



**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 18, 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, Fire Chief Chris Fitch, Assistant Public Works Director Barret Doe, Development Director Earl Hahn and Technology Solutions Director Bryan Weed.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Moment of Silence

4. Approval of March 3, 2020 Work Session and Regular Meeting Minutes

Motion was made to approve the minutes as presented.

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

5. Approval of March 5, 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

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

Due to health concerns regarding the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) Vox Pop was suspended for this meeting.

7. Consent Agenda

- a Purchases/Payments for City Council Approval

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

8 Public Reading of Ordinances

- a Second 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 conduct a second reading on an ordinance which would provide guidelines for rezonings and zoning map district changes. 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 Jeff Starkey. The Motion Passed. 5-0. Ayes: Altman, Davis, Marlowe, Murphy, Starkey

- b Second Reading, Ordinance No. 2020-2185: Amendments to Chapter 7, Zoning of the LDC RE: Permitted Uses

City Attorney Driscoll read the proposed ordinance by title only. City Manager Manns introduced the item to Council. She stated the purpose of this item was to conduct a second reading on an ordinance which will allow a college or university in the highway commercial and downtown zoning districts. 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 Matt Murphy and seconded by Chopper Davis. The Motion Passed. 5-0. Ayes: Altman, Davis, Marlowe, Murphy, Starkey

9 Business Items

- a 2020 Orangewood Lakes Water System Improvements-Engineering Task Order No. 43

City Manager Manns introduced the item to Council. She stated that the purpose of this agenda item was to approve Engineering Task Order No. 43 for Stroud Engineering Consultants, Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$42,500 for design, permitting, bid, and construction phase services regarding the Orangewood Lakes Water System Improvements Project. 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

- b Approval of Firm Rankings for Fire Station No.2 Relocation Project

City Manager Manns introduced the item to Council. She stated that the purpose of this agenda item was to approve staff's ranking of firms regarding architectural services for the Fire Station No.2 Relocation Project. The RFQ was released in January. Five firms responded to the RFQ and three were selected for interviews. After the presentations, the selection committee ranked the firms as follows: 1.) Wannemacher Jensen Architects, 2.) Spring Engineering and 3.) Fleischman Garcia. If the rankings are approved as submitted an agreement would try to be obtained with the top firm. If no

agreement is reached, negotiations would progress to the next ranking firm. 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

c Request to Suspend Mass Gathering Public Events

City Manager Manns introduced the item to Council. She stated that the purpose of this agenda item was to suspend the operation of all mass gathering public events where the expected crowd is estimated to be 10 people or higher. All events would be suspended until March 31, 2020. Upon opening the floor to public comment, no one came forward therefore Mayor Marlowe returned the floor to Council. Deputy Mayor Starkey urged residents to stay home as much as possible. He stated the more we adhere to the guidelines the better it will be for the people. Mayor Marlowe stated that he had dinner at Rose's before the meeting and there was very few people there. He would encourage people to avoid the large restaurant chains and to go to our smaller businesses instead. Councilman Murphy stated that they have done lock down at his office as well. He encouraged people to get take out food from the restaurants and to help small businesses. Councilman Altman stated youth sports have been cancelled as well and this goes beyond economic disappointment and hardship. He stated he estimates rough times ahead. He commended City Manager Manns for her decision to cancel Chasco and the timing as it allowed Chasco to cancel the large insurance policy. He would like to see the possibility of setting up a carry out location for the Sertoma bbq tickets. Councilman Davis stated that some of the businesses that are feeling the tug that perhaps their landlords will work with them. Motion was made to suspend all public events until March 31, 2020.

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

d Resolution No. 2020-12: Declaring a Local State of Emergency

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 declare a state of emergency due to the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) outbreak. She stated that on March 1, 2020 Governor Ron DeSantis issued Executive Order No. 20-51 declaring a state of emergency due to the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) outbreak. As the virus spreads exponentially, it poses a severe threat to the life, health, and welfare of our residents. Upon opening the floor to public comment, no one came forward therefore Mayor Marlowe returned the floor to Council. Motion was made to declare a local state of emergency effective as of 12:01 a.m. March 19, 2020 for a period of seven days.

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

10 Communications

Deputy Mayor Starkey wanted to state that his prayers go out to everyone at this time especially Robert Rivera and his family on the loss of his father.

City Manager Manns stated as we respond to the ongoing COVID-19 concerns our primary effort has been to continue to carry out the essential functions and services of the city while protecting the public and our employees from exposure to the coronavirus. In that respect, organizationally we are implementing both social distancing and transmission intervention methods to protect the public and the city's employees. These measures are updated daily to reflect adherence with the most recent recommendations from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention and the World Health Organization. City Manager Manns then listed several key items the City is doing in response to the virus including closing the library and rec center, suspending events in Sims Park and suspending all City board/commission meetings until further notice.

Councilman Davis wanted to ask the public to read and then reread information before they go out in public.

Councilman Altman stated there is so much unknown as to how long this will last. He would like to state that with the cancellation of events and the quietness of the town, he was curious if the companies that are doing construction are still doing so as there has to be some economic activity and that not everyone can stay home. He asked if we are green lighting projects. City Manager Manns stated that in regards to the parking lot project, contact has been made with the contractor to see if the start date can be moved up since Chasco was cancelled. She stated companies are still working with the use of PPE's.

Councilman Murphy stated as long as we move forward and work within the guidelines we can keep things moving. That is the goal. He encouraged everyone to be safe and to follow the rules.

Mayor Marlowe echo the comments of his colleagues. It will be a rough couple of months. We will all have to work together. The market has just gone nuts and it is a free fall. The businesses along Main Streets across the country do not have big reserves and he is concerned for them. He stated he had four census things show up at his house. He stated if you have not filled out your census form yet to please do so. The tax money the City receives is based on the census information. He encouraged everyone to not go out if you do not need to.

11 Adjournment

There being no further business to consider, upon proper motion, the meeting adjourned at 7:43 p.m.

(signed) _____
Judy Meyers, CMC, City Clerk

Approved: _____ (date)

Initialed: _____