



**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**

**July 7, 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 Peter Altman and Councilman Matt Murphy. Councilman Chopper Davis participated via electronically.

Also in attendance were City Manager Debbie Manns, City Attorney Timothy Driscoll, City Clerk Judy Meyers, Police Chief Kim Bogart, Finance Director Crystal Feast, Fire Chief Chris Fitch, Economic Development Director Charles Rudd, Library Director Andi Figart, Development Director Earl Hahn, Technology Solutions Director Bryan Weed, Human Resources Manager Bernie Wharran, Assistant Public Works Director Barret Doe and Assistant Parks and Recreation Director Chris Bornfleth.

**2 Pledge of Allegiance**

**3 Moment of Silence**

**4 Approval of June 9, 2020 Work Session Minutes**

Motion was made to approve the minutes as presented.

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

**5 Approval of June 16, 2020 Work Session and Regular Meeting Minutes**

Motion was made to approve the minutes as presented.

Motion made by Matt Murphy 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**

Mayor Marlowe opened the floor for public comment. Denise Houston came forward to speak about

a property located at 6710 Grand Boulevard. She stated she has had trees fall on her property. She contacted Code Enforcement last year about it. The house sold back in November. She expressed her concern about the trees. The new property owners did not do anything to the property but trim the grass in the front. The house is now back on the market. She is afraid of damage since it is hurricane season. She addressed this with Special Magistrate last year. Mayor Marlowe asked City Manager Manns to look into the matter.

Don House came forward and stated he had to replace windows in one of his rentals and was able to buy them off the shelf. When he went to pull a permit for it the permit took a couple of weeks to get. He stated if there is something that can be done easily if something could be done so it does not take a couple of weeks to do.

Patrick Bene came forward to report on the golf cart event. There was 89 golf carts and 40-50 bicycles. He stated that NPRMS has hired a new Executive Director named Amy Marin. She will be introduced at the August 4th Council meeting. Councilman Davis stated he was very happy with the decision for the new Executive Director.

Linda Connolly came forward to speak about the agenda item regarding the vacation of alleys. If the alleys are vacated her house will be landlocked. Her street will never be paved. She runs all over the city and goes down the alleys. There is still an issue with illegal landscape dumping. The alleys are a mess. The alleys need to be maintained. Deputy Mayor Starkey stated residents should be able to send anonymous photos to Code Enforcement without repercussions. Mayor Marlowe stated cameras can be put up. City Manager Manns stated she would follow up on the matter as it is available through Tyler Technologies.

Marlo Jones came forward to thank the Mayor for coming to a peaceful protest downtown. He hopes more local leaders will step up and do the same. He stated he hopes the City will invest more money in the community.

With no one else coming forward for public comment, Mayor Marlowe closed Vox Pop.

## 7 Consent Agenda

City Manager Manns stated that a correction needed to be made to the name for the Central Avenue Improvements payment. It was listed on the agenda as People Places, LLC when it should have been Central Orange Partners, LLC. Councilman Altman asked for the Central Avenue Improvements item to be pulled from the agenda for discussion. Motion was made to accept the remaining items on the Consent Agenda. Motion made by Deputy Mayor Starkey and seconded by Councilman Murphy. Motion passed 5-0.

Councilman Altman stated that he noticed some of the trees looked dead along Central Avenue and he wanted assurance that the trees would be replaced. City Manager Manns stated she would contact Mr. Starkey regarding the matter. Councilman Altman then made a motion to approve the item and was seconded by Councilman Murphy. Motion passed 5-0.

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

- a Land Development Review Board Minutes - June 2020
- b Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Minutes - May 2020
- c Cultural Affairs Committee Minutes - May 2020
- d Library Advisory Board Minutes - April 2020
- e Purchases/Payments for City Council Approval

8 Public Reading of Ordinances

a Second Reading, Ordinance No. 2020-2188: Rezoning of 5220 Grand Boulevard (City of NPR)

City Attorney Driscoll read the proposed ordinance by title only. 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 Jeff Starkey and seconded by Matt Murphy. The Motion Passed. 5-0. Ayes: Altman, Davis, Marlowe, Murphy, Starkey

b Second Reading, Ordinance No. 2020-2190: Amendments to Chapter 13 LDC RE: Vehicle Signs

City Attorney Driscoll read the proposed ordinance by title only. 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 Jeff Starkey and seconded by Pete Altman. The Motion Passed. 5-0. Ayes: Altman, Davis, Marlowe, Murphy, Starkey

c Second Reading, Ordinance No. 2020-2195: Prohibiting Camping within City Limits

City Attorney Driscoll read the proposed ordinance by title only. 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 Jeff Starkey. The Motion Passed. 5-0. Ayes: Altman, Davis, Marlowe, Murphy, Starkey

9 Business Items

a Approval of Letter of Subscription for the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact

City Manager Manns introduced the item to Council. She stated that the purpose of this agenda item was to approve a letter of subscription for the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact. She stated that the Pact has seven requirements including a city employee as a point of contact. The requirements are as follows:

