



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

September 15, 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 L. Manns, City Attorney Timothy Driscoll, City Clerk Judy Meyers, Assistant City Manager Rodd Hale, Police Chief Kim Bogart, Finance Director Crystal Feast, Fire Chief Chris Fitch, Economic Development Director Charles Rudd, Public Works Director Robert Rivera, Library Director Andi Figart, Parks and Recreation Director Elaine Smith, Technology Solutions Director Bryan Weed and Human Resources Manager Bernie Wharran.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Moment of Silence

4. Approval of August 11, 2020 Work Session and September 1, 2020 Regular Meeting Minutes

Motion was made to approve the minutes as presented.

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

5. Introduction of New Firefighter: Scott Sims

Fire Chief Chris Fitch introduced new firefighter Scott Sims.

6. Presentation of Annual Report - Parks & Recreation Advisory Board

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

Mayor Marlowe opened the floor for public comment. Bill Phillips 5500 Riva Del Place, Apt. 339, NPR, came forward to thank the Council members and the City Manager's support for his application

for the City Manager position in the City of Port Richey. He asked for Council to review their golf cart ordinance carefully as they used our city as a model. He stated he saw on the news tonight that the City of Tampa is working with Gasparilla about parades and it is something to look at for Chasco next year. He stated we need to have a presence at the legislative delegation meeting so they know our priorities moving forward.

Amy Marin 6216 River Road, NPR came forward and stated there were six new ribbon cuttings for businesses last week. She also thanked Councilman Davis for his attendance. She invited the other members to attend the upcoming ribbon cuttings.

Marlowe Jones Pine Hill Road came forward and stated they have been peacefully protesting for several weeks now. He stated he has received many death threats. He read some posts that were pulled off of social media.

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

8 Consent Agenda

Motion was made to accept the Consent Agenda.

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

a Purchases/Payments for City Council Approval

9 Business Items

a Confirmation of Appointment of Ron Becker to Pasco County Library Cooperative Advisory Board

City Manager Manns introduced the item to Council. She stated that the purpose of this agenda item was to confirm the Library Advisory Board's recommendation of Ron Becker as the city representative to the Pasco County Library Cooperative Advisory Board. The position was previously held by Joan Nelson Hook. The term will be for three years. The recommendation will be forwarded to the BOCC for formal approval. 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 Chopper Davis. The Motion Passed. 5-0. Ayes: Altman, Davis, Marlowe, Murphy, Starkey

b Second Public Hearing: Small Cities Community Development Block Grant Application

City Manager Manns introduced the item to Council. She stated that the purpose of this agenda item was to conduct a second public hearing on the Small Cities CDBG application. She then introduced David Fox who then made a presentation to Council. Mr. Fox stated that the City is applying under the Housing Rehabilitation Program. He then highlighted the criteria for the program. 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

c Resolution No. 2020-56: Small Cities CDBG Housing Assistance Plan

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 adopt a resolution to establish a Housing Assistance Plan. As a prerequisite to applying under the housing rehabilitation category, a local government must adopt a Housing Assistance Plan. The Housing Assistance Plan addresses financing and provides for a ten year Deferred Payment Loan. To be eligible you must meet certain

criteria. There is a maximum of \$60k per property. 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 Chopper Davis. The Motion Passed. 5-0. Ayes: Altman, Davis, Marlowe, Murphy, Starkey

- d Resolution No. 2020-57: Request to Leverage General Revenue Funds for Florida Small Cities CDBG Program Funding

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 adopt a resolution to set aside \$50,000.00 in General Revenue Funds as leverage or a match for \$750,000 in Florida Small Cities Community Development Block Grant Program funding. The program is a competitive program and up to a maximum 25 additional points are available for a local match of \$50,000.00. In order to improve the City's odds in securing \$750,000.00 in Florida Small Cities CDBG funding, this Resolution proposes a \$50,000.00 match from the City's General Revenue Funds. 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 Matt Murphy. The Motion Passed. 5-0. Ayes: Altman, Davis, Marlowe, Murphy, Starkey

- e Resolution No. 2020-58: Authorizing the Implementation of the Community Development Plan's Long-Term and Short-Term Objectives

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 adopt a resolution to authorize the implementation of the Community Development Plan's Long-Term and Short-Term objectives. The Resolution establishes six long-term and two short-term objectives that will be used to guide the City's implementation of the Florida Small Cities CBDG Program, if funded. 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 Matt Murphy. The Motion Passed. 5-0. Ayes: Altman, Davis, Marlowe, Murphy, Starkey

- f Resolution No. 2020-59: Authorizing the Submission of the Small Cities CDBG Application

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 adopt a resolution to authorize the submission to the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity of a Small Cities Community Development Block Grant application for Federal Fiscal Year 2019. 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 Matt Murphy and seconded by Chopper Davis. The Motion Passed. 5-0. Ayes: Altman, Davis, Marlowe, Murphy, Starkey

