



**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**

December 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 Earl Hahn, Technology Solutions Director Bryan Weed and Human Resources Manager Bernie Wharran.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Moment of Silence

4. Approval of December 3, 2019 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. 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 to speak about a bike path down Grand along the river. It would be simple to turn Grand Blvd. one-way and the lane closest to the river would be multi-use with the exception of golf carts. Once the underpass project is complete then it could merge with golf carts. With no one else coming forward for public comment, Mayor Marlowe closed Vox Pop.

6 Consent Agenda

City Manager Manns stated that business item 8F should have actually been placed on the Consent Agenda for approval. Motion was made to accept the Consent Agenda with the addition of item 8F.

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

- a Purchases/Payments for City Council Approval

7 Public Reading of Ordinances

- a First Reading, Ordinance No. 2020-2178: Amendments to Uniform Fine Schedule

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 on an ordinance which amends the Uniform Fine Schedule for City Code violations. Changes include verbiage to address burying or burning and depositing garbage or trash in the City and changes the violation classification; and, for under Chapter 14 Miscellaneous Offenses verbiage has been added to address discharging arrows, bolts or projectiles. 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 first reading.

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

- b Second Reading, Ordinance No. 2019-2174 RE: Amendment to Residential Rental Permit Ordinance

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 on an ordinance to amend residential rental permits. She stated that on November 7, 2006 City Council adopted Ordinance No. 2006-1843 which set forth the provisions for residential rental permits. At that time, an annual fee of \$35 was assigned. In 2017, City Council increased the fee to \$50 as part of the annual review of comprehensive fees. She stated that this ordinance amends the original ordinance by removing the references to the \$35 annual fee and instead has language added which will allow for the ability to increase the fee in the future if needed without having to come back with another ordinance amendment. 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 Matt Murphy. The Motion Passed. 5-0. Ayes: Altman, Davis, Marlowe, Murphy, Starkey

8 Business Items

- a Resolution No. 2020-03: Uniform Method of Collection for Non Ad-Valorem Assesments

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 approve a resolution authorizing the use of the uniform method of collection relating to efforts to collect code enforcement fines. She stated that the City has had limited success in its efforts to collect on delinquent code enforcement infractions. In that regard, the Florida Statutes provide cities with the authority to impose a non-ad valorem assessment for fees which are not based upon millage and which can become a lien against a homestead. In addition to the improved collection rate to the city it is also believed that a more effective means of collection will lend itself to a more heightened sensitivity to the appropriate level of stewardship for property in the city. To date, three letters have been sent to those who owe outstanding fines. If approved, one more final letter will be sent out before being

placed on the tax bill.

Upon opening the floor to public comment, John Kane came forward to ask if this changes the process that has been done in the past. He stated once it is put on the tax bill it is undisputable. Deputy Mayor Starkey stated that he has been contacted by more than one investor about bank owned homes. When that happens the bank does not have to disclose. Property Appraiser Gary Joiner came forward and stated his process is to put them on the tax bill and then when they are paid the City will receive the funds right away. He has used this process with the Cities of Dade City and Zephyrhills. He plans to put it on the August TRIM notices and their website. John Kane then asked before it goes on the tax bill does it get presented to Council before it goes on the bill. City Manager Manns stated there will be a public hearing and letters will be sent certified mail.

With no one else coming forward Mayor Marlowe returned the floor to Council. Councilman Altman stated there ought to be some contingent discussion of which ones to put on. This is another way for the Finance Department to communicate with those who have outstanding fines. He would advocate for the big cases to come back before Council before being added to tax bills. Councilman Murphy stated this is a good way and will allow for the City to collect and also protect some investors. Deputy Mayor Starkey stated we need to find out a productive way to inform homesteaded and non-homesteaded properties. Communication is crucial. Councilman Davis asked the City Attorney about the Argus building and he replied that a foreclosure was filed in that case. City Attorney Driscoll stated everyone has had their due process in regards to their liens. Mayor Marlowe stated that some daily fines are up to \$500 so there should be some incentive to property owners to make payment arrangements. Mr. Joiner stated that hopefully this will slow down repeat offenders. Councilman Altman stated an unpaid water bill becomes a lien under Florida Statutes. 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

b Board Re-Appointment: Glenwood Pratt, Police Pension 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 Glenwood Pratt as the board-elected trustee to the Police Pension Board. On November 26, 2019, the trustees of the Police Pension Board voted to re-appoint Glenwood Pratt as the board-elected trustee. The City's Code states that City Council shall, as a ministerial duty, appoint such person to the board of trustees as its fifth trustee. Mr. Pratt's term as board-elected trustee is for four years and will be up for renewal on December 31, 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

c Second Reading, Resolution No. 2020-02: 2019 Redevelopment Plan Amendment

City Attorney Driscoll read the proposed resolution by title only. City Manager Manns introduced the item to the Council. She stated that the purpose of this agenda item was to conduct a second and final reading on a resolution which would amend the City's CRA Plan. In short, the amendment would focus on redevelopment activities, projects, and materials so that the authorization to engage in these initiatives is clearly present in the plan. She stated this is an amendment to add language to ensure that it contains typical activities that are related in a CRA Plan. City Manager Manns stated that this is a bookkeeping matter so we are better able to prepare and distribute reports for the Plan as required by law. 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 resolution on its second and final reading.

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

d Professional Service Agreement RE: City Engineering Services for 2020

City Manager Manns introduced the item to Council. She stated that the purpose of this agenda item was to authorize the City Manager to enter into a contract with Ayres Associates to provide professional engineering services for the City. Ayres Associates has been providing engineering services to the City since 2016. Services provided include transportation, municipal, environmental, structural, and water resources disciplines as well as architecture, landscape architecture, grant writing, planning, aerial mapping, and survey services. Additional services provided include consulting, studies and reports, project design, general services during construction, inspection and supplementary services and special projects. 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

e Recommendation of Firm for 2019 Fleet Maintenance/Utility Purchasing Warehouse & Storage Building Construction Project

City Manager Manns introduced Public Works Director Robert Rivera who then the item to Council. He stated that the purpose of this agenda item was to approve staff's recommendation of McKim & Creed for engineering service cost associated with the design and construction of the Fleet Maintenance/Utility Purchasing Warehouse and Storage Building Project. Three firms submitted qualifications for this project. Staff ranked McKim & Creed as the top firm followed by HTG Architects. The existing building was built in 1973 and no longer meets building codes or Public Works needs. 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

f Consideration of Amendments to the FY19 Adopted Budget

This item was moved to the Consent Agenda.

g Three Minute Report: Technology Solutions

9 Communications

Mayor Marlowe thanked the organizers of the golf cart parade and the street parade. He thanked Chief Bogart's staff for making the event a safe event. He loves the way that New Port Richey is changing. He wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Deputy Mayor Starkey thanked staff for their hard work and all of the volunteers for the parades. He stated we all have the common goal of improving the city. He stated we are becoming the place for people to move to. We are building a community.

Councilman Davis stated we presented ourselves in a high manner for the parade and it was a great event.

Councilman Altman wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Councilman Murphy stated he was impressed with the participation in the parade. Looking back over the year there have been some big things that have happened and next year looks to be the same. He wished everyone a happy holiday season.

City Manager Manns wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

City Attorney Driscoll wished everyone a happy holiday.

10 Adjournment

There being no further business to consider, upon proper motion, the meeting adjourned at 7:51 p.m.

(signed) _____
Judy Meyers, City Clerk

Approved: _____ (date)

Initialed: _____