



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 28, 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 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 Clerk Judy Meyers, Police Chief Kim Bogart, Parks and Recreation Director Elaine Smith, Technology Solutions Director Bryan Weed and Assistant Public Works Director Barret Doe.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

2 General Discussion with Chasco Fiesta Board RE: Upcoming Festivals

City Manager Manns introduced the item to Council. She stated that the purpose of this agenda item was to discuss the successes of previous festivals. City Manager Manns began by speaking about the park and ride program. Bill Guerrant and Art Mullis from EZ Event Ride came forward and stated that the park and ride service was needed for the festival. Chuck Grey stated that Chasco paid for the service and there were advertisements available. It should only get better once people know about the service. It is a service that people need and appreciate. Mr. Guerrant stated they use an app that people can use for the service. Mayor Marlowe stated that this service would be good for the cliental of the theater. Councilman Davis asked about the usage during the week versus the weekend. Mr. Guerrant stated once people knew about it then it was used. Mr. Mullis stated that their company tries to make the biggest impact that it can and what they saw where the biggest impact could be downtown was parking. He stated there are a lot of attractive businesses downtown but due to parking problems people tend to not come. Patty Deremer stated that churches could be utilized for Friday and Saturday nights. Councilman Altman stated he is on the Chasco Steering Committee and stated that they did accept tips for the rides. He stated what is good about the service is that it will service the residents who live in the area around the events. Councilman Murphy stated that traffic downtown will only increase with the three big projects going on.

Discussion then moved on to Ruth Eckerd Hall. Mr. Grey stated that it worked out very well and

they learned a lot. One of the things done well was to sell individual seats. They have already indicated they want to come back next year. One suggestion made was to have more control of the venue as people were bringing in coolers and food instead of purchasing from the vendors. Deputy Mayor Starkey told Mr. Grey it was great he had built the relationship with Ruth Eckerd. Councilman Davis stated to look how control is done at the Clearwater Jazz Festival as it would be easy to do here as well. Chief Bogart stated if we fenced off the park it would be easy to enforce no coolers. Ms. Deremer stated we need to do something to capture an income stream in order to bring bigger talent in. There was a brief discussion on fencing in the park on a temporary and permanent basis. Mr. Grey urged Council to walk down and see what they were talking about.

The next topic of discussion was the location of future carnivals. City Manager Manns stated that spots in the Gloria Swanson lot would need to be reserved Monday through Friday for business purposes. Upgrades to the parking lot will yield 25-30 spaces. Mayor Marlowe stated the parking on a daily basis for businesses fills up half of the Swanson lot. Councilman Altman suggested that the Steering Committee work with the Hacienda developers. If the Hacienda does not want the carnival next to them then alternate plans will need to be made. City Manager Manns stated the Hacienda employees will park behind the health building. Councilman Davis stated that perhaps the rides could expand more around the lake. Dan Dede came forward and stated that the Steering Committee needs to take the residents who live around the circle into consideration. They do not want the carnival outside their doors. Deputy Mayor Starkey asked what makes more money the rides or games and Mr. Grey stated it is the rides.

Grace Dede asked how much revenue the City gets from the carnival. Mayor Marlowe stated the City does not receive any revenue. She suggested moving the carnival to the empty lot across from the Hacienda but Councilman Davis stated that was not enough room, Deputy Mayor Starkey stated that the trees would be an issue and Mayor Marlowe stated that the lot was going to be developed. Mrs. Dede stated that Council needed to understand the diesel smell was not healthy, the noise level was unacceptable and the element of people who come to the carnival and leave at night is unbelievable. She stated that the residents need to be respected. Chris Lineman came forward and stated one of the things that attracted him to the area was Chasco. He appreciates the festival.

Mr. Grey stated that it is a misunderstanding that people think the fiesta is a city event since it is held here. The Steering Committee works on the event. Money from the event comes from the carnival and sponsorships. The City's in-kind support is a tremendous help for the event. Councilman Davis urged them to seek funding from the TDC. Cami Austin thanked Council for what they do for Chasco. There are about 25 non-profits that benefit from the event.

Councilman Altman stated that people see this as a city event as well as the 4th of July fireworks and Christmas parade. For him it is about pride in the community. We are local people and this is part of our heritage. It is all about making this event better. People look forward to it all year. Councilman Murphy stated it would not be New Port Richey without the Chasco Fiesta. Deputy Mayor Starkey thanked everyone for all that they do. Mayor Marlowe stated Chasco is his favorite event and one he volunteers at every year. His two concerns going forward are to make sure we are mindful of the circle residents with the noise outside of their doors and the second was the big issue to make sure we have adequate parking. We have a solution we can work on. Mr. Dede stated that he has spoken many time in front of Council and that the Council is progressive. It is important for the residents who live in the area to let Council know what is going on as they cannot be down there all the time. The only way for Council to know what the problems are is for residents to come and speak.

Approved: _____ (date)

Initialed: _____

_____ (signed)

Judy Meyers, CMC, City Clerk