- g 2017 Wayfinding Project - Phase 2 Project Closeout

City Manager Manns introduced the item to Council. She stated that the purpose of this agenda item was to approve a deductive change order in the amount of \$3,448.75 and a final pay request in the amount of \$91,794.70 to Poblocki Sign Company, Incorporated for the 2017 Wayfinding Project Phase II. Upon opening the floor to public comment, Bill Phillips 5500 Riva Del Place, Apt. 339, NPR, came forward and stated that this project was the kickoff of the branding for the city. He stated the project was \$500k and some signs are not complete. He stated the sign on US19 should have announced the city. He stated there are some inadequacies in the signs coming down Madison. He stated there are inconsistencies in the signs including font size. 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 Jeff Starkey and seconded by Pete Altman. The Motion Passed. 5-0. Ayes: Altman, Davis, Marlowe, Murphy, Starkey

h 2019 Fleet Maintenance/Utility Purchasing Warehouse & Storage Building Construction Project – Engineering Services

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 approve Task Order No. 1 from Williams Architects in an amount not to exceed \$250,000 for engineering services associated with the design and construction of the City's Fleet Maintenance/Utility Purchasing Warehouse & Storage Building. The existing facility was constructed in 1973. City Council approved the ranking of three firms for the RFQ for the project in December however negotiations with the firms fell through therefore staff moved forward with the project under a CCNA agreement instead. Williams Architects is currently working on the Library renovation project and met the criteria for this project. 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 Matt Murphy. The Motion Passed. 5-0. Ayes: Altman, Davis, Marlowe, Murphy, Starkey

i Purchase of WatchGuard In-Car & Body Camera System

City Manager Manns introduced the item to Council. She stated that the purpose of this agenda item was to approve the purchase of 40 body cameras and 13 in-car cameras from WatchGuard Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$264,554.34. This amount will be financed over the next five years with an annual payment of \$52,910.87. Funds for this project are allocated from Equitable Sharing for the first year. Penny for Pasco for will be used for subsequent years if Equitable Sharing is not available. Upon opening the floor to public comment, Mitch Jackson 5611 Georgia Avenue, NPR, came forward to ask why we are financing and not purchasing outright. With no one else coming forward Mayor Marlowe returned the floor to Council. Deputy Mayor Starkey stated that ABC Action News has misrepresented the City and the Mayor was misquoted. He stated we are on the same page for a lot of issues. Our officers act in a professional manner. This will protect our officers as well as the public. Councilman Murphy stated that he is looking forward to getting these out as it will protect the officers and the citizens. Councilman Davis stated that in regards to funding work went into looking at the best way to fund this and over the next few years we may be able to find different avenues for funding. Councilman Altman stated that he is happy to see this put into place as it has been talked about for many years. He appreciated the comments that funds may be taken from Penny for Pasco in the future. Mayor Marlowe stated creative funding is always important when you are in a budget year as tight as this one is. He stated we have been talking about body cameras for a year or more. It became an absolute critical item back in the spring after George Floyd and Breonna Taylor. He stated that it has been a continuous item in the CIP budget. He stated the cameras protect our officers and the public. Mayor Marlowe stated that in Hillsborough County there was someone who accused police of misconduct but the body camera footage showed otherwise. He stated that in his discussions with those across the political spectrum it has been pretty much unanimous that this is a good thing to invest in because it protects everybody. He agreed with Deputy Mayor Starkey's comments about ABC Action News and stated he was disappointed as they took his comments completely out of context. He stated that body cameras are on the BLM national agenda along with diversity training which is something we already do. He stated we are an open and accepting community. 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

j Purchase of Hardware and Software Upgrades for Police Department

City Manager Manns introduced the item to Council. She stated that the purpose of this agenda item was to approve the purchase 45 in-car printers, 5 office computers, 2 APC power supplies, a video redaction software solution, and the replacement of a CCTV camera system in an amount not to exceed \$43,030.56. The items in this request were originally to be part of the 20/21 budget. However, in August the Police Department received \$150,000 in Equitable Sharing funds which has allowed for the project to be completed this fiscal year instead. 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 Matt Murphy. The Motion Passed. 5-0. Ayes: Altman, Davis, Marlowe, Murphy, Starkey

k Annual Review of Comprehensive Fee Schedule

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 review and approve the amended Comprehensive Fee Schedule for FY2020-2021. Upon opening the floor to public comment, no one came forward therefore Mayor Marlowe returned the floor to Council. Councilman Davis stated he would like to leave the fees the same for Peace Hall due to COVID-19. He also stated that there should be no fee for restaurant and beverage. He then stated that the fee for residential construction should be \$2,500. Motion was made to approve the item with the following amendments: Peace Hall fees to remain the same, no fee for State Beverage License verification and under Residential Construction in the \$501,000-\$1,000,000 category it will be \$2,500 for the first \$100,000 and \$3.50 for each additional \$1,000 fraction thereof and in the \$1,000,000 and up category it will be \$2,500 for the first \$100,000 and \$3.00 for each additional \$1,000 fraction thereof.

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

10 Communications

Deputy Mayor Starkey welcomed new firefighter Scott Sims. He wanted to reiterate that we are a city of laws and we will continue to enforce them. He said it is disheartening to see racism tossed around like beads off a float. He encouraged people to come and speak during Vox Pop instead. He was glad to see the protests last Friday were more peaceful. He stated he is seeing a large increase in vagrancy and drug addicts. He saw someone put a needle in their arm at the intersection of Congress and Massachusetts. Deputy Mayor Starkey stated there are homeless asking for money in Sims Park. We need to do better and we can do better. He stated we had three drug overdose deaths within the last two weeks. Councilman Murphy stated that his house is next to a park and he found clothes and needle in his side yard. He stated it is a big problem and we need to put it in the forefront. Councilman Davis stated that he had a run in with ