



**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**

**January 14, 2020
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 Clerk Judy Meyers, Fire Chief Chris Fitch, Public Works Director Robert Rivera, Technology Solutions Director Bryan Weed and Assistant Fire Chief Adam Darling.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

2 Presentation on Fire Station No. 2 Replacement Project - Page 2

City Manager Manns presented the item to Council. She stated that the purpose of the work session was to discuss the replacement of Fire Station No. 2. She stated that this project has been ongoing for five years and was delayed due to several factors including annexation and the loss of the VA clinic on the proposed site. She stated that as a city we want to maintain an ISO rating with a response time of four minutes. Our current rating is a 3 with the highest rating a 1 and lowest level a 10. City Manager Manns stated our rating is near a 2 and she would like to pursue that in the next rating round. Fire Chief Chris Fitch then made a presentation to Council. Chief Fitch began his presentation by highlighting the demographics of the city. Chief Fitch then highlighted comparable cities with a similar level of service. He then highlighted response challenges including only one multi-lane road, the river running through the city, limited access west from stations, limited access north and south and school zones. NFPA 1710 states that response time for the first unit shall be four minutes or less. The average response time in 2019 was 4.22-4.25 minutes. One central fire station in the city would not be proficient due to the extended response times. Chief Fitch stated the relocation of Fire Station No. 2 is being proposed at Marine Parkway and Grand Boulevard. Chief Fitch then highlighted the current conditions of Fire Station No. 2 and the challenges. He then highlighted the advantages of the new proposed location. City Manager Manns stated if this project is approved the City will apply to the USDA for an Urban Loan which is a loan and a grant. Jeff Pelszynski and John Kelly from Fleischman Garcia then made a presentation to Council. Mr. Pelszynski began his

presentation by highlighting the space needs analysis. The new station will allow for a drive-through for the fire vehicles instead of having to back them in. The new station would also include appropriate sleeping, living and meeting rooms. Mr. Pelszynski then discussed the analysis of the different sites that were proposed. Mr. Pelszynski then highlighted the different proposed designs for the site at Marine Parkway and Grand Blvd. Mr. Kelly then presented the cost analysis. He stated construction costs are escalated at an estimate of 6% each year. The estimated cost would be approximately \$2.5 million but could vary depending on variables that may arise. City Manager Manns stated she was looking for Council to determine what would be needed in order to move forward with this project. Deputy Mayor Starkey stated the conditions are deplorable and depressing and that first responders deserve better. He stated he is in favor of the second station at the proposed location. Councilman Davis asked if property was available if we wanted to expand the location. Mr. Kelly stated if a three bay station would be needed then to budget for that and build it from the beginning. Councilman Davis stated he is in favor of this project. Councilman Altman stated all of the comments are well taken and the conditions are unacceptable. He stated he would also support the progress to improve the conditions and he stated he felt the location was right as well. He stated when approached County leaders there have been comments to let the County take over but that is unacceptable. Our city started the first library and rec center. He stated there is a lack of respect our city gets from the county for our services. He stated he was in favor of moving forward with the project. He stated our first responders deserve better. Councilman Murphy stated he agreed with the proposed plan. He stated we need two stations. Mayor Marlowe stated his concern was the exit to Grand and not Marine but if Chief Fitch was comfortable with it he would support the project. City Manager Manns stated there was room to discuss ingress/egress. He asked if we knew what the County's ISO rating was and Chief Fitch stated he could get it. Deputy Mayor Starkey stated the majority of the insurance policies he does shows them at a 4 or 5. Deputy Mayor Starkey stated he would like to see the modifications done to Fire Station No. 1 move forward as well. City Manager Manns stated it would be a preferred situation to move forward with Fire Station No. 2 then come back and revisit modifications for Fire Station No. 1. Councilman Altman stated he would like to see a comparison of the renovations or relocating Fire Station No. 1. Mayor Marlowe then opened the floor for public comment. Heather Fiorentino came forward and stated that she has always supported two stations. The response time is very important.

3 Communications

Councilman Altman stated the Florida Redevelopment Association is having their meeting Friday and he will be in attendance. The public side and redevelopment side of what we do are tied together. It is good to see us pushing in both directions. Mayor Marlowe stated the Leadership Summit was a great event and worth the drive each day to St. Petersburg. We need to be planning now for climate change and rising sea levels.

4 Adjournment

There being no further business to consider, upon proper motion, the meeting adjourned at 8:09 p.m.

Approved: _____ (date)

_____ (signed)

Initialed: _____

Judy Meyers, CMC, City Clerk