to be built over hers within her property easement. She was told by the City they didn't know she had a dock. City Manager Manns spoke to her last year regarding her neighbors dock being built and Ms. Brenner said she would not have an issue with the dock being built but wanted to see plans. It was presented to council as if she totally agreed with no other stipulations. The City recently contacted her neighbor and informed them they can't build a dock on her property. She is now being harassed because of this issue. Councilman Davis asked if she has contacted the Police Department. She did on April 2, 2019, but police were not present to witness any harassment.

Samantha Lindsey came forward. Ms. Lindsey is a volunteer at the Land O' Lakes Residential Center and works with felons and drug addicts. She is partnering with business owners who are welcoming felons and prior inmates. Ms. Lindsey wants make everyone aware of the struggles they face once released and is working on programs to help them find employment.

MJ Faqouseh came forward. Mr. Faqouseh is a former council candidate and was disqualified due to a clerical error. Mr. Faqouseh quoted a paragraph from Florida State Statute 99.061, Subsection 7(a) regarding a candidates returned check. Mr. Faqouseh discussed his concerns with the process under which he was disqualified from the election and has discussed it with several attorneys and government officials, including FDLE and the FBI. He would like to see a public investigation into City Council and the City Manager and wants to know if any other department in the City have made big mistakes. Mr. Faqouseh is filing under Florida State Statute 119 to see all public records within the City and putting Council on notice of a lawsuit and contesting the April election. City Attorney Driscoll advised Council not speak on the matter since there is a lawsuit notice and that the statute was violated and there is no way around that. Mr. Faqouseh is a disqualified candidate.

Dan Dede came forward and thanked Mayor Marlowe regarding his child safety concerns at the new boardwalks at Orange Lake. Assistant Public Works Director Barrett Doe met with him recently. Assistant Public Works Director informed him that he would meet with the City Manager who told him she would email or reach out to Mr. Dede over his concerns. In before Chasco Fiesta, he never heard back from the City Manager. After the Chasco Parade garbage and fencing were left on his lawn. Its been three days since the parade and it is still on his lawn. Mr. Dede wants to see the City to think of residents who currently live in the downtown area and build in some considerations for the homeowners when planning events.

With no one else coming forward for public comment, Mayor Marlowe closed Vox Pop.

10 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 - February 2019
- b Cultural Affairs Committee Minutes - February 2019
- c Purchases/Payments for City Council Approval

11 Public Reading of Ordinances

- a First Reading, Ordinance No. 2019-2163: Authorizing the Issuance of Water & Sewer Revenue Bond, Series 2019

City Attorney Driscoll read the proposed ordinance by title only. City Manager Manns introduced the item to Council. She stated that the purpose of this agenda item was to authorize the issuance of the Water & Sewer Revenue Bond, Series 2019. The bond will be used to reimburse the Water & Sewer Fund for the purchase of Orangewood Lake Utility System and certain future Capital Improvement Projects over the next 3 years.

Finance Director Crystal Feast stated this bond was based on the Water & Sewer Revenue Sufficiency Analysis previously presented by Stantec Consulting. Will Reed from Ford & Associates, the financial advisor for the City, discussed his presentation from February in regards to the utility acquisition and this loan towards utility acquisition. Ford & Associates released an RFP and received a total of eight RFP's. The awarded RFP was by Florida Community Bank at 2.63% interest. Ford & Associates were expecting rates in the 3% range. The lower rate speaks well to the City's financial health. Duane Draper, from Bryant, Miller & Olive who is Bond Council for the City spoke. This supplements ordinance 18-78 which issued the 2012 and 2017 bonds. This is a bank qualified loan as a small issuer and as a result the City receives. There will be no reserve funding included in the loan, all proceeds will be to acquire the utility, pay transactions and make improvements.

Councilman Davis asked how long it would take to pay back the bond and will it affect the City financially if they go for additional bonds. Mr. Reed stated it will under ten years to pay the bond back in full and that if the City goes for additional bonds this calendar year only it will affect them. After the current calendar year it will not have any effect.

