



**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**

**June 18, 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 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 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, Development Director George Romagnoli, Technology Solutions Director Bryan Weed, Human Resources Manager Bernie Wharran and Assistant Parks and Recreation Director Chris Bornfleth.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Moment of Silence

4. Approval of May 28, 2019 Work Session Minutes

Motion was made to approve the minutes as presented.

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

5. Approval of June 4, 2019 Work Session and Regular Meeting Minutes

Motion was made to approve the minutes as presented.

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

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

Mayor Marlowe opened the floor for public comment. John Kane came forward and stated that tomorrow at the Port Richey Council Chamber Pasco County is holding an information session for the Underpass Project. Deputy Mayor Starkey stated he asked how far off construction was and the County stated they are waiting on Tallahassee.

Marc Jeske came forward to speak about the Grey Preserve. He noticed no dog signs were put up. He wondered why dogs were not allowed. He asked that dogs be allowed in the Preserve. Councilman Davis asked if dogs could be allowed on leashes. City Manager Manns stated staff would look into the matter. Deputy Mayor Starkey asked that this matter be placed as an agenda item on an upcoming meeting. 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 Jeff Starkey and seconded by Chopper Davis. The Motion Passed. 5-0. Ayes: Altman, Davis, Marlowe, Murphy, Starkey

a Purchases/Payments for City Council Approval

8 Business Items

a Board Appointment: David Dorsey, Firefighters' Pension Board

City Manager Manns introduced the item to Council. She stated that the purpose of this agenda item was to approve the appointment of David Dorsey as the board-elected trustee to the Firefighters' Pension Board. On May 15, 2019 David Dorsey was elected to fill the empty board-elected trustee seat. Mr. Dorsey's term as board-elected trustee is for four years and will be up for renewal on June 18, 2023. 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 Pete Altman and seconded by Chopper Davis. The Motion Passed. 5-0. Ayes: Altman, Davis, Marlowe, Murphy, Starkey

b Wastewater Treatment & Water Treatment Plant Bulk Chemical Purchases Contract Extension

City Manager Manns introduced the item to Council. She stated that the purpose of this agenda item was to approve a one year contract extension with Allied Universal Corporation for the bulk purchase of sodium hypochlorite used in the treatment of wastewater and raw water. 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 Pete Altman and seconded by Chopper Davis. The Motion Passed. 5-0. Ayes: Altman, Davis, Marlowe, Murphy, Starkey

c Bid Award - ITB19-009 Right of Way Mowing Maintenance Contract

City Manager Manns introduced the item to Council. She stated that the purpose of this agenda item was to award a bid for the annual mowing of right of ways and grounds maintenance facilities to Valley Crest Landscape, Inc., in an amount not to exceed \$86,860. In addition, staff would request City Council to review and consider for approval, the second lowest bid in an amount not to exceed \$87,445 from Design Landscape Management to be utilized as a contingency if needed. Upon opening the floor to public comment, no one came forward therefore Mayor Marlowe returned the floor to Council. Councilman Murphy asked if Valley Crest has had a contract with us before and City

Manager Manns stated no this was the first time. Deputy Mayor Starkey asked what areas will be covered and City Manager Manns stated it will be all right of ways and some facilities with the exception of City Hall and the Library. Councilman Altman stated the weekly mowing occurs March through September and we are half way through so we are still obligated to that. There is less mowing to do in the off time. Mr. Rivera stated that the contract was specifically targeted to get the renewals in December. 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 Bid Award - ITB19-010 Mowing and Landscape Maintenance Contract RE: City Hall and Sims Park

