



**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**

**August 6, 2019  
7:00 PM**

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**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 16, 2019 Work Session and Regular Meeting Minutes

Motion was made to approve the minutes as presented.

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

5. Approval of July 23, 2019 Work Session 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

6 Annual Report - Cultural Affairs Committee

Cultural Affairs Committee Chairman Richard Melton presented the annual report to Council.

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

Prior to Vox Pop, Mayor Marlowe presented Tanner Smith with a proclamation congratulating him on receiving the U.S. Congressional Gold Medal Award.

Mayor Marlowe then opened the floor for public comment other than those that were in attendance to speak about drag queen story hour. Paul Black came forward to talk about the recent mass shootings and respect towards law enforcement. He asked Council where they stood in regards to supporting our law enforcement officers. Wayne and Annette Konga came forward to talk about vagrancy at the Cotee River Park. They asked for an increase patrol at night. George Russell came forward to reiterate Mr. and Mrs. Konga's comments about the vagrancy at Cotee River Park. He suggested installing cameras at the park. Jayne Brewin came forward to commend the recent work done to the Main Street Bridge. Denise Houston came forward to also address Cotee River Park. She stated it is especially dark at the north end of the park. Gene Sullivan came forward to talk about people walking their dogs without a leash. He also talked about yelling in the park and the homeless in Sims Park and the splash pad. A woman who did not identify herself before she began to speak came forward to speak about speeding on Marine Parkway. She stated she called the police about a person who was going to steal a bike and no one showed up.

Mayor Marlowe then called for public comment regarding drag queen story hour. Stephanie Stuart came forward to talk about what occurs during the event. Kyrja Withers came forward to talk about stories she reads. Robin Lock came forward and stated that she and her daughter are regular attendees of drag queen story hour. Myndee Washington came forward and stated she rented Peace Hall for a prom and it was not considered a special event. Cher Tushiah came forward and stated drag queen story hour is a free event and that there are not that many free events for children in the community. Greg Smithwick came forward and stated that this is an event that encourages children to read. He stated some of the things that protestors have said. Regan Weiss came forward to talk about love in our community. Charlie Russo came forward and stated they were not told it was a special event when they rented Peace Hall. He stated we cannot let one group dictate what another one does. Nina Borders came forward and stated that it is discriminatory to have them fill out a special event permit. She stated they should be able to rent Peace Hall just like anyone else. Diana Shanks came forward to encourage Council to allow the event to go forward. Maria Scaveri came forward to speak in support of the event. She stated that it is Council's job to make sure we have a safe place to be. Deb Maxwell came forward to speak in opposition of the event. Kacey Atkinson came forward and stated the protestors show up at all events and businesses downtown and there are no additional barriers for them. A woman who did not identify herself before she began to speak came forward and stated it is a parent's choice and shouldn't be an impose of suggestions. It is the freedom to protest. Tara Withrough came forward and stated it feels like we have taken a step backward and are trying to suppress a group. She takes her sons to drag queen story hour. With no one else coming forward for public comment, Mayor Marlowe closed Vox Pop. Councilman Altman stated that City Council is a collaborative body. They are policy makers and not administrators of the city. He was moved by the commentary. Councilman Murphy encouraged them to apply for the permit. Mayor Marlowe stated that we do support our law enforcement. He stated that all city services and facilities are available to everyone. As a publicly promoted event the safety of the participants especially children is first and foremost. He does have concerns that the concept does play into the narrative. Deputy Mayor Starkey stated what unfortunately comes with the event is the City's concern and the reason to categorize it as a special event. Councilman Davis stated that those who voted for them did so as they serve and protect.

8 Consent Agenda

Motion was made to accept the Consent Agenda.

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

- a Cultural Affairs Committee Minutes - June 2019
- b Library Advisory Board Minutes - May and June 2019
- c Purchases/Payments for City Council Approval

9 Business Items

- a Board Re-Appointment: Nancy MacDonald, Land Development Review 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 Nancy MacDonald to the Land Development Review Board. She stated that Ms. MacDonald has been a valued member of the Land Development Review Board since 2016. Her current term is due to expire on August 16, 2019 therefore she has submitted her application seeking re-appointment. If approved, Ms. MacDonald's term will be for three years and will be up for renewal on August 16, 2022. 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 Jeff Starkey. The Motion Passed. 5-0. Ayes: Altman, Davis, Marlowe, Murphy, Starkey