- To develop sustainable food systems that are inclusive, resilient, safe and diverse, that provide healthy and affordable food to all people in a human rights-based framework, that minimize waste and conserve biodiversity while adapting to and mitigating impacts of climate change
- To encourage interdepartmental and cross-sector coordination at municipal and community levels, working to integrate urban food policy considerations into social, economic and environment policies, programs and initiatives, such as, inter alia, food supply and distribution, social protection, nutrition, equity, food production, education, food safety and waste reduction
- To seek coherence between municipal food-related policies and programs and relevant subnational, national, regional and international policies and processes
- To engage all sectors within the food system (including neighboring authorities, technical and academic organizations, civil society, small scale producers, and the private sector) in the formulation, implementation and assessment of all food-related policies, programs and initiatives
- To review and amend existing urban policies, plans and regulations in order to encourage the establishment of equitable, resilient and sustainable food systems
- To use the Framework for Action as a starting point for each city to address the development of their own urban food system and we will share developments with participating cities and our national governments and international agencies when appropriate
- To encourage other cities to join our food policy actions

Upon opening the floor to public comment, Dell deChant came forward and stated that 210 cities worldwide is engaged in the Pact and the lone city in the United States is the City of Miami. The Pact ideals are outstanding. He stated the cities in the Pact are committed to creating a resilient and sustainable food system. This will give the City an opportunity to apply for grants. He stated this is a great fit for the City. With no one else coming forward Mayor Marlowe returned the floor to Council. 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

b Resolution No. 2020-28: Amendment to the CRA Redevelopment Plan and Map

City Attorney Driscoll read the proposed resolution by title only. City Manager Manns stated this agenda item was a companion to the resolution presented earlier this evening at the CRA meeting. Mr. Rudd stated that the recommendation is to remove the two subdivisions as they no longer meet the definition for slum and blight. 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 Jeff Starkey and seconded by Matt Murphy. The Motion Passed. 5-0. Ayes: Altman, Davis, Marlowe, Murphy, Starkey

c 2020 Water & Wastewater Sufficiency Analysis/Rate Design Study

City Manager Manns introduced the item to Council. She stated that the purpose of this agenda item was to approve the Water and Wastewater Sufficiency Analysis and Rate Design Study agreement proposal from Stantec in an amount not to exceed \$32,550. She stated the study does include a review of customer rates by class. Upon opening the floor to public comment, no one came forward therefore Mayor Marlowe returned the floor to Council. Councilman Altman stated he was not impressed with the analysis and there was a lot of discussion on bulk water and he feels there is a disconnect in getting information. Deputy Mayor Starkey stated he agreed with Councilman Altman. He feels the way we charge for irrigation rates does not work for him. City Manager Manns stated it is appropriate to note the work done by Stantec was related to the rate structure and this agenda item is for a sufficiency study and contains a component of their work which would identify an amended schedule to make sure we are in the right position as it pertains to the sustainability of the program. Mayor Marlowe stated as the rep on the TB Water Board we need to conserve. Deputy Mayor Starkey stated we need to explore reclaim water. Councilman Altman stated he disagrees as it is cost prohibitive. He would prefer to limit the house water and use that to irrigate. He stated we are not selling any water to Lindrick. He stated the gray water is going into the system used by the County. Mayor Marlowe stated that was a discussion for another night. Councilman Davis stated the product we have is not being marketed. Motion was made to approve the item as presented.

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

d ITB20-012 2020 Tennis Court Repairs/Improvements Bid Award

City Manager Manns introduced the item to Council. She stated that the purpose of this agenda item was to approve the bid award to Augustine Construction for the ITB20-012 2020 Tennis Court Repairs/Improvements Project in an amount not to exceed \$520,705. The do not exceed amount contains a \$50,000 owner's contingency amount. Augustine Construction was the sole bidder for the project. Mr. Doe stated the project is more than just resurfacing the tennis courts. He stated that GPR work was done and there are potential issues with the base. Core sampling was done and the base was alright but a few layers needed to be replaced. This project will also include LED lights. He stated erosion was due to lack of stormwater draining. Upon opening the floor to public comment, no one came forward therefore Mayor Marlowe returned the floor to Council. Deputy Mayor Starkey asked how much would a new court cost at Frances Avenue. Mr. Doe stated this project is basically a new court. Deputy Mayor Starkey stated he would like to see staff look into relocating courts to another

park. City Manager Manns stated the project also includes parking lot and lighting work. Motion was made to table the item.

