



**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**

**September 17, 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 August 30, 2019 Special Meeting 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 September 5, 2019 Special Meeting and Regular Meeting 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 Proclamation - National Recovery Month

Rachel Starostin accepted the parchment from Mayor Marlowe.

7 Presentation to the Parks and Recreation Youth Advisory Board RE: 2019 Florida Recreation and Park Association Voluntary Service Award

Mayor Marlowe presented the 2019 Florida Recreation and Park Association Voluntary Service Award to the Parks and Recreation Department Youth Advisory Board.

8 Presentation of GFOA Distinguished Budget Presentation Award to Finance Department

Mayor Marlowe presented the GFOA Distinguished Budget Presentation Award to Finance Director Crystal Feast.

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

Mayor Marlowe opened the floor for public comment. Bob Langford came forward and stated the WPHS is presenting a program about West Pasco at CARES in Hudson this Thursday. The Friends of the Hacienda is having a membership meeting on November 7th and Jim Gunderson will be the speaker and talk about the updates at the Hacienda. Michael Goldberg came forward to speak about creating an indoor soccer league at the Rec Center. Angela DeWitt from Bootlegger's came forward to talk about the charity event and the bill she received. She wanted to know why police presence is needed. She also introduced the a gentleman from BACA who spoke about the charity event. City Manager Manns stated she would meet with the representatives to discuss the event further. With no one else coming forward for public comment, Mayor Marlowe closed Vox Pop.

10 Consent Agenda

Motion was made to accept the Consent Agenda.

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

a Library Advisory Board Minutes - July 2019

b Police Pension Board Minutes - May 2019

c Environmental Committee Minutes - July 2019

d Purchases/Payments for City Council Approval

11 Public Reading of Ordinances

a First Reading, Ordinance No. 2019-2157 Amendments to Police Pension Ordinance RE: Request for 13th Check

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 conduct a first reading of an ordinance which effectuates a benefit change in the form of a one-time supplemental benefit payment under the New Port Richey Police Officers' Retirement System for each person receiving a benefit from the plan on October 1, 2018 including DROP participants. The Union contract does not currently provide for an annual cost-of-living adjustment. In reviewing this matter from a past perspective the City Council has not been asked and as such nor have they granted an ad hoc increase to the members receiving benefits from the system at any time in at least the last twenty years. The current vested rate is 118.1%. From a fiscal perspective this request is appropriate. The supplemental payment will be made on December 1, 2019. Upon opening the floor to public comment, Bill Phillips

came forward and stated he is a member of the Police Pension Board. The fund has formed well. He reiterated this is a one-time check and not something that will be asked for each year. There is no real impact to the City. This is a request that has been discussed in detail over the last five months. He encouraged Council to accept the recommendation of staff. With no one else coming forward Mayor Marlowe returned the floor to Council. Motion was made to approve the ordinance upon its first reading.

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

- b Second Reading, Ordinance No. 2019-2169: Amendment to Park Hour Operations for Sims Park and Orange Lake

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 conduct a second and final reading of Ordinance No. 2019-2169 amending Section 16-1 of the City's Code of Ordinances relating to the hours of operation for Sims Park and Orange Lake. The amended closing time for Sims Park and Orange Lake will be 11:00 p.m. 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 ordinance upon its second and final reading.

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

12 Business Items

- a Partnership Proposal with The Central RE: RAC Memberships

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 review and approve a partnership proposal between The Central and the New Port Richey Recreation and Aquatic Center for a reduced membership rate for The Central's residents. The proposal includes a reduced rate of fifty percent and The Central would provide payment to the City for the first two months for each of their residents. Their residents would then pay the City the remaining ten monthly payments for membership to the Recreation and Aquatic Center. After the first year, renewal rates would be at the full city resident rate. Upon opening the floor to public comment, Frank Starkey came forward and introduced Bruzenskey Bois, Community Manager for The Central. Mr. Starkey stated the amenity package for The Central is the entire city. With no one else coming forward Mayor Marlowe returned the floor to Council. Mayor Marlowe stated he received comments from Bob Smallwood who objected. Councilman Altman discussed the Wilderness Preserve CDD and their strategy to bring people into the community. Councilman Murphy stated that it would be up to the Rec Center to retain the members. Deputy Mayor Starkey stated he could not see giving their residents fifty percent off when other residents only receive twenty percent. He knows The Central will be a huge success. Councilman Davis stated that only about seven percent of the revenue comes from memberships. He would like to reach out to Main Street Landings as well as realtors who sell property within the city. He suggested they would have six months to obtain the memberships. Councilman Altman stated that the realtors need to be trained to promote the Rec Center. Councilman Murphy stated we definitely have to do this with others. Overall this would benefit the Rec Center. Council requested that staff bring back a proposal for consideration. Motion was made to approve the item as presented.

