



**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**

**April 21, 2020**

**7:00 PM**

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**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, Finance Director Crystal Feast, Public Works Director Robert Rivera, Technology Solutions Director Bryan Weed and Assistant Parks and Recreation Director Chris Bornfleth.

- a Due to the Novel Coronavirus, the City Council will be conducting its meetings through the use of Communications Media Technology (CMT) until further notice. The City Council chamber will NOT be open to the public for these meetings. During the meeting, comments may be emailed to MeyersJ@cityofnewportrichey.org or you may call 1 (872) 240-3412, access code: 606-759-949. Please keep in mind that access to the meeting by phone may be limited and email access may be delayed. By waiting until the meeting to make a comment, you may not be able to participate in the meeting. The City Council reserves the right to proceed on any item whether public communications are delayed or otherwise obstructed.

**2 Pledge of Allegiance**

**3 Moment of Silence**

**4 Approval of April 7, 2020 Regular Meeting Minutes**

Motion was made to approve the minutes as presented.

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

**5 Administration of Oath of Office to Mayor Rob Marlowe**

6 Appointment of Deputy Mayor

Councilman Altman made a motion to nominate Councilman Murphy. Councilman Murphy declined. Councilman Davis made a motion to reappoint Councilman Starkey as Deputy Mayor. Seconded by Councilman Murphy.

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

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

No written comments were received for Vox Pop.

8 Consent Agenda

Motion was made to accept the Consent Agenda.

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

a Purchases/Payments for City Council Approval

9 Business Items

a Consideration of Appointments to Intergovernmental Committees

The current appointments are as follows:

Pasco County Metropolitan Planning Organization - Councilman Starkey with Councilman Davis as alternate  
Pasco County Tourist Development Council - Councilman Davis  
Suncoast League of Cities - Councilman Murphy  
Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council - Councilman Altman  
Tampa Bay Water - Mayor Marlowe

No written comments were received for this agenda item. Motion was made to retain the current appointments.

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

b Recreation and Aquatic Center - Summer Membership Sale

City Manager Manns introduced the item to Council. She stated that the purpose of this agenda item was to approve the summer membership sale for the Recreation & Aquatic Center. The sale will run from May 13-27, 2020 and will offer a 20% discount. Councilman Davis stated he would like to see the memberships start once the Rec Center is back open. Councilman Altman stated that members have not had access since the center has been closed. He stated everyone's membership should be extended or discounted. Deputy Mayor Starkey stated he agreed with Councilman Altman's idea to extend memberships. Mayor Marlowe agreed as well. City Manager Manns stated that members have been told that their memberships will be extended for as long as the center was closed. No written comments were received for this item. Motion was made to approve the item subject to when the Recreation Center is back open.

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

c Fleet Management Lease Agreement

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 fleet lease agreement with Enterprise Fleet Management. Mr. Rivera began his presentation by highlighting the conditions of the current fleet. There are currently 125 vehicles with an average age of 12 years old and mileage of 72,500. Average maintenance costs over the last three years \$403,330. Average miles per gallon is seven miles. Annual fuel cost is \$263,000. He stated the vehicles are all outdated on safety features. There are no alternative fuel technology vehicles in the current fleet. In the police inventory, there are 33 pursuit vehicles. There are 10 Crown Victoria's that are 14 years old with an average odometer mileage of 130,000. There are 7 Chargers that are 9 years old and average odometer is 130,000. There are several deficiencies in the police department fleet. Mr. Rivera then highlighted the advantages of lease vehicles including improved vehicle replacement cycles, reduced capital expenditures, reduced maintenance costs, increased resale values, asset management availability and available hybrids. The first cycle would include 17 police interceptor, 4 electric vehicles, 3 hybrids and 27 types of gasoline and diesel fuel vehicles. Police interceptor hybrids would begin leasing in 2022. Mr. Rivera stated that many agencies use this type of program.

Mr. Rivera then introduced Karole Fitzgerald from Enterprise Fleet Management who then made a presentation to Council. Ms. Fitzgerald began her presentation by stating that 40% of the current City's fleet is old. She stated this would be an open-ended lease. There are no mileage or damage restrictions. All proceeds on resale go back to the City. She stated the largest objective is to do a lot more with less capital. It would be on a five-year rotation plan. She stated that over a ten year period the City could save over a million dollars.