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 ordinance upon its first reading.

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

- b First Reading, Ordinance 2019-2160: Moratorium on Automobile Dealerships

City Attorney Driscoll read the proposed ordinance by title only. City Manager Manns introduced the item to Council. She stated that the purpose of this agenda item was to develop a 180 day moratorium on auto dealerships within the City. This will allow staff to develop regulations and also work with existing businesses to learn their needs and unusual factors that affect their business locations before presenting to the LDRB Board and Council.

City Manager Mann explained that currently the City has 13 auto dealerships located on US Highway 19 within 3 miles of the boundary Not all dealerships are representing the city appropriately in regards to landscaping and parking. They may need signage specific needs from other businesses in the City.

Upon opening the floor to public comment, Dylan Hoppy came forward. Mr. Hoppy is a student in the St. Petersburg College Public Policy Program. He stated growing up in the area watching the expansion of the dealerships he feels it's the best interest of the City to issue protocol. He suggested not allowing test drives within the residential areas. Mayor Marlowe returned the floor to Council. Deputy Mayor Starkey agreed with Mr Hoppy regarding test drives in residential neighborhoods.

Deputy Mayor Starkey also stated dealerships are not aesthetically appealing and we need to address it. Motion was made to approve the ordinance upon its first reading.

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

c First Reading, Ordinance No. 2019-2162: Amendments for Docks on City-Owned Property

City Attorney Driscoll read the proposed ordinance by title only. City Manager Manns introduced the item to Council. She stated that the purpose of this agenda item was to allow for the installation of small waterfront floating docks with permission of the City Manager. The permits will only be issues if the floating dock is designed, constructed, installed and used in such a manner as to allow the docking of a watercraft in a manner which does not obstruct any water way or public property, or significantly obstruct the public view of any waterway. City Manager Manns explained that the city has an ordinance in place which allow for the establishment of docks on city owned properties, they prohibit use of boat lifts and davits and similar devise. The proposal presented is to install a floating docks and is different than a boat lift or davit as it does not affect the visual properties of the waterfront. Mayor Marlowe mentioned a person he knows who has a floating dock and the benefits of it. Deputy Mayor Starkey agreed this is good to address drive on docks for jet skis or small crafts. 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 ordinance upon its first reading.

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

12 Business Items

a Board Appointment: John Kane, Environmental Committee

City Manager Manns introduced the item to Council. She stated that the purpose of this agenda item was to approve the appointment of John Kane to the Environmental Committee. If approved, Mr. Kane's term will be for two years and will be up for renewal on April 2, 2021. Staff has verified that Mr. Kane meets the requirements set forth in the City's Code to serve on this board. With the appointment of Mr. Kane, the Environmental Committee roster is full. 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 Jeff Starkey and seconded by Matt Murphy. The Motion Passed. 5-0. Ayes: Altman, Davis, Marlowe, Murphy, Starkey

b Board Re-Appointment: Rex Phelps, Environmental Committee

City Manager Manns introduced the item to Council. She stated that the purpose of this agenda item was to approve the re-appointment of Rex Phelps to the Environmental Committee. Mr. Phelps has been a valued member of the Environmental Committee for the past two years. Mr. Phelps' current term is due to expire on April 4, 2019 therefore he has submitted his application seeking re-appointment for Council's consideration. If approved, Mr. Phelps' term will be for two years and will be up for renewal on April 4, 2021. Staff has verified that Mr. Phelps meets the requirements set forth in the City's Code to serve on this board. 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 Jeff Starkey and seconded by Matt Murphy. The Motion Passed. 5-0. Ayes: Altman, Davis, Marlowe, Murphy, Starkey

c Board Re-Appointment: Rob Oman, Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

