



**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 21, 2019
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 p.m. 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 Clerk Judy Meyers, Economic Development Director Mario Iezzone, Development Director George Romagnoli and Technology Solutions Director Bryan Weed.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

2 Presentation of Work Plan by New Port Richey Main Street - Page 2

NPRMS Executive Director Liz Misemer began her presentation by introducing the new Board Directors. She stated the new Board will serve two year terms. Ms. Misemer stated there was also an Advisory Board that was formed. A meet and greet was held in April to introduce the new Board and set the meeting dates for the remainder of the year. They regained accreditation on April 24th. Ms. Misemer stated that she has to send reports to the State quarterly and would also update Council at that time. Ms. Misemer then highlighted items under Design which included bike racks, murals and historical markings. Under Organization, they are working on a community support plan which should roll out in July. She also highlighted other projects including volunteer opportunities. Under Promotion Ms. Misemer stated they participated in Celebrate Main Street Week along with introducing "Mornings on Main." They will also work closely with the Cultural Affairs Committee. Their two events for this year will be Cotee River Seafest and KIAFest Main Street Blast. They also want to update the online business directory. Under Economic Vitality they will work to recruit new businesses downtown, apply for grants, host historical walking and boat tours, create business brochure and work with the City's Economic Development Director on special projects.

City Manager Manns stated that the Board is here to present to Council the re-establishment of the Memorandum of Understanding. She stated the organization was lapse for a year but have re-organized and added new members as well. She stated that funding to Main Street has been made

different ways over the last few years. Councilman Altman stated the source of funds for NPRMS are CRA funds. A proposed MOU will be presented to Council at their meeting on June 4th.

Deputy Mayor Starkey asked each member why it was important to them to get this organization up and running. Mr. Dorsey stated he has had a businesses owner for many years and this is an asset to the city. Ms. McAteer stated she believes in the city and wants to see it flourish and be a place where people want to come to. Mr. Shoemaker stated it is a great opportunity for small businesses to gain exposure. Mr. Bene stated he bought a house in the city a few years ago and the move toward a pedestrian city envisioned by Council is something NPRMS can help with. The annual conference will be held here next year. Mr. Smallwood stated he has been on the Board for years and he has been disappointed that the Main Street Program was never fully implemented. He stated there is new energy on the Board. Ms. Misemer stated that this is her hometown and she loves the city and community is important to her. There are many layers to the Main Street program.

Mayor Marlowe stated it ignored other parts of the program by focusing on the big events. He was encouraged when he saw the "Mornings on Main." He is looking forward to them. That is what is going to help reconnect with the local merchants.

Councilman Altman stated he was excited to hear the mission that NPRMS has. The most critical thing is to recognize the partnership aspect to make things happen. We are the most aggressive redevelopment city in the State. We are justified in doing so. We are in the right place at the right time. The County called out our city as the place people are gravitating to in West Pasco. He stated that perhaps they can look at the CRA funding more events as there is revenue there.

Councilman Murphy stated he was excited to see Ms. Misemer take on this challenge. There are a lot of great people and energy.

Councilman Davis stated he is glad to see the energy of the new group. He stated with Mr. Iezzoni leaving that more economic development could be put more their way.

City Manager Manns stated she has had experience with an effective Main Street program. It is a vital resource and a great value. It is a partnership. There were disconnects along the way. She stated city staff will be assigned to help on their subcommittees.

Deputy Mayor Starkey stated we would not be where we are today without the community. What is important is that everyone respects each other's opinions and work together. Put differences aside and look at what is the best outcome for the city.

3 Adjournment

There being no further business to consider, upon proper motion, the meeting adjourned at 6:52 p.m.

Approved: _____ (date)

_____ (signed)

Initialed: _____

Judy Meyers, CMC, City Clerk