



**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 21, 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 Tim 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 30, 2020 Emergency Meeting and July 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. Presentation of Annual Report - Parks & Recreation Advisory Board

This item was moved to the August 4, 2020 City Council meeting.

6. Presentation of Annual Report - Cultural Affairs Committee

Cultural Affairs Committee Chairman Rich Melton presented the annual report to Council.

7. Audit Presentation by Clifton Larson Allen, LLP

Lance Schmidt from Clifton Larsen Allen, LLP appeared via electronically and presented the audit report to Council. Mr. Schmidt began his presentation by highlighting the different items referenced in the governance letter. He then highlighted the steps in the audit approach. For the FY ending September 30, 2019, the auditors issued an unmodified opinion which is the best opinion that can be issued. There were no significant findings. Mr. Schmidt then highlighted different parts of the CAFR. He then highlighted new accounting standards in regards to leasing programs. City Manager Manns thanked Mrs. Feast and her staff for the outstanding audit.

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

Mayor Marlowe opened the floor for public comment. With no one coming forward, Mayor Marlowe closed Vox Pop.

9 Consent Agenda

Motion was made to accept the Consent Agenda.

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

a Purchase/Payments for City Council Approval

10 Business Items

a Recreation & Aquatic Center Pool Deck Lighting Improvement Project

City Manager Manns introduced the item to Council. She stated that the purpose of this agenda item was to approve a proposal from Himes Electric Company, Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$67,620 for the Recreation & Aquatic Center Pool Deck Lighting Improvement Project. This project will upgrade the current lighting system with new more efficient LED lights and provide more safety. 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 Chopper Davis and seconded by Jeff Starkey. The Motion Passed. 5-0. Ayes: Altman, Davis, Marlowe, Murphy, Starkey

b Construction Management Services for the Library Improvement Project

City Manager Manns introduced the item to Council. She stated that the purpose of this agenda item was to authorize the City Manager to enter into an agreement with Hennessy Construction Services Corporation for an amount not to exceed \$326,868 related to the Library Improvement Project. The total project cost is estimated at \$1.8m. The project involves selected space use efficiencies and interior renovations to the first and second levels of the existing building and are the result of a Needs Assessment which was conducted last year. Three firms were interviewed and based on the presentation the selection committee completed a value matrix and Hennessy Construction was ranked first. She stated the City has worked favorably with Hennessy in the past on the RAC Expansion Project and the Sims Park Improvement Project. Upon opening the floor to public comment, no one came forward therefore Mayor Marlowe returned the floor to Council. Councilman Davis asked if subcontractors were used for the other projects and City Manager Manns stated that Hennessy has no subcontractors on staff but they do subcontract out. 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

11 Communications

Deputy Mayor Starkey thanked the department heads who have presented their budgets so far. He stated he got a text from Mark Swartsel regarding the debris pile near Riverview Park. Pictures were displayed that showed how large the pile was. He suggested removing the dump site from near the park.

Deputy Mayor Starkey stated our city is becoming a major dump site. He stated we have to get a grip on this. There are "no dumping" signs throughout the city and they are not working. Councilman Davis stated that COVID-19 is a serious matter. He also thanked Mrs. Feast for her work on the audit. Councilman Altman stated he suggested before instead of eliminating debris piles to have residents call and arrange for pickup for a fee. He stated there is no location that is close by to take brush to. He suggested creating a drop off station. Mayor Marlowe stated the issue will be getting the citizens on board. Deputy Mayor Starkey stated he was disappointed with the crowd at Railroad Square over the weekend. Mayor Marlowe stated he sat down with the business owners along with City Manager Manns and Chief Bogart last Friday morning and there was no misunderstanding from the business owners on the intent. He stated he was sorry they could not take advantage of the lifeline we were trying to offer to keep their businesses going. Councilman Davis stated he did not want everyone on Railroad Square to be punished for the actions of one. Mayor Marlowe stated he also appreciated what the department heads have done with their budgets. He is concerned where we will be once we get the numbers from the State. The key to this is getting the economy up and running. The pandemic is out of control in our state. He encouraged everyone to take this very seriously. He recognized the members from the Black Lives Matter who were in the audience. Mayor Marlowe also recognized the officers who were in attendance. Councilman Altman stated this upcoming fiscal year we will have to budget in a repayment from the CRA. He then read a couple of sentences from the CAFR. He stated this is our time that we need to make our investments.

12 Adjournment

There being no further business to consider, upon proper motion, the meeting adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

(signed) _____
Judy Meyers, City Clerk

Approved: _____ (date)

Initialed: _____