



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 16, 2020
6:00 PM

ORDER OF
BUSINESS

- 1 Call to Order - Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Rob Marlowe at 6:00 p.m. Those in attendance were, Deputy Mayor Jeff Starkey, Councilman Chopper Davis, and Councilman Matt Murphy. Also in attendance were City Manager Debbie Manns, City Clerk Judy Meyers, Public Works Director Robert Rivera, Economic Development Director Charles Rudd, Development Director Earl Hahn and Technology Solutions Director Bryan Weed. Councilman Peter Altman arrived at 6:01 p.m.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

- 2 Discussion with the West Pasco Historical Society RE: Rao Musunuru M.D. Museum & Library

City Manager Manns introduced the item to Council. She stated the work session was called at the request of the West Pasco Historical Society. She then introduced Bob Langford and Brian Schmit from the West Pasco Historical Society who then made a presentation to Council. Mr. Langford began his presentation by stating that the museum has undergone many changes over the last six months. Mr. Langford stated the museum has much to offer and can be an economic driver for the downtown. He stated they have always been family friendly and would like to expand the hours of the museum. Mr. Schmit then made a presentation to Council. Mr. Schmit began his presentation by giving an overview of the relationship between the City and the museum. Mr. Schmit then discussed the museum's funding. The museum hit their benchmarks for funding in 2018 and 2019. Attendance was up before the pandemic hit. Mr. Schmit then highlighted the different exhibits and displays. Mr. Schmit stated the cities of Dunedin and Tarpon Springs give annual grants to their historical societies to hire a museum director. With at least one employee the museum is eligible for most state and federal grants. Mr. Schmit then highlighted the proposal which included an annual grant of \$40,000 for the purpose of hiring a museum director. The museum will furnish the City with an annual report. The City will include the museum on its website. The museum will act as a liaison and welcome center in Sims Park. Mr. Schmit then highlighted future prospects which included increased attendance, school groups and cultural events. Mr. Schmit stated the time is right as the Hacienda will be opening

soon. The museum can attract visitors to the city to aid in the Coronavirus recovery. The museum is a strong part of the downtown culture.

Councilman Davis stated he is for the partnership and should include the Cultural Affairs Committee and New Port Richey Main Street. He stated we should also help them with marketing. Deputy Mayor Starkey stated he loves the museum and we need to promote it. He stated is for supporting the request but should also look at partnering with the County since it is the West Pasco society and not the City historical society. He suggested splitting the funding with the County. Mr. Schmit stated the importance is the consistency. Deputy Mayor Starkey stated that many county residents come to Sims Park and the museum. Councilman Murphy stated we should help the museum and give them a boost. He stated it does take help from the City to get to that next level. Councilman Altman stated his suggestion would be to examine the CRA mission and see if funding would be available through it. He stated he was not sure the General Fund was in a position to fund it. He stated the Friends of the Hacienda would be a great partner. He stated it is important to have supportive relationships. Mayor Marlowe stated conceptually it makes a lot of sense. He agreed this may be something that can come out of the CRA. Councilman Davis stated the City Manager could reach out to the County. City Manager Manns stated that this project may be inconsistent with the CRA Plan.

3 Communications

None.

4 Adjournment

There being no further business to consider, upon proper motion, the meeting adjourned at 6:48 p.m.

Approved: _____ (date)

_____ (signed)

Initialed: _____

Judy Meyers, City Clerk