



**MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION  
CITY OF NEW PORT RICHEY**

**NEW PORT RICHEY CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

**5919 MAIN STREET, NEW PORT RICHEY, FLORIDA**

**June 2, 2020**

**5:30 PM**

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**ORDER OF  
BUSINESS**

1 Call to Order - Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by Deputy Mayor Jeff Starkey at 5:30 p.m. Those in attendance Councilman Chopper Davis, Councilman Peter Altman and Councilman Matt Murphy. Mayor Rob Marlowe was excused. Also in attendance were City Manager Debbie Manns, City Clerk Judy Meyers, Finance Director Crystal Feast, Public Works Director Robert Rivera and Technology Solutions Director Bryan Weed.

- 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.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

2 2020 Irrigation Rate and Rate Structure Review Analysis - Page 3

City Manager Manns introduced Public Works Director Robert Rivera who then presented the item to Council. He stated that the purpose of the work session was to review the 2020 Irrigation Rate and Rate Structure Review Analysis conducted by Stantec Consulting Services, Inc. Mr. Rivera stated this would be considered the first step in the process. He then introduced Jeff Dykstra who presented the findings to Council. Mr. Dykstra began his presentation highlighting the scope of services and objectives for the project including irrigation customer profiles, diagnostic review of irrigation rates, local benchmarking, rate and financial implications. Mr. Dykstra stated most service is through a single use meter. Some customers

may have a second meter for irrigation purposes. City Manager Manns stated we have a three tiered water structure including customer charge, base charge and volumetric charge. Mr. Dykstra stated 70% of customers are residential units. The average monthly usage on the irrigation meter is 7k gallons. Deputy Mayor Starkey asked what percentage of parcels have access to reclaimed water. City Manager Manns stated three percent. He asked for the percentage of residents who have access to reclaimed water. He stated to start off at tier III for landscape water was not fair and equitable. Councilman Altman stated how can we get residents to get the best deal. Mr. Rivera stated there has to be a conservation plan per the State permit. Councilman Altman stated when you look at the average customer it does not add up. He stated people do not sign up for reclaimed because it may not be feasible for them. Deputy Mayor Starkey asked how we determine where we put reclaimed water in. Mr. Rivera stated we follow a reclaimed master plan that calls out for modeling of the system. We have a lot of reclaimed water transmission lines but cannot be tapped into. Mr. Rivera stated the North River neighborhood was to be the next neighborhood to do so but survey results back in 2008 were only 16%. In 2011 offsets were done but we failed to meet that. Mr. Rivera stated when we do our revenue sufficiency in October we can look at the numbers to adjust the tier amounts. Mr. Rivera stated we have amended our ordinances and have discussed the possibility of grants but no one has taken advantage of it. Outreach is very important. Councilman Altman asked why people could not be encouraged to save water in their house to then use for irrigation. He stated there is a disadvantage to having an irrigation meter. Mr. Dykstra stated it all depends on the irrigation demand. Mr. Dykstra then highlighted irrigation rate structures between eight different communities. He stated that the City is in the middle of the communities for rates. Deputy Mayor Starkey asked about the irrigation meter and Mr. Rivera stated it was up to the property owner. Councilman Altman stated the irrigation meter does not encourage conservation. He stated there is a discrepancy in the process. He stated if you are trying to save water you should do it as a household. Mr. Dykstra then highlighted the comparison on residential monthly bills and stated the City is in the middle from other comparable areas. Mr. Dykstra said the City's rates are comparable to other local areas. Mr. Dykstra then highlighted suggestions including best management practices and stakeholder outreach. Deputy Mayor Starkey asked if there was any way we could amend the tier structure based on parcel size. Mr. Dykstra stated he had not heard of any communities doing that but there may be challenges.

3            Communications

None

4            Adjournment

There being no further business to consider, upon proper motion, the meeting adjourned at 6:39 p.m.

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

\_\_\_\_\_ (signed)

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

Judy Meyers, CMC, City Clerk