Motion made by Pete Altman and seconded by Matt Murphy. The Motion Passed. 3-2. Ayes: Altman, Marlowe, Murphy Nays: Davis, Starkey

- b Recommendation on Plastic Straw Ban

City Manager Manns introduced the item to Council. She stated that the purpose of this agenda item

was to consider imposing a ban on the use of plastic straws. City Manager Manns stated that the Environmental Committee submitted a letter of support for a ban on plastic straws, bags and polystyrene products. In July, downtown eating and drinking establishments received a letter seeking their input on the matter. Of the responses received, all but one were in favor of not imposing any type of ban at this time. At this time it is staff's recommendation that the City do not move forward with any type of ban and to wait and see what happens during the upcoming legislative session. There is interest to restrict the use of polystyrene products on public property and are currently working with the Parks and Recreation Department who in turn will work with vendors for events in the park. Upon opening the floor to public comment, Noah Denny came forward and asked for a copy of the letter and asked Council to defer this to a later date. Barbara Sullo stated this doesn't have to be mandatory we can encourage them to do it voluntarily. With no one else coming forward Mayor Marlowe returned the floor to Council. Councilman Davis stated bigger hotels in Orlando have already made the change to paper straws. Deputy Mayor Starkey stated he would like to see us be more adamant about recycling bins around the city. He stated we can revisit this issue after the legislative session. Councilman Altman stated there were reusable straws at the FLC conference. Councilman Murphy stated he agreed to table this matter in order for more research to be done.

c Three Minute Report: Human Resources

d HVAC Service Agreement – Two (2) Year renewal

City Manager Manns introduced the item to Council. She stated that the purpose of this agenda item was to approve a two year renewal agreement with Air Mechanical for the City's HVAC systems in an amount not to exceed \$80,000. Air Mechanical has been the City's HVAC maintenance provider since October 2017. Mr. Rivera stated there was no price increase. 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 Matt Murphy. The Motion Passed. 5-0. Ayes: Altman, Davis, Marlowe, Murphy, Starkey

13 Communications

Mayor Marlowe stated he attended two 9/11 memorial ceremonies one at Gulf High and the one in Sims Park. The turnout in the park was large. There is the family movie night in the park on Saturday. Last Saturday was the Electric Tailgate event and it was well attended. There are opportunities for businesses to participate in events that occur in Railroad Square.

Deputy Mayor Starkey stated our city loves golf carts and those who use them need to use them responsibly. He stated we need grass in Sims Park under the shade structures. He wished his daughter a happy birthday.

Councilman Davis stated he talked about motorized scooters about a month ago. He talked about an incident he witnessed with a gentleman and a scooter. Chief Bogart stated that municipalities can put restrictions in place. He also discussed the dangers of scooters on Main Street. Councilman Murphy stated he has received complaints about golf carts as well. Councilman Altman stated he saw in the news where a local city recently approved scooters but with more restrictions than Tampa. We want to be a walkable city. Mayor Marlowe stated he has seen a unicycle type of one downtown.

Councilman Altman stated that the last two Saturdays parking in the downtown has been full. He heard a presentation from FDOT at the TBRPC meeting in regards to the Suncoast Parkway and I4. The TBRPC has done some visioning for Citrus County. He asked how much they have seen in an influx in golf cart use. We have a unique position here being a golf cart city. He had a conversation regarding the underpass project but there is not a lot of enthusiasm for it. Deputy Mayor Starkey stated this was

discussed at the MPO meeting last week.

Councilman Murphy asked about golf carts in the inner circle at the park. Elaine Smith stated there was designated golf cart parking for the concert series and that seemed to work out well and there were no issues. He stated he has watched on the news about the issues with vaping. He asked what we could do here to protect our children. It is an issue that is beginning to snowball.

14 Adjournment

There being no further business to consider, upon proper motion, the meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

(signed) _____
Judy Meyers, CMC, City Clerk

Approved: _____ (date)

Initialed: _____