Councilman Davis asked about the police vehicles and Mr. Rivera stated that all vehicles will come outfitted with equipment. Deputy Mayor Starkey asked if that included the technology as well and City Manager Manns stated yes.

Finance Director Feast stated in the current year's budget there is \$400k budgeted for vehicles. Under the new lease program we would be leasing higher than what we had budgeted for purchase. What is saved will be rolled forward to the next fiscal year. She stated at any point that the City wants to discontinue the program we can and are under no obligation. Staff had asked about using Penny for Pasco funds. She stated Penny is due to expire in 2024. Councilman Altman stated he was not in favor of rolling funds forward. Ms. Feast stated Penny funds are for vehicle purchases and maintenance was out of the general fund.

No written comments were received for this item. 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

10 Communications

Deputy Mayor Starkey stated our residents are doing great with social distancing. He hopes that we can gradually open in the weeks to come. He stated he is getting complaints once again for boats on the river. He stated there is only two officers who can operate the boat. He stated maybe we need to hire more officers with boating experience. He would like to see the boat in the water on busy weekend. Councilman Murphy stated he agreed with Deputy Mayor Starkey's comments on social distancing. He stated that he thinks you will see people in that mode once things return to normal. He stated that there is an increase in the homeless population and asked if there was an increase in issues. City Manager Manns stated there has been an influx in large part due to many camps being established on County property in proximity of the city. She stated that there was conversations with the County about establishing comfort stations and one has been set up just south of Ridge Road. She stated it is small however. She stated we will continue to have conversations with the County. Councilman Davis thanked the public for following social distancing guidelines. He stated Pasco County approved an

emergency grant program with businesses able to receive up to \$5k. He then read the highlights of the program. He stated that a couple of parks have been reopened by the County. He stated he would like to see stars in the pavement near the Hacienda since we are Hollywood of the East. Mayor Marlowe stated that the section west of Grand Blvd. on Railroad Square may be a good place for a star walk. Councilman Davis stated he was bringing this up since the sidewalk is torn up right now. Councilman Altman stated has seen groups doing drugs near the Riverside Baptist Church. He stated the pastor is allowing the homeless to use a plug to charge their phones. Deputy Mayor Starkey stated he worked with Commissioner Wells to break up a camp on Olesner. He stated there are homeless camps all around the city. Deputy Mayor Starkey stated it is not acceptable in our city. Councilman Davis stated he thinks they see the access to panhandling and drugs in the county areas. Councilman Altman stated petroleum is a huge component of asphalt. He stated it is a great time for paving since the roads are empty. He stated the costs on asphalt should be down. Councilman Altman stated he read the memo about Kane's and he would like to stress to them to follow the rules. City Manager Manns stated she had a discussion with the owner today and in short she affirmed to him the fact that he needs to actively promote the sale of office supply and that his management staff are following social distancing protocols. She stated she told him that he could reopen his store. Councilman Altman stated without a lot of revenue availability unless it is in the CRA Plan we cannot offer an incentive program. Mayor Marlowe stated the way the plan is written it was never contemplated. He stated as things start to reopen we can remind people and that many restaurants are offering take-out. Councilman Davis he has submitted suggestions to Charles Rudd and Jacob Fried. Mayor Marlowe stated he wife was not here for his swearing in as they were at Bayonet Point Hospital to show support for the healthcare workers. He stated he did get an email from a resident who was awoken by the paving equipment and he told him that the noise should decrease over the next few days. He stated that he is making contact with the Mayor's Climate Alliance and we may be able to take advantage of some of their programs as well. He is encouraging the public to use masks when they are out and about. He told everyone to be safe and follow social distancing guidelines. He stated we are starting to see levels in Florida level off. Councilman Murphy thanked healthcare workers and referenced the blue bridge lights.

11 Adjournment

There being no further business to consider, upon proper motion, the meeting adjourned at 8:33 p.m.

(signed) \_\_\_\_\_  
Judy Meyers, City Clerk

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ (date)

Initialed: \_\_\_\_\_