



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

May 5, 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, 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, Lt. Lauren Letona 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 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

5 Proclamation - Older Americans Month (By Title Only)

Mayor Marlowe read the proclamation by title only.

6 Proclamation - Municipal Clerks Week

Mayor Marlowe presented City Clerk Meyers with the parchment.

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

Mayor Marlowe and City Clerk Meyers read the following Vox Pop comments received into the record:

John Kane - At the last meeting the Deputy Mayor and Councilman Altman addressed the problem of vagrants in the city and all associated issues i.e. public urination, trash, and other health concerns. There is a vacant lot by Mark Spence's office that is between Central Ave and Alley4. This lot is over grown affording cover to vagrants camping in there, it should be cleared by the owner to open it up for public view to alleviate the problem. I have personally confronted people in there and told them they were on private property and had to move along. There are remnants of old camps in there and trash and who knows what else, it is by a bus stop as well making it unsafe to anyone waiting for a bus especially at night. Could you bring this up at the meeting to see if something can be done to rectify this? Thank you! And please tell Mr. Driscoll I timed the reading of this letter and if read at a moderate pace it should meet the three minute requirement.

Regan Weiss - To my great city admin, Mayor and council. These are unprecedented times. That means, we do whatever it takes to meet the needs of potential clients and more importantly assist our community and downtown businesses survive. Speed of implementation can make or break a business. We need to flip the switch back on immediately. We can't lose our momentum. I would like to propose that rail road square become a full time wet zone until this hiccup in life subsides. Rail Road square can be a "safe space" where people can safely social distance while being social. It's needed for our business owners but also needed for our community. Together we all win.

Janine Partridge - I feel it would be beneficial to the local businesses if Main Street was closed for traffic, this way businesses could put tables outside and try to recover some of their financial losses. There is a dozen or more side streets, nothing would be blocked. Downtown has been trying so hard to improve business. Other cities do it, why not NPR? Please!

Deputy Mayor Starkey stated he was in support of closing Railroad Square for a wet zone but Main Street was out of the question. Councilman Altman stated he felt sidewalks were the logical place. Councilman Davis stated we would have to address our alcohol ordinance. He also stated that bars are not open yet. He stated we should be consulting with businesses regarding Railroad Square. He was not in support of closing Main Street. Councilman Murphy was not in favor of closing Main Street but suggested closing both parts of Railroad Square. Mayor Marlowe stated The White Heron, Boulevard Beef and Rose's have the same landlord and perhaps they would be allowed to put tables and chairs out in their parking lots. He stated there would be two businesses, Kazu and Fitzgerald's, that would benefit tremendously from closing Railroad Square. Councilman Davis stated currently Fitzgerald's is a package store. Mayor Marlowe suggested allowing the City Manager to make some temporary provisions to help the businesses out. City Manager Manns stated she would work with the City Attorney on provisions.

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 Police Pension Board Minutes - February 2020
- b Purchases/Payments for City Council Approval

9 Business Items

- a Board Appointment: Frank Starkey, Land Development Review Board

City Manager Manns introduced the item to Council. She stated that the purpose of this agenda item was to approve the appointment of Frank Starkey as first alternate to the Land Development Review Board. City Manager Manns stated that Mr. Starkey has been a valued member in our community for many years. He is also a current member on the Historic Preservation Board. If approved, Mr. Starkey's term will be for three years and will be up for renewal on May 5, 2023. 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

- b Board Re-Appointment: Louis Parrillo, Land Development Review Board

City Manager Manns introduced the item to Council. She stated that the purpose of this agenda item was to approve the re-appointment of Louis Parrillo to the Land Development Review Board. City Manager Manns stated that Mr. Parrillo has been a valued member of the Land Development Review Board for many years. Mr. Parrillo's current term is due to expire on May 6, 2020 there he has submitted his application seeking re-appointment to the Board. If approved, Mr. Parrillo's term will be for three years and will be up for renewal on May 6, 2023. 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

- c Library Renovation Project – Engineering Services Task Order

City Manager Manns introduced the item to Council. She stated that the purpose of this agenda item was to approve a task order for Williams Architects in an amount not to exceed \$94,750 for the Library Renovation Project. She stated we have been working with Williams since 2018. The proposed task order completes the design and construction documents needed to construct the project. Deliverables also include bidding and permitting phase and construction administration, project close-out, and warranty phase. The source of funding would be a USDA loan. Bidding and construction would begin later this year.

Mayor Marlowe then read the following into the record:

Dear City Council Members, The centennial year of our city library is set to embrace a new beginning with much-needed library renovations. As a community hub, updating our Library reflects the progressive and positive strides that our City Council has embarked upon over recent years. Having reviewed the proposed architectural changes, I ask for your approval on May 5th of the Engineering Services Task Order. The vibrancy of our developing downtown will be reflected in the vibrancy of our remodeled Library. Thank you. Bonnie Martin, Library Advisory Board Member and President of the Friends of the NPR Library.