- b Recommendation on Animals in City Parks

City Manager Manns introduced Parks and Recreation Director Elaine Smith who then presented the item to Council. She began her presentation by highlighting other City and County park regulations. Ms. Smith stated that it is staff's recommendation to continue the policy of not allowing dogs in the James E. Grey Preserve and to revisit the topic during the development of a 14 acre parcel. Upon opening the floor to public comment, Joan Hook came forward and stated she did not feel there was a difference between a well-behaved dog on a leash at a park versus a well-behaved dog on a leash on a sidewalk. Annette Konga came forward and stated they visited the Preserve a couple of weeks ago after reading about it in the paper. She stated that she understands they shouldn't run free because of the animals but should be allowed on a leash. Bob Smallwood came forward and stated that there are plenty of places that dogs can be walked already. He stated we need a more quality dog park. With no one else coming forward Mayor Marlowe returned the floor to Council. Councilman Altman stated he liked the idea to have the dog walk available from Congress. Councilman Murphy stated that it is a good compromise. Councilman Davis also stated this is a good compromise. Deputy Mayor Starkey stated it is his opinion that this is a bit restrictive. Mayor Marlowe stated the kayak launch was key. Motion was made to approve the item as presented.

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

- c Board Re-Appointment: Mark Vandebroek, Library 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 Mark Vandebroek to the Library Advisory Board. She stated that Mr. Vandebroek has been a valued member of the Library Advisory Board since 2016. His current term is due to expire on August 16, 2019 therefore he has submitted his application seeking re-appointment to the Board. If approved, Mr. Vandebroek's term will be for three years and will be up for renewal on August 16, 2022. 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

d Orange Lake Improvements Project Close Out

City Manager Manns introduced the item to Council. She stated that the purpose of this agenda item was to approve a deductive change order in the amount of \$24,517.86 and a final pay request in the amount of \$237,976.55 to Augustine Construction, Inc., for the Orange Lake Restoration and Improvements 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 Pete Altman. The Motion Passed. 5-0. Ayes: Altman, Davis, Marlowe, Murphy, Starkey

e ITB19-014 Wastewater Treatment Plant Bulk Chemical Purchase 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 ITB19-014 Wastewater Treatment Plant Bulk Chemical Purchase to Fort Bend Services, Incorporated, for bulk purchase of liquid Polymer at \$1.28 a pound. This is an increase of \$.18 cents from the existing cost per pound or \$9,000 per year. 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 Three Minute Report: Technology Solutions

10 Communications

Mayor Marlowe stated we had a very interesting Vox Pop. He has made it clear over the last couple of days what he said was his opinion and not necessarily the opinion of Council.

Deputy Mayor Starkey stated in response to Mr. Black's comments, he one hundred percent supports our police. It is deplorable what is happening to other law enforcement agencies around our country. He told Mayor Marlowe he felt bad that he had judgment passed onto him during Vox Pop and comments that were made. He asked about the maintenance on center medians and Mr. Rivera stated we just started work with a new contractor. He stopped by the Hacienda today and the work is moving along nicely.

Councilman Davis stated he grew up in a military situation and he has lived that life and he totally supports our law enforcement. He would like to look at the vagrancy issue and Chief Bogart stated that there are officers there everyday. He wanted to thank Regan Weiss for his comments made during Vox Pop.

Councilman Murphy stated he attended the Florida Main Street Conference where NPRMS received an award. Next year the conference will be held here.

City Manager Manns stated it was important to communicate that the appropriation for the pedestrian overpass is for this fiscal year and is not a rollover.

11 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: \_\_\_\_\_



Office of the Mayor  
City Of New Port Richey

# Proclamation

***WHEREAS,** the U.S. Congressional Gold Medal Award is the highest honor that can be bestowed upon our nation's youth; and*

***WHEREAS,** the award requires that each recipient embark on a two year goal-setting journey, logging a minimum of four hundred hours of volunteer service, two hundred hours of personal development and physical fitness and a five-day/four-night expedition/exploration; and*

***WHEREAS,** Tanner Smith has been a valued member of the City's Parks and Recreation Youth Advisory Board since 2007, and*

***WHEREAS,** Tanner completed the requirements for the U.S. Congressional Gold Medal Award in two years logging in a total of 581 hours of volunteer service participating in events such as Toys For Tots, family movie nights in Sims Park, the Cardboard Camp-Out Annual Food Drive and the Cotee River Cleanup; and*

***WHEREAS,** Tanner received his award from U.S. Congressman Gus Billirakis at a special ceremony on June 20, 2019 in Washington, D.C.*

***NOW, THEREFORE,** I, Rob Marlowe, Mayor of the City of New Port Richey do hereby congratulate*

*Tanner Smith*

*on receiving the U.S. Congressional Gold Medal Award and commend him for his outstanding public service to the residents of the City of New Port Richey.*



*In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and caused this seal to be affixed.*

\_\_\_\_\_  
ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_