



**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**

**July 16, 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 Charles Rudd, 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.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Moment of Silence

4. Approval of July 2, 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

5. Approval of July 9, 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

6 Annual Report - Cultural Affairs Committee

7 Annual Report - Parks & Recreation Advisory Board

8 Annual Report - Parks & Recreation Youth Advisory Board

The Parks and Recreation Youth Advisory Board members Jessica Mulcahy, Ryan Hamilton, John McMahon, Alex Caravona, Faith Sanchez, Bertell Butler and Kayla Mulcahy gave an update on the events the Board participated in over the last year.

9 Audit Presentation by Clifton Larson Allen, LLP

Andrew Laflin, Lance Schmidt and Kim Poblete presented the audit findings for the City's audit. The Independent Auditors' Report was accepted unmodified. Two material weaknesses included timeliness of closing and prior period adjustments. The Independent Auditors' Report for examination of procedures was unmodified. The preparation and review of cash reconciliations was partially cleared. Four items from last year's audit were cleared. Mr. Schmidt then highlighted footnotes to the CAFR which included postemployment benefits and the new water and sewer revenue bond. Other noteworthy items included economic factors that affect the city and the accounting and non-accounting data.

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

Mayor Marlowe opened the floor for public comment. Chris Lineman came forward to ask about the traffic study on Indiana. City Manager Manns stated the study has been completed and the information is being compiled. He stated he has asked several times about having reclaimed water on his property. City Manager Manns stated she was not familiar with the property and would follow up with staff. Angela Napolitano came forward to talk about a stay or exemption for any further violations on her property. She stated last week her daughter's truck was struck by a hit and run driver last week. She stated she is on the wait list for grant funds for the construction of her driveway. With no one else coming forward for public comment, Mayor Marlowe closed Vox Pop.

11 Consent Agenda

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

a Cultural Affairs Committee Minutes - May 2019

b Environmental Committee Minutes - January through May 2019

c Land Development Review Board Minutes - May 2019

d Library Advisory Board Minutes - March and April 2019

e Purchase/Payments for City Council Approval

12 Public Reading of Ordinances

a First Reading, Ordinance 2019-2164: Ordinance Pertaining to Off-Street Parking Spaces

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 amend the current parking ordinance in regards to pervious surfaces. Crushed stone, crushed rock, gravel, and shell would now be classified as pervious surfaces. The LDRB recommends that City Council do not adopt this ordinance and the materials continue to be considered impervious. Upon opening the floor to public comment, Marilynn deChant came forward and stated she thought that City Council had asked for the Environmental Committee to take part in this issue. City Manager Manns stated that the

Environmental Committee was not asked for input as of yet. With no one else coming forward Mayor Marlowe returned the floor to Council. Councilman Altman stated if you can use shell and get a permit he did not think that calling impervious will stop water from going in between rocks. There is a lot of noncompliance in our city. There are a lot of different ways to improve our city. He would like to see the committee make a recommendation to Council. Deputy Mayor Starkey asked if the issue is whether rainwater can get through shell. City Manager Manns stated that was the issue initially. He stated he thought crushed shell looks good. He stated mulch will float away. Motion was made to table the ordinance until a report is complete by the Environmental Committee.

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

13 Business Items

a Variance Application: 5911 Delaware Avenue

City Manager Manns introduced Development Director George Romagnoli who then presented the item to Council. City Manager Manns stated this was a quasi-judicial hearing and each Council member stated they had no ex-parte communications. Mr. Romagnoli began his presentation by stating that the purpose of this agenda item was to approve a variance for a proposed detached garage at 5911 Delaware Avenue. The DRC and LDRB did not agree on this issue so therefore according to the City's Code the matter must be brought before Council for a decision. The structure the homeowner is proposing is a 24x30 accessory garage. The DRC and the Planning and Development Department felt that there was no hardship to justify the variance, so a denial is recommended. Upon opening the floor to public comment, no one came forward therefore Mayor Marlowe returned the floor to Council. Mayor Marlowe stated he drove out to look at the property and stated that the setbacks do cause a hardship. He stated there is a lot across the road that has three structures. This request would not change the makeup of the neighborhood. Councilman Altman stated the generalized logic on the hardship of the lot size is what he hangs his hat on. Councilman Murphy stated that we need to look at zoning changes in the future. Deputy Mayor Starkey said he would support the variance. Councilman Davis stated he will support it as well. Motion was made to approve the variance request.