Councilman Davis asked if any parking would be lost and City Manager Manns stated they would be

lost during the construction. 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

d Resolution No. 2020-10: Expressing the Support for the Fundraising of the Museum Project

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 approve a resolution to support the fundraising efforts to establish a museum within the city limits. She stated that Mr. Charles Zidar from the Museum of Anthropology, Paleontology and Science made a presentation to City Council at your work session on March 3, 2020 regarding establishing a museum within the city limits. At the conclusion of the discussion City Council directed staff to draft a resolution for support of project. She stated that Mr. Zidar did prepare a proposed budget and strategic plan for the project. City Manager Manns stated the estimated cost would be \$3M for two years. Mayor Marlowe asked if there were any comments received and City Clerk Meyers replied no. Mayor Marlowe stated he had a conversation with Mr. Melton regarding Schwettman. Deputy Mayor Starkey stated he had a voicemail from Mr. Zidar regarding the same. Councilman Altman stated a wrap around in a parking garage may be an alternate. He stated this project may be eligible for tourist funds. 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

e Sims Park Sculpture Walk Proposal

City Manager Manns introduced the item to Council. She stated that the purpose of this agenda item was to approve a request for funding for the Cultural Affairs Committee in the amount of \$7,000 to establish a sculpture walk. There will be a total of eight sculptures located in Sims Park and around Orange Lake. The sculptures would be displayed for eighteen months. Funds from the Public Art Fund would cover the costs of the bases. Mayor Marlowe asked if there were any comments received and City Clerk Meyers replied no. Deputy Mayor Starkey stated this type of art does not flow with Sims Park or Orange Lake. Mayor Marlowe stated he could see someone climbing on one of the sculptures and would damage it. He stated he did not think they would fair well. Councilman Davis asked about if the funds for the bases were available in the CAC budget and City Manager Manns stated the bases would be paid out of the public art fund. Councilman Murphy stated it seemed like a large amount the City is putting out for this project for the artist to sell. Councilman Altman stated it was his understanding that we rent the artwork and not sell it. Councilman Davis stated there are many different ideas of what art is. His concern is over public safety. Motion was made to deny the request.

Motion made by Jeff Starkey and seconded by Chopper Davis. The Motion Passed. 4-1. Ayes: Davis, Marlowe, Murphy, Starkey Nays: Altman

f Gymnasium Sports Lighting Replacement Project

City Manager Manns introduced the item to Council. She stated that the purpose of this agenda item was to consider a proposal from MUSCO Lighting, LLC in an amount not to exceed \$39,265.00 for the Gymnasium Sports Lighting Replacement Project. The current lights would be replaced with more efficient LED lights. This would be a piggyback on a Clay County contract. Mayor Marlowe asked if there were any comments received and City Clerk Meyers replied no. 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

g Technology Solutions Department Auxiliary Power Generator Project - Consideration for Approval

City Manager Manns introduced the item to Council. She stated that the purpose of this agenda item was to consider a proposal from Garrett Rhodes Electrical Services, Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$34,071.00 for the purchase and installation of an auxiliary power generator for the Technology Solutions Department. The generator would be used in emergency situations. She stated that currently there is no generator at City Hall where our Technology Solutions Department is located. Funds for this project are available in the CIP and Penny for Pasco. Mayor Marlowe asked if there were any comments received and City Clerk Meyers replied no. Councilman Davis asked where the generator would be located and Mr. Rivera stated it will be on the west side of City Hall. 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

h ITB No. 20-006 WWTP Storage Tank Cleaning and Painting Project Change Order

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 consider a change order for Southern Road & Bridge, LLC in an amount not to exceed \$145,883 for the WWTP Storage Tank Cleaning and Painting Project. The WWTP has two reject storage tanks that were installed in 2004 and have never been painted. In addition, several miscellaneous structures have been included as well. Mayor Marlowe asked if there were any comments received and City Clerk Meyers replied no. Councilman Altman stated that the facility was shared with the County and they should be responsible for 40% of the cost and Mr. Rivera stated yes. 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

10 Communications

Deputy Mayor Starkey stated it was nice to see people out in the park doing yoga. Councilman Altman stated he was driving down Main Street and saw people at the Social and parking lots filling up. It is good to see things getting back to normal. He is looking forward to the CRA meeting next Tuesday. Councilman Davis stated he was at the Grey Preserve and there was an orange closing sign and asked if we could transfer the closing to the new sign. City Manager Manns stated that yes the information will be moved to the informational sign. Councilman Murphy stated he has noticed a lot of energy with businesses anticipating to open back up. Mayor Marlowe encouraged everyone to keep up with social distancing guidelines. He stated he was thrilled to see restaurants to get an opportunity to open back up in some sort of fashion. He stated it is important for the City to offer assistance during this time and we will offer more in the future when other establishments open back up. Councilman Davis stated if we have the opportunity to do something in Railroad Square we should extend the offer to other establishments that are just off of Railroad Square. Councilman Altman stated he spoke with New Port Richey Main Street about supporting local restaurants and bars. He stated he is still favoring the City putting on the fireworks and turn the 4th of July into a great reopening. City Manager Manns stated she was notified earlier today that NPRMS was not planning to host a fireworks event this year. Mayor Marlowe stated he spoke with the NPRMS president and he told him that it is hard to say when it will be safe for large groups to get together again. Mayor Marlowe stated he foresees Bike Fest and the Christmas Parade not moving forward as well because of the lead time it takes to plan these events. Deputy Mayor Starkey asked if the Hacienda was still on track to open later this year and City Manager Manns stated yes. Councilman Altman stated if there is a way that we should bring attention that our city is open we should do it. Mayor Marlowe stated last year's fireworks display there was easily 40k-50k people. He stated we could not do that this year but to tone it down. Councilman Davis stated he appreciated Councilman Altman's comments but this is such a moving target. Councilman Murphy stated he would hate to see us do nothing. Councilman Davis suggested a golf cart tour through town the Sunday before the 4th of July. Mayor Marlowe stated that would be a great NPRMS project. Deputy Mayor Starkey stated he thought the golf cart idea would be greatly received. Deputy Mayor Starkey wanted to thank Hero Subs for the accommodations they provided. Councilman Davis

stated you can make a donation there and Hero Subs will donate to a local first responder. Mayor Marlowe stated there were several downtown restaurants who have also provided food to first responders.

11 Adjournment

There being no further business to consider, upon proper motion, the meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

(signed) _____
Judy Meyers, City Clerk

Approved: _____ (date)

Initialed: _____