



**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

March 3, 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, 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, Assistant Finance Director Crystal Dunn and Assistant Parks and Recreation Director Chris Bornfleth.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Moment of Silence

4. Approval of February 11, 2020 Work Session 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. Approval of February 18, 2020 Work Session and 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. John Kane came forward to discuss the topic of dogs. He has altered his morning walks because of dogs. The County takes several days to address an issue. He suggested having a work session on the issue. 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 Chopper Davis and seconded by Jeff Starkey. The Motion Passed. 5-0. Ayes: Altman, Davis, Marlowe, Murphy, Starkey

a Police Pension Board Minutes - January 2020

b Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Minutes - January 2020

c Cultural Affairs Committee Minutes - January 2020

d Purchases/Payments for City Council Approval

8 Public Reading of Ordinances

a Second Reading, Ordinance No. 2020-2181: Amendments to Firefighters' Pension Ordinance RE: 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 second reading of an ordinance that effectuates a benefit change in the form of a one-time supplemental benefit payment under the New Port Richey Firefighters' Retirement System for each member receiving a benefit from the plan on October 1, 2009. She stated that City Council approved a one-time supplemental benefit which resulted in a one-time 13th check for current retirees and members of the DROP for the Police Officers' Retirement System on October 1, 2009. She stated that no form of an annual cost-of-living adjustment has been provided to the members in the past just as was the case with the Police Officers' Retirement System request. The cost to the City to fund this benefit improvement is \$6,187. Funds for this expenditure are available in the Pension Plan. 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

b Second Reading, Ordinance No. 2020-2180: Repealing Ordinance No. 2019-2055 RE: Conditional Use Application for 5780 Main Street (eCarve LLC)

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 an ordinance that repeals Ordinance No. 2019-2055 regarding a conditional use application for eCarve LLC for the operation of scooter rentals/sales at 5780 Main Street. The owner is no longer operating his business from that location. 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 Pete Altman. The Motion Passed. 5-0. Ayes:

Altman, Davis, Marlowe, Murphy, Starkey

- c First Reading, Ordinance No. 2020-2182: Amendments to Chapter 5, Rezoning, Variances, Special Exceptions of the LDC

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 that amends the LDC Chapter 5, Rezoning, Variances, Special Exceptions. She then introduced Development Director Earl Hahn who then made a presentation to Council. He stated although the LDC has guidelines for granting variances and special exceptions, it contains no guidelines for granting Official Zoning District Map or LDC amendments. Mr. Hahn then highlighted the revisions being proposed. 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 Jeff Starkey. The Motion Passed. 5-0. Ayes: Altman, Davis, Marlowe, Murphy, Starkey

- d First Reading, Ordinance No. 2020-2184: Comp Plan Amendment RE: Table FLU 1.1.3., Future Land Use Categories and Revising the Downtown, Downtown Core and Highway Commercial Categories

City Attorney Driscoll read the proposed ordinance by title only. City Manager Manns introduced Development Director Earl Hahn who then presented the item to Council. Mr. Hahn highlighted the changes being proposed including an increase in density to allow for the Keiser project. Changes are also being proposed for the Downtown Core. The Highway Commercial also has proposed changes. City Manager Manns stated the LDRB is recommending approval for this item. Upon opening the floor to public comment, no one came forward therefore Mayor Marlowe returned the floor to Council. Councilman Altman asked about the property on River Road and Mr. Hahn stated that was in residential. Councilman Altman asked if it would be a future change to increase density. City Manager Manns stated since there was no specific proposal so it was not addressed. Councilman Davis asked if we were increasing density in the parking in the downtown as well and Mr. Hahn replied yes. Councilman Murphy asked what the density was increasing to and Mr. Hahn gave a detailed explanation on the ratios allowed and the provisions for TDR's. Councilman Davis asked if this changes anything in the second phase of The Central. Mr. Hahn stated they could choose to do so if they are in the downtown district. Deputy Mayor Starkey stated this will be a great tool to alleviate issues. 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

- e First Reading, Ordinance No. 2020-2185: Amendments to Chapter 7, Zoning of the LDC

City Attorney Driscoll read the proposed ordinance by title only. City Manager Manns introduced Development Director Earl Hahn who then presented the item to Council. He stated that the purpose of this agenda item was to amend the LDC to allow a university or college in the Downtown and Highway Commercial zoning districts. Mr. Hahn stated it would only be limited to one in the downtown to maintain the integrity. Mr. Hahn then highlighted the definition of a college/university. 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 Matt Murphy and seconded by Chopper Davis. The Motion Passed. 5-0. Ayes: Altman, Davis, Marlowe, Murphy, Starkey

- 9 Business Items

a Board Re-Appointments: Lisa Marie Dolcy and Ruth Ann Jackson, Cultural Affairs Committee

City Manager Manns introduced the item to Council. She stated that the purpose of this agenda item was to approve the re-appointments of Lisa Marie Dolcy and Ruth Ann Jackson to the Cultural Affairs Committee. Lisa Marie Dolcy and Ruth Ann Jackson have been valued members of the Cultural Affairs Committee since 2018. Their current terms are due to expire on March 6, 2020. If approved, their terms will be for two years and be up for renewal on March 6, 2022. 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 Other. 5-0. Ayes: Altman, Davis, Marlowe, Murphy, Starkey

b 2020 Chasco Fiesta Alcoholic Beverage Special Event

City Manager Manns introduced the item to Council. She stated that the purpose of this agenda item was to approve the ABSEP for the upcoming Chasco Fiesta. Organizers wish to sell beer and wine in Sims Park as follows:

Friday, March 27th	5:00p.m. - 11:00p.m.
Saturday, March 28th	1:00p.m. - 11:00p.m.
Sunday, March 29th	1:00p.m. - 11:00p.m.
Monday, March 30th	5:00p.m. - 10:00p.m.
Tuesday, March 31st	5:00p.m. - 10:00p.m.
Wednesday, April 1st	5:00p.m. - 10:00p.m.
Thursday, April 2nd	5:00p.m. - 10:00p.m.
Friday, April 3rd	5:00p.m. - 11:00p.m.
Saturday, April 4th	1:00p.m. - 11:00p.m.

City Manager Manns stated there would be three areas within the park that would have beer and wine sales. Upon opening the floor to public comment, John Kane came forward to speak about alcohol in the park and the damage to the park. He stated there were other areas for food vendors including Railroad Square. He stated it is disappointing that things were not spread out more evenly. Patty Deremer came forward and stated there are many plans in place. She stated this will be the last year for the current location of the carnival. She stated they pay for police and fire along with a damage deposit. She stated we are here to support over twenty-five non-profits. Bruce Rohrbach, Jr. came forward and stated it was a mistake to bring alcohol into Chasco. He stated it would be better to have non-alcoholic drinks including coconut water. With no one else coming forward Mayor Marlowe returned the floor to Council. Deputy Mayor Starkey stated he was ok with beer and wine but he is uncomfortable with having a fence around the park. You do not put fences around a park. He stated we need to focus on quality events instead of making them bigger. City Attorney Driscoll stated the fence issue could be addressed but time may be of essence since the next meeting is not until March 18th. City Manager Manns stated she did not know of the car show until recently but would be in favor of it as it would bring people into the downtown. She stated having entry points would provide better security. The organizers are charging admission to pay for some of the entertainment performers. Al Renedo came forward and stated that fire vehicles will be able to get through and there will be detours for traffic. Councilman Davis stated the car show will bring people downtown. He stated the control access will be for the evening events. Councilman Murphy stated it will be hard for the promoters if we make any changes at this point. Councilman Altman stated he is on the Chasco Board and wanted to provide input on the fence discussion. The purpose of the fencing is for limited access for the event. People will also need to have a wristband to enter. Mayor Marlowe stated he participated in the car show last year and it was a zoo. To move it from Orange Lake into the side streets downtown has a lot of benefits. He understands Deputy Mayor Starkey's concerns about fencing the park. They may have to find a more appropriate place in the future as construction in the area grows. Councilman Davis stated Coachman Park is fenced off for the jazz festival. Deputy Mayor Starkey stated that fencing would limit the number of exits should an incident arise. Councilman Altman stated people can still enjoy the Native

American area, carnival and playground with no charge at any time. City Attorney Driscoll stated if the event is approved it is being approved with all aspects at this point. Mayor Marlowe stated he will be watching the gate process carefully. Motion was made to approve the item as presented.

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

c Three Minute Report: Police Department

10 Communications

Mayor Marlowe stated the Chasco item was signed months ago and if there are significant changes we need more advanced notice. City Manager Manns stated we will work with the SET better next year. Last week he participated in two mixers and both were well attended. He had lunch with Mayor Tremblay from Port Richey and discussed a possible trolley arrangement from the Port Richey waterfront to our downtown. The second discussion item was a golf cart discussion and not being able to cross US19 and suggested coming up with ideas together and then present a united front to FDOT. Mayor Tremblay stated they may amend their golf cart ordinance and may approach us about reciprocity. Deputy Mayor Starkey stated that Port Richey was not at the MPO meeting once again. He stated that Port Richey will be removed from the MPO Board if they do not attend. He stated the Commissioners are still on board for the Underpass Project. Finally Mayor Marlowe stated there was an animated discussion on chickens. We did ask the EC for their recommendations.

Deputy Mayor Starkey stated he would like to publicize a phone number for Code Enforcement for residents to call or text a photo to. He wanted to state that he was alright with chickens since he was not at the last Council meeting due to his son's birthday. He asked about the smoking in the common areas even though there are no smoking signs and City Manager Manns stated staff is working on establishing an ordinance.

Councilman Altman stated he meets people who are moving here and that people are liking what they see here. He stated now is a time to find a way to encourage people and investors to come to our city.

Councilman Murphy thanked Chief Bogart and the Code Enforcement staff for all that they do.

City Manager Manns stated a nine day event like Chasco does take a toll on the park but there is not another event organizer who is more responsible. They pay a damage deposit. The criticism tonight should have been directed at her and not Chasco. She understands clearly from Council that they want to be involved in every decision regarding special events and that opportunity will be afforded in the future. She stated the Gloria Swanson Parking Lot Project was deferred intentionally so that work can be done together and will be a cost savings. Mr. Rivera stated that staff has met with the consultant, reviewed plans and that materials have been ordered. Staff took the Chasco Fiesta into consideration as to not have an open construction site during the event.

11 Adjournment

There being no further business to consider, upon proper motion, the meeting adjourned at 8:23 p.m.

(signed) _____
Judy Meyers, CMC, City Clerk

Approved: _____ (date)

Initialed: _____