City Manager Manns introduced the item to Council. She stated that the purpose of this agenda item was to award a bid for the annual mowing and landscape maintenance of City Hall and Sims Park to Design Landscaping Management, Inc. in an amount not to exceed of \$36,050. 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 Matt Murphy and seconded by Pete Altman. The Motion Passed. 5-0. Ayes: Altman, Davis, Marlowe, Murphy, Starkey

e Bid Award - ITB19-011 US Hwy 19 Mowing and Landscape Maintenance Contract

City Manager Manns introduced the item to Council. She stated that the purpose of this agenda item was to award a bid for the annual mowing and landscape maintenance of U.S. 19 to Green Expectation, Inc. in an amount not to exceed of \$24,040.80. In addition staff would request City Council review and consider for approval, as a contingency, the second lowest bid in the amount not to exceed \$29,080 from Design Landscaping Management Incorporated. Upon opening the floor to public comment, no one came forward therefore Mayor Marlowe returned the floor to Council. Councilman Davis asked if the landscaping in Holiday will move up to our area and City Manager Manns stated no that is being administered by the County. Deputy Mayor Starkey stated the ROW's are mowed by FDOT only eight times a year. Some businesses take it upon themselves to mow. He encouraged business owners to mow. Mr. Rivera stated the tree by Southgate Shopping Center will be replaced. Councilman Altman stated that the sections that are not dried up are looking nice. Councilman Murphy stated it adds charm to the city. Mayor Marlowe stated the perennial peanuts look good as he drives up and down US 19. 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

f 2015 Madison St. Streetscape Multi-Use Path Extension – Project Close-Out

City Manager Manns introduced the item to Council. She stated that the purpose of this agenda item was to approve a final pay request in the amount of \$204,763.26 and a deductive change order in the amount of \$125,857.25 to Augustine Construction, Inc. for the Madison St. Streetscape and Multi-Use Path Extension Project. 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

g Resolution No. 2019-09: Adoption of Local Mitigation Strategy

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 adopt the Pasco County Local Mitigation Strategy. The original Local Mitigation Strategy was initially adopted in 1998 and must be

approved every five years. The plan is also a useful resource for natural disasters. 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

h Re-Appointment of Brent Simon, Esq. as Special Magistrate

City Manager Manns introduced the item to Council. She stated that the purpose of this agenda item was to approve the re-appointment of Brent Simon, Esq. as Special Magistrate. Mr. Simon has served as the City's Special Magistrate since 2015. 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

i Discussion Regarding Proposed Anti-Discrimination Ordinance

City Manager Manns introduced the item to Council. She stated that the purpose of this agenda item was to conduct a discussion about a proposed anti-discrimination ordinance. The discussion is based on a request made by Denise Johnson last year. City Manager Manns stated there are several classes that are protected under Federal and State law. City Attorney Driscoll stated that Gulfport has not had a single claim since the process was enacted.

Upon opening the floor to public comment, Nina Borders came forward and stated there was a hate group arrest last year. She stated they adopted a former KKK road. She stated there needs to be a change. She asked Council to make them equal. Deputy Mayor Starkey stated the road was in Moon Lake which is in unincorporated Pasco. Chief Bogart stated he would have been notified of any arrests that were made in the city limits. Ms. Borders stated she could send the FBI reports to staff.

Elise Mysels came forward and stated that there are thirty-three entities that have this proposal. Pasco County has nothing and New Port Richey needs to be the forefront instead of the backseat.

Anthony Avila came forward and stated he has lived here since 1998. There are still people living in this community who do not have a voice. Passing a comprehensive ordinance is how to create a community of love.

Charlie Russo came forward and to talk about an incident with his husband. He stated the Gulfport ordinance serves as a deterrent. He encouraged Council to pass an ordinance.

Frank Starkey came forward and read a text exchange from a friend who had an open house a few weeks ago. He stated this ordinance would cover all classes. It will make a difference when it comes to economic development.

Angela Napolitano came forward and spoke about her son who move to Rhode Island. People would call her son names and her house was egged. She supports the ordinance.

John Kane came forward and stated he supports an ordinance. This is all about moving our city forward. Diversity makes things interesting. We need to make people feel welcome and protected.