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

e ITB20-013 Wastewater Treatment Plant/Water Treatment Plant Bulk Chemical Purchase Bid Award

City Manager Manns introduced the item to Council. She stated that the purpose of this agenda item was to approve the bid award to Odyssey Manufacturing Company for the ITB20-013 Wastewater Treatment Plant/Water Treatment Plant Bulk Chemical Purchase. The bulk purchase of hypochlorite is \$0.535/per gallon. This is an increase of \$9,000 per year increase for the WWTP and approximately a \$4,720 increase for the WTP. 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 Pete Altman and seconded by Matt Murphy. The Motion Passed. 5-0. Ayes: Altman, Davis, Marlowe, Murphy, Starkey

f 2020 Recreation Center HVAC Control System and Server Upgrades

City Manager Manns introduced the item to Council. She stated that the purpose of this agenda item was to approve a proposal from Automated Building Control Systems, Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$42,585 for upgrades to the Recreation Center's HVAC control system and server. She stated that when the expansion project took place there were deficiencies identified in the system. This agenda item would cover the controls of the system. It will be an automated system. 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 Pete Altman and seconded by Matt Murphy. The Motion Passed. 5-0. Ayes: Altman, Davis, Marlowe, Murphy, Starkey

g Presentation of Budget Process, Estimated Revenues, and Proposed Millage Rate

This item was moved to the July 14, 2020 City Council work session.

h Approval of Budget Amendments for Deputy Police Chief, Utilities Engineer and Assistant City Manager

City Manager Manns introduced the item to Council. She stated that the purpose of this agenda item was to authorize the City Manager to amend the Classification and Pay Plan to include the following positions: Deputy Police Chief, Utilities Engineer and Assistant City Manager and additionally to approve the necessary budget amendments to fund the positions through the duration of the current fiscal year. The Deputy Police Chief and Assistant City Manager positions are not new positions. The Utilities Engineer position is an upgraded position. The funding associated with the Deputy Chief position is funded through a savings of audit fees, the Utilities Engineer is funded through another current position and the Assistant City Manager position is funded through unused travel and training accounts due to COVID-19. Upon opening the floor to public comment, no one came forward therefore Mayor Marlowe returned the floor to Council. Councilman Altman stated in his mind the Utilities Engineer would supervise the water and sewer division. He was not sure why road projects or building expansions were in the job description. Stormwater utility may be another aspect of the position. City Manager Manns stated we are asking for this position not only to supervise the construction services division but to play a part of the utilities division. We have a need for both. We are trying to find someone that could start in construction projects and then get acclimated into the utilities section. Councilman Altman stated the water and sewer is a separate fund of the city. It is difficult to track duties when responsibilities go across different funds. 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,

10 Communications

Mayor Marlowe stated he enjoyed watching the golf cart parade. He was contacted by Peter Martin to put in a wet zone on Railroad Square. He would hate to see businesses fail and he would be open to discussing closing Railroad Square on the weekends. Deputy Mayor Starkey then read an email from Bret Cipher that Council received. Deputy Mayor Starkey stated we need to do whatever we can to help our businesses downtown. Mayor Marlowe stated the City Manager can arrange things since we are still under our LSE. He stated if we can designate it a wet zone on the weekends and insist on social distancing that would allow people to get out safely and allow businesses to make money. Councilman Murphy stated that this is the least we can do and what we need to do. Councilman Davis stated he was in favor of the wet zone. Councilman Altman stated anything we can do to help we should. He stated he would like to see the outdoor cafes continue after the pandemic. His question would be if we could limit the hours on the wet zone. Chief Bogart came forward and stated he was in favor of the wet zone to help the businesses survive. What his officer's have reported though is that social distancing is non-existent. He stated the business owners know that social distancing is not taking place. Deputy Mayor Starkey suggested inviting the business owners to meet with the City Manager. He stated we have to find common ground. Councilman Altman suggested having an organization give out the rules and an armband to people. There has to be some practical thinking. Deputy Mayor Starkey stated this is a difficult situation as a society. He stated it has to start with the business owners. Chief Bogart stated they have to be responsible. Councilman Altman stated if it is a city wet zone he didn't see how you could hold the bar owner responsible. Councilman Murphy stated it is a benefit to the bar owner to be part of the process. Councilman Davis stated there should be a work session on the matter. Councilman Altman stated we have bars and businesses that need to be protected against those who do not want to follow the law. Mayor Marlowe stated staff could make some signs. Councilman Davis stated Pete's Gargage donated the signs that are out there now and people are not paying attention to them anymore. Councilman Altman stated another option could be to pay the rent for businesses for a month.

Mayor Marlowe stated he had a call from a gentleman who currently has septic about the sewer pipes along Massachusetts and he promised that he would mention that there are people who really want sewer hookups. Mr. Doe stated that it is a transmission line for the Orangewood Lakes project. Deputy Mayor Starkey stated that it is great to have large events like the fireworks event but being part of the smaller events like the golf cart parade it was moving to see such a sense of community. He thanked the police department and NPRMS on the event. Councilman Murphy stated the parade was a great hit and a great hometown event. He suggested not only talking to business owners but patrons about social distancing. Councilman Altman stated now is the time to make the statement about being a small hometown to attract people here. He has forwarded interest in the gateway he has received to the City Manager. He stressed the importance of a Master Plan. Councilman Davis stated the Pasco Eye Institute just sold. A great job has been done with the Argus building. He asked the City Manager to look into the mission that just moved into 5705 Gulf Drive.

11 Adjournment

There being no further business to consider, upon proper motion, the meeting adjourned at 8:48 p.m.

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

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

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