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

b Discussion on Allowing Animals in City Parks

City Manager Manns introduced Parks and Recreation Director Elaine Smith who then presented the item to Council. She stated that the purpose of this agenda item was to conduct a discussion on allowing animals in city parks. Currently animals are only allowed at Orange Lake, Sims Park, Cotee River Park and Meadows Dog Park. Pasco County Parks and Recreation allows dogs in only one out of their three Nature Preserves. The James E. Grey is the only preserve in our city and is a non-staffed location. Upon opening the floor to public comment, no one came forward therefore Mayor Marlowe returned the floor to Council. Councilman Altman made a motion to accept staff's recommendation. Motion failed due to lack of second. Deputy Mayor Starkey stated that with the preserve being non-staffed that people may allow their dogs to run free. Having dogs on leashes is something we can try. Councilman Murphy asked why dogs are not allowed. Ms. Smith stated when the City first created the preserve the data collected showed other preserves and parks that allowed dogs had issues. There is also a concern of dog waste on the boardwalks. Councilman Davis stated we have a dog park now. He is not ready to support this at this time. Deputy Mayor Starkey made a motion to allow dogs in Grey Preserve on six foot leash. Motion failed for lack of second. Councilman Altman made a motion to allow dogs for one day a week. Motion failed for lack of second. Mark Jeske came forward and stated that people can get exercise by walking their dog. He stated that dog walking would not disrupt wildlife. He stated there are two different trails at the preserve. He suggested a compromise of allowing dog walking on the Phase III trails. Councilman Davis requested that staff look at different suggestions and come back at another meeting.

c Resolution No. 2019-10: Declaration of Human Rights Policy

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 a resolution declaring a Human Rights Policy for the City of New Port Richey. This item is being presented as a follow up to the discussion that took place by Council at their June 18, 2019 regular meeting. The resolution affirms the protections of ten different things. Upon opening the floor to public comment, Mindy Washington came forward to thank Council for the resolution but stated it was not good enough. Charlie Russo came forward and stated the resolution is well written but it does not go far enough. With no one else coming forward Mayor Marlowe returned the floor to Council. Deputy Mayor Starkey stated there was a good discussion which led to this resolution. Councilman Altman stated this puts things in motion. Councilman Davis stated there was discussion and the City Attorney talked about how difficult an ordinance would be to enforce. The resolution is a step in the right direction and if issues arise we can always revisit. Deputy Mayor Starkey stated this resolution is for all residents and visitors. Mayor Marlowe stated that everyone is welcome here and we encourage everyone to make this a better place. We have an open and accepting community. 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

d Professional Services Agreement w/Stroud Engineering Consultants Inc. RE: Sims Park Boat Ramp and Restroom Improvement Project

City Manager Manns introduced Parks and Recreation Director Elaine Smith who then presented the item to Council. She stated that the purpose of this agenda item was to approve a Professional Services Agreement with Stroud Engineering Consultants, Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$81,000 for the design, permitting, bid and construction phase services for the Sims Park Boat Ramp and Restroom Improvement Project. The project will include the installation of a new restroom facility, seawall cap and sidewalk additions, extension of the concrete ramp and the dredging of the rocks near the ramp. 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 Chopper Davis. The Motion Passed. 5-0. Ayes: Altman, Davis, Marlowe, Murphy, Starkey

e Economic Development Promotional Video

City Manager Manns stated earlier this year she did commission for an economic development video to be made for promotional purposes. She stated the focus of the video was to highlight the downtown establishments. The video will be played at Sims Park along with other social media outlets. It will be the first of several videos. Deputy Mayor Starkey asked if a business wants to boost the video can they do it and Mr. Lung stated yes.

14 Communications

Councilman Altman stated he is looking forward to getting through the rest of the budget season. The city is ready to sell. City Manager Manns thanked Crystal Feast and Crystal Dunn for their hard work with the audit. She introduced the new Economic Development Director Charles Rudd. Councilman Davis also thanked Crystal Feast and Crystal Dunn for hard work. He would like to have staff look at the scooter issue downtown. He is concerned over the safety of those riding scooters in and around downtown. Deputy Mayor Starkey stated that he was upset after the stakeholder meeting for the Underpass Project. It was our opinion to allow golf carts. The County applied for a grant through FDOT and those funds cannot be used for golf carts. We are looking at this project as an economic

driver. The City has paid a lot of money to participate in the feasibility study and support this project. Councilman Murphy stated appropriations need to be in by the end of September. Mayor Marlowe stated we have to figure out a way to get vehicles across US 19. He encouraged Council to participate in the County's survey as you can add projects to it. Councilman Davis stated he gave the City Manager Manns information about funding for the project.

15 Adjournment

There being no further business to consider, upon proper motion, the meeting adjourned at 8:52 p.m.

(signed) _____
Judy Meyers, City Clerk

Approved: _____ (date)

Initialed: _____