



**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**

**February 4, 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 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, Development Director Earl Hahn, Technology Solutions Director Bryan Weed, Human Resources Manager Bernie Wharran and Assistant Parks and Recreation Director Chris Bornfleth.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Moment of Silence

4. Approval of January 14, 2020 Work Session Minutes

Motion was made to approve the minutes as presented.

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

5. Approval of January 21, 2020 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

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

Mayor Marlowe opened the floor for public comment. Dale Thien came forward to thank Council for allowing the Friends of the Library to use the Council Chambers for a special event as part of the Library's 100th anniversary on February 24th. Ernie Pagnozzi came forward to talk about his property on Orchid Lake Road. He stated he leased half of his building to a company that does roll up doors. His tenant was denied his business license and was told the property would have to be rezoned. Bill Phillips came forward with questions regarding the recent CRA meeting involving the property for Keiser University. He also spoke regarding the River Road Church property and the wayfinding signs. Bob Langford came forward to remind Council of the Historical Society's event Thursday night and their open house on Saturday. Brian Schmidt came forward to speak about the Historical Society's event and the open house. Gabriel Strine came forward to speak about a property on Larch Lane and getting the property rehabilitated. Foster Piatt came forward to speak about Code Enforcement issues for their building on US19. With no one else coming forward for public comment, Mayor Marlowe closed Vox Pop.

7 Consent Agenda

Motion was made to accept the Consent Agenda.

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

- a Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Minutes - December 2019
- b Library Advisory Board Minutes - September and October 2019
- c Cultural Affairs Committee Minutes - December 2019
- d Police Pension Board Minutes - November 2019
- e Purchases/Payments for City Council Approval
- f Consideration of Amendment to the FY20 Adopted Budget

8 Business Items

- a Board Re-Appointment: Dr. Donald Cadle, Jr., Land Development Review Board

Motion was made to approve the item as presented.

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

- b Public Hearing: Non-Ad Valorem Assessment for Outstanding Fines

City Manager Manns introduced the item to Council. She stated that the purpose of this agenda item was to conduct a public hearing as required by State Statute regarding non-ad valorem assessments for the collection of outstanding fines due to the City. She stated that on December 17, 2019 City Council approved Resolution No. 2020-03 which authorized the Uniform Method of Collection for non-ad valorem assessments as a means to aid in the collection efforts for outstanding fines due to the City. Since that time, all affected property owners were notified of the intent to place their outstanding fines as a non-ad valorem assessment on their upcoming property tax bill and were invited to attend this public hearing to address this issue or to file their written objection. To date, no written objections have been filed. City Manager Manns stated that all property owners have received four previous

notices regarding this issue. Upon opening the floor to public comment, no one came forward therefore Mayor Marlowe returned the floor to Council. Councilman Davis asked if they were calendar years and City Manager Manns replied yes. He then asked about how much money and City Manager Manns replied about \$125,000. Councilman Murphy stated this was a streamlined way to get things collected. Councilman Altman noted there were properties with amounts that exceeded the \$125,000 total and City Manager Manns replied the higher fees are expected to be negotiated to a lower amount and would be collected through other means such as foreclosure. She stated the final assessment roll will not be sent to the Property Appraiser until September. Councilman Davis amended the motion to state that the final roll be submitted to Council before transmitted to the Property Appraiser and Tax Collector.

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

c Second Reading, Resolution No. 2020-05: Extension of the CRA to 2049

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 reading of Resolution No. 2020-05 for the extension of the CRA to 2049. She stated that during the 2019 legislative session, Chapter 2019-163 Laws of Florida was adopted and created Section 163.3755 Florida Statutes, which provided that the governing body of a municipality having a community redevelopment agency whose existence will extend beyond September 30, 2039 must approve the continued existence of the agency beyond said date by a majority vote of the members of the governing body. This new law became effective October 1, 2019. 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

d Request for Funding for Cultural Affairs Committee RE: Valentine Window Decorating Contest

City Manager Manns introduced the item to Council. She stated that the purpose of this agenda item was to approve the recommendation from the Cultural Affairs Committee to fund the New Port Richey Main Street's Valentine window decorating contest in an amount not to exceed \$200. Funding for this request is available in the Cultural Affairs Committee budget line item. 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 Request for Funding for Cultural Affairs Committee RE: Loquat Festival

City Manager Manns introduced the item to Council. She stated that the purpose of this agenda item was to approve the recommendation from the Cultural Affairs Committee to fund the Loquat Festival by Ecology Florida in an amount not to exceed \$1,500. Funding for this request is available in the Cultural Affairs Committee budget line item. 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 Disposal of Surplus Property for Auction

