



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
December 10, 2019
5:00 PM

ORDER OF BUSINESS

1 Call to Order - Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Rob Marlowe at 5:00 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 Clerk Judy Meyers, Police Chief Kim Bogart, Public Works Director Robert Rivera, Parks and Recreation Director Elaine Smith and Technology Solutions Director Bryan Weed.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

2 Multi-Day Special Events in Sims Park - Page 2

City Manager Manns introduced the item to Council. She stated that the purpose of this work session was to discuss multi-day special events held in Sims Park. Special events are an important part of our culture. They are a benefit to the downtown and to the residents. She stated there are some controls that need to be put in place for certain elements which include a blackout schedule, vendor setup and exit procedures, entertainment, street closures, sponsorship and event signage, golf carts, parking on lawn areas and damage deposits.

City Manager Manns then addressed each element individually. She began with entertainment. She stated that Sims Park is a public space and is not just a concert venue. Entertainment must be family friendly. Staff's recommendation is that the City is advised in advance of the event of the entertainers so that research may be done. Councilman Davis suggested that entertainers should be approved during the SET meeting. Deputy Mayor Starkey stated that if you are an event organizer then you should be 100% responsible for the event.

The next element was vendor setup and exit procedures. City Manager Manns stated that we have not been as strict as we should be for the benefit of the park. Staff's recommendation is to distribute maps and require the proper entrance and exit to the park. Parks and Recreation Director Elaine Smith stated that it was staff's recommendation that by noon of the final day of the event the organizer must be out of the park. Councilman Altman suggested the first business

day after the event.

The next element was event sponsorships and signage. City Manager Manns stated by going through the process it will help to keep the number of signs down and keep from putting them in wrong places. It is staff's recommendation to obtain information on signage in advance of the event and the organizers will need to obtain a temporary sign permit.

The next element is the use of golf carts in the park. City Manager Manns stated that we currently allow golf carts during movie events. We do not allow for big events. She stated our ordinance does not allow them in Sims Park but we have turned a blind eye. She stated that some organizers want to use golf carts too and it may be allowed for purposes of running the event. Deputy Mayor Starkey stated we do not have issues during movie nights because there are no vendors. He stated where you have to be careful is when you have vendors. Mayor Marlowe stated he would like to have an area designated for golf cart parking that does not call for carts to drive through the park. Councilman Davis suggested designating the north parking lot as golf cart parking. He stated realistically there are alcohol on the golf carts.

City Manager Manns then moved on to parking on the lawn. She stated it has been a practice for our events to have the food vendors in the park. She stated we do not charge organizers for damage to the sod. She stated it costs over \$30k to re-sod the park. It is staff's recommendation to move vendors to hard surfaces and not allow them on the grass. Mayor Marlowe suggested having vendors use parking pads. City Manager Manns stated another issue related to parking is the number of vehicles per vendor in the park. Mayor Marlowe stated some vendors could be moved to the outside surfaces that have more than one thing.

Councilman Davis stated by moving some vehicles to the hard surfaces that may help with having less blackout dates for the park. When he looked at the list the City's events totaled 5% of the year and the other events totaled 6%. Public Works Director Robert Rivera stated the two large blackout dates will allow not only for the seed to be put down but to take hold. He stated sometimes irrigation may need to be turned off. He stated major maintenance requires time.

City Council then had a brief discussion on the City taking over the fireworks celebration.

Deputy Mayor Starkey stated that businesses and residents need to know ahead of time when there will be street closures. Mayor Marlowe stated he had to move barricades to get out of his business this year. City Manager Manns stated that it is staff's recommendation that notices will be done by city staff so they go out in a timely manner. Chief Bogart stated it is a huge expense for the non-profit to send out the street closure notices. He also suggested using the city's message boards at the entrance points to the city.

Mayor Marlowe then opened the floor for public comment. John Kane came forward and spoke about golf carts in the park. He stated a park should be a safe place for the children. He stated Council needs to have a consensus of what they want the park to be. You cannot have motorized vehicles in a confined area with people and children. He stated Railroad Square is a great space to put food vendors.

Carmen Passarella came forward and stated rent is high in the downtown with all of the growth. Having big events helps to give the city a name and is also important to the employees of businesses downtown. Part of the growth is due to the large events and the crowds they bring in.

Wendy Brenner came forward and stated the issue of putting vendors in the street is where will the parade go. The parking lot will be used once the Hacienda is opened. There should be some flexibility built in during the blackout dates. She stated riding bicycles in the park is also an issue. She agreed golf carts should not be allowed in the park during large events. She stated people are moving to the city because of golf carts.

Gene Sullivan came forward and stated people park golf carts parallel and when you go to

register it the brochure states to park nose in so a space can accommodate more than one cart.

3 Communications

Deputy Mayor Starkey stated he participated in the golf cart parade and it was a great event. Mayor Marlowe stated he made a point to adjust his schedule to come down and watch it. He stated there is no lighting at Jasmin Park and would like to see some put in. Councilman Murphy stated there was a huge difference in the golf cart parade from last year and that it was a really great event. Councilman Altman stated riding the boat down the river at night was great and it was good to see such holiday spirit. Councilman Davis stated that more people will be coming to New Port Richey over the next year.

4 Adjournment

There being no further business to consider, upon proper motion, the meeting adjourned at 6:31 p.m.

Approved: _____ (date)

_____ (signed)

Initialed: _____

Judy Meyers, CMC, City Clerk