City Manager Manns introduced the item to Council. She stated that the purpose of this agenda item was to approve the re-appointment of Rob Oman to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. Mr. Oman has been a valued member of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board for the past three years. Mr. Oman's current term is due to expire on May 17, 2019 therefore he has submitted his application seeking re-appointment for Council's consideration. If approved, Mr. Oman's term will be for three years and will be up for renewal on May 17, 2022. Staff has verified that Mr. Oman meets the requirements set forth in the City's Code to serve on this board. 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 Matt Murphy. The Motion Passed. 5-0. Ayes: Altman, Davis, Marlowe, Murphy, Starkey

d 2019 Cotee River Seafest Alcoholic Beverage Special Event Permit

City Manager Manns introduced the item to Council. She stated that the purpose of this agenda item was to approve an ABSEP for Cotee River Seafest. The organizers wish to sell beer and wine in Sims Park on Friday, April 26th from 5-11PM, Saturday, April 27th from 12-11PM and on Sunday, April 28th from 1-6PM. Upon opening the floor to public comment, no one came forward therefore Mayor Marlowe returned the floor to Council. Councilman Altman discussed the shuttles that are currently being used during events to free up parking. The parking spots residents normally use are still open for them and he encourages using the shuttle for all the City events.

Mayor Marlowe requested that during SET team meetings for larger events we require use of the shuttles and also use shuttles during city concerts and movies in the park. Mayor Marlowe discussed his concerns over the application submitted by New Port Richey Main Street. He did not feel it should have been approved until the application was completed properly. Mayor Marlowe is concerned about the event being in direct competition with the local businesses and this Main Street event does not support them.

Councilman Altman stated it's difficult to non-fund an entity such a New Port Richey Main Street and still expect them to do well without any funding. Councilman Altman would like the events to work together. Councilman Altman feels that these events will encourage people to explore the City and thanked the Police and Fire Department. Motion was made to approve the item as presented.

Motion made by Chopper Davis and seconded by Jeff Starkey. The Motion Passed. 4-1. Ayes: Altman, Davis, Murphy, Starkey Nays: Marlowe

e 2018 Street Improvement Project - ITB No. 19-006 Bid Award

City Manager Manns introduced the item to Council. She stated that the purpose of this agenda item was to award the bid for the 2018 Street Improvement Project to Ajax Paving Industries of Florida, LLC. in an amount not to exceed \$1,764,883.14. The streets included in this task order are identified in the cycle two paving group as being in the worst condition in need of resurfacing or street reconstruction. They include Gulf Dr. from US Hwy 19 east to Madison Street, a section of Main Street west of US Hwy 19 S curve to Southtowne Loop, Massachusetts Avenue from Congress Street to Grand Boulevard. Public Works Director Robert Rivera summarized the project and the planned locations. and stated they will also include landscaping in some of the project locations. 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 Matt Murphy. The Motion Passed. 5-0. Ayes: Altman, Davis, Marlowe, Murphy, Starkey

f 2019 Street Improvement Project Task Order No. 5565-043 - Engineering Services

City Manager Manns introduced the item to Council. She stated that the purpose of this agenda item was to approve a task order for the Genesis Group for engineering services in the amount not to exceed \$114,550.00 for the proposed 2019 Street Improvement Project design, bidding, and construction phases. Upon opening the floor to public comment, no one came forward therefore Mayor Marlowe returned the floor to Council. Councilman Davis inquired why Genesis is prioritizing specific streets and not doing area by area. Public Works Director Rivera stated that the streets are ranked in a priority. However, if they find streets that need paving immediately that are not on the initial priority list, they will re-pave those streets ahead of their planned schedule. Motion was made to approve the item as presented.

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

g Auxiliary Police Program

City Manager Manns introduced the item to Council. She stated that the purpose of this agenda item was to approve the hiring of four certified part-time police officers to be dedicated to patrol activities in the downtown area and Sims Park as part of the City's auxiliary police program. Upon opening the floor to public comment, no one came forward therefore Mayor Marlowe returned the floor to Council. Councilman Murphy asked for clarification on what happens after 8pm when there are no patrols planned. Acting Police Chief Lauren Letona stated the auxiliary police hours match the hours that Sims Park is open. City Manager Manns stated that the City is aware they need police patrols after 8 p.m. and have current initiatives to address the need, such as lighting, and that police will still patrol as needed.