With no one else coming forward Mayor Marlowe returned the floor to Council. Councilman Altman stated a study was done of the most successful cities and they looked at high tech corridors to new age jobs. It identified populations and what they learned that people want to live in places that are inclusive to everyone. He would like for us to make an expression that we are a city that includes everyone. He

has a nephew who is gay. Whatever level we can achieve he will support.

Councilman Murphy stated he would support an ordinance for an unsupported class. It should be discrimination across the board. He stated there are some things that are excessive that we may not need.

Deputy Mayor Starkey stated an ordinance is a law and it has to be enforceable. He is in favor of a resolution that says we welcome everyone. There is a huge difference between a law and a resolution. He cannot support something that is unenforceable. He is in favor of a resolution.

Councilman Davis stated he met with Mr. Avila a couple of months ago and received information last week but did not address his questions. A resolution will make just as strong a statement. He would like a resolution as soon as possible. This was also addressed at the state level.

Mayor Marlowe stated his concern with the Gulfport ordinance is that it inserted the city into the middle of things they have no business being involved in. He did a proclamation recognizing the Pride event last fall. He would go along with a resolution stating the city does not discriminate against anyone and that the city will not discriminate itself based on those classes. We want a broad spectrum of people living here. Hate groups have no place in New Port Richey.

Councilman Altman stated there is no doubt discrimination laws are hard to prove. There is some validity that some of these are beyond the resources to pursue. If someone admitted to discrimination then an ordinance could be enforceable. To him it is about finding the right place where we can be leaders.

Mayor Marlowe stated we need to be the city to say we are the city who treats people right.

Deputy Mayor Starkey stated allowing Pasco Pride to come in and have a festival in Sims Park shows that we are already doing that. His opinion is that Council is progressive and receptive to new ideas.

City Attorney Driscoll stated that he has drafted a resolution and is currently being reviewed with the City Manager.

j Three Minute Report: Development Department

9 Communications

Mayor Marlowe stated he attended the TB Water meeting on Monday regarding the TAP. The Board approved a resolution for matching funds to the City of Tampa and then the City of Tampa withdrew from the MOU. Basically the program is off the rails. He went to The Social on Sunday and it was excellent. He attended the coffee on Main with NPRMS today and it was encouraging. He gave a shout out to Scott Tremblay Mayor-elect of Port Richey who appears to have one by eight votes. City Attorney Driscoll stated the attorneys meeting took place after the regular meeting and it was the consensus of the attorneys to wait and see what the policymakers are going to do in regards to an amendment to the Interlocal Agreement. Mayor Marlowe stated any amendment would have to be unanimously approved by all six governing boards. Mayor Marlowe and Councilman Altman then discussed water usage versus debt.

Deputy Mayor Starkey congratulated Mr. Tremblay. Every vote matters. He is confident with the new leadership their city will get back on track. He is looking forward to having Port Richey back on the MPO Board. He encouraged people to attend the stakeholder session regarding the Underpass Project. He stated he went to The Social this past weekend and the food and entertainment were incredible. He is excited with the direction that the city is moving. He stated he was out of town for Mr. Iezzoni's retirement party and stated he will be missed. He is very optimistic.

Councilman Davis stated that every bar and restaurant downtown has it's own atmosphere and draw. A lot of them offer different types of music. He went to the Land Office Celebration and it was his

understanding the ghost tours were historical. He asked about the paving on Massachusetts and Gulf and Mr. Rivera stated that it should start soon.

Councilman Altman stated there was a visit a couple of weeks ago from a company that operates dragon boat races and since the river is such an predominant feature there has been discussion about bringing them here for special events. It would be a good addition for tourism.

Councilman Murphy stated he attended the RAP River Run and this was the first time it rained. He thanked city staff for their involvement.

10 Adjournment

There being no further business to consider, upon proper motion, the meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

(signed) _____
Judy Meyers, CMC, City Clerk

Approved: _____ (date)

Initialed: _____