City Manager Manns introduced the item to Council. She stated that the purpose of this agenda item was to declare nine vehicles/equipment as surplus equipment and authorize them to be sent off to auction. 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

g WWTP Biosolids Hauling and Disposal Contract Extension

City Manager Manns introduced the item to Council. She stated that the purpose of this agenda item was to approve a one year contract extension with Merrell Bros., Inc. for Biosolids Hauling and Disposal. The agreement was entered into back on April 2019. 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

h 2017 Seawall Repair Project Close Out

City Manager Manns introduced Public Works Director Robert Rivera who then presented the item to Council. He stated that the purpose of this agenda item was to approve a deductive change order in the amount of \$37,424.49 and final pay request in the amount of \$94,375.30 to Cal-Tech Testing, Inc. d/b/a Foundation Professionals of Florida for the completion of the 2017 Seawall Repair Project. Sims Park, Cotee River Park, the Sims Park boat ramp and Grand Blvd. Park were all included in the 2017 Seawall Repair Project. The repairs included wall joint separation, wall cracking horizontal and vertical, wall cap damage, sidewalk settlement, drainage pipe deterioration, soil voids, wall leaning, and damaged or no tie-back systems. 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

i James E. Grey Preserve Improvements Phase 1 - Design Task Order No. 37

City Manager Manns introduced Public Works Director Robert Rivera who then presented the item to Council. He stated that the purpose of this agenda item was to approve Design Task Order No. 37 submitted by Stroud Engineering Consultants in the amount not to exceed \$108,550.00 for the James E. Grey Preserve Improvements Phase 1. Project elements will include the design and construction of a shell parking area and entrance drive, landscaping, and park signage, a 544 square foot restroom structure, water and sewer service for the restroom structure, a 740 foot walking/biking trail and connections to the existing trails in the preserve, and an elevated 40 foot pedestrian bridge over the Cotee River south of the Harbor View Mobile Home Park. Upon opening the floor to public comment, Bill Phillips came forward and stated he would have liked more clarity in the Task Order. He would have liked to have seen how much was budgeted in the cover memo. He stated this property is near and dear to those who grew up in New Port Richey. John Kane came forward and stated that the Environmental Committee had submitted its recommendations on the park. With no one else coming forward 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

j Three Minute Report: Human Resources

9 Communications

Mayor Marlowe stated he had a gentleman with the Masonic Lodge wanting to know if there was a sign they could add their logo to. He has seen these types of signs elsewhere sometimes they are nice but sometimes tacky. He spoke about the email from the resident on Crossbow and the speeding issue. He stated that the book that City Manager Manns gave them addressed road widths. The recommendations in the book are for ten foot travel lanes in businesses areas and eight foot in residential areas. In the case of Crossbow, if it was cut down to sixteen feet that would give eight feet available for sidewalks. He stated that residential streets should be looked at and possibly be put on a road diet. He stated his notes are welcome to be read as long as his colleagues do not respond.

Deputy Mayor Starkey stated he agreed with Councilman Altman's comments regarding the Chamber building. He has someone interested in using the building for a kayak and bait shop. He stated if you are relying on a box truck or banner to promote your business you need to rethink it. Businesses are different now. One of the reason he ran for office was to focus on the US19 corridor. We need to keep going. There are box trucks up and down US19 used for advertising that sometimes block the view of traffic. It is not acceptable as a city and we can do better. We need to do better with our sign ordinance and work with our businesses.

Councilman Davis stated that Mike and Jeanette Gordon enjoyed the lights under the bridge that were changed for the Superbowl. He stated there is a lunch and learn on the history of New Port Richey on February 11th at the theatre. He asked about the paving and Mr. Rivera stated the contractor had pushed it back and should start again in a few weeks.

Councilman Altman stated next Monday is the monthly meeting for the TBRPC. He stated it is important the County understand and participate. He referenced an article in On Common Ground magazine regarding resiliency, walkability and planning. He stated earlier today there was a tour at The Central. He stated the time has come to look at the Chamber building and the value of the real estate. He stated he has heard interest in making the boat ramp area better. Councilman Altman stated that we should share the historical event with the other members of the MAP meeting.

Councilman Murphy stated he was in Boston over the weekend and they had a lot of the same things that we have including wayfinding and crosswalks.

10 Adjournment

There being no further business to consider, upon proper motion, the meeting adjourned at 8:19 p.m.

(signed) _____
Judy Meyers, CMC, City Clerk

Approved: _____ (date)

Initialed: _____