Councilman Altman asked for specifics on when the park actually closes as he was recently told the City does not enforce removing people from the park. Councilman Altman spoke to a man in the park who was there after hours and told him he stays there every day after hours. City Manager Manns said they don't chase people from the park. There's a lighting system that illuminates the park and there are periodic checks by police. As long as nothing significant occurs in the park people may enter. Council agreed that the sign stating the park closes at dusk should be removed and possibly add a sign stating nothing after 11 pm or another alternative. Motion was made to approve the item as presented.

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

h Request for Purchase: 2019 Ford Fusion for Auxiliary Police Program

City Manager Manns introduced the item to Council. She stated that the purpose of this agenda item was to approve the purchase of a 2019 Ford Fusion vehicle with ancillary equipment for an amount not to exceed \$24,685.81 to be used for the auxiliary police program. It's primarily foot patrol however there may be a reason they need an automobile. 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 Matt Murphy. The Motion Passed. 5-0. Ayes: Altman, Davis, Marlowe, Murphy, Starkey

i Resolution No. 2019-08: 2019 CRA Plan Update and Sunset Provision Extension

City Attorney Driscoll read the proposed resolution by title only. City Manager Manns introduced the item to Council. She stated that the purpose of this agenda item was to conduct a first reading on a resolution which will update and amend the City's CRA Plan. City Manager Manns stated that the City has honed in its efforts on downtown in the past few years and with the CRA amended and sunset dated

extended the City can move forward with other areas of the City. Upon opening the floor to public comment, no one came forward therefore Mayor Marlowe returned the floor to Council. Councilman Davis stated that he recently learned the State doesn't really like CRA's and wants to know if we could have any potential issues. City Manager Manns stated we should not have problems because our timing on amending and extending the plan.

Councilman Altman discussed the bills currently in both the House and Senate to set a possible sunset date for all CRA's in the State. The City will complete their extension before any legislation may or may not pass. Motion was made to approve the resolution upon its first reading.

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

j Three Minute Report: Fire Department

13 Communications

Mayor Marlowe complimented the Dr. Grassin Bridge lights. He affirmed that he thinks we need to use shuttles for city events. Rather than building a parking garage, the cost could go towards shuttles. Main Street or other groups hosting events should consider finding sponsors to cover the cost of shuttles. Mayor Marlowe commented that during the biggest bike fest in the state in Daytona, there are no street closures.

Deputy Mayor Starkey added comments to Samantha Lindsey's who spoke at Vox Pop in regards to lack of employment in our area and that he recently met with the head of AmSkills which trains in manufacturing jobs. Currently they're based at Schwettman. Councilman Starkey would like to set up a meeting with Economic Development Director Mario Iezzoni and City Manager Manns in regards to finding a facility for them within the City. He requested City Manager Manns provide clarification on Wendy Brenner's comments and the dock issue she spoke of at Vox Pop. Once Chasco is over, he would like to schedule a work session with Chasco to discuss planning for next years event.

Councilman Davis inquired about the classes and program that the student who spoke from St. Petersburg College attends at school. City Manager Manns stated that City Clerk Judy Meyers is a graduate of the program and that may be the reason they are comfortable coming to our meetings to speak. Councilman Davis stated he feels the businesses and local groups such as Main Street and the Chamber need to work together more and that the City has a need for volunteers to help cleanup after events and festivals.

Councilman Altman listed a schedule of upcoming events at the Chasco Festival.

Councilman Murphy complimented the lights on the Dr. Grassin Bridge. He also mentioned hearing about putting greens being added around Orange Lake and likes the idea.

14 Adjournment

There being no further business to consider, upon proper motion, the meeting adjourned at 8:43 p.m.

(signed) _____
Joyce Haasnoot, Deputy City Clerk

Approved: _____ (date)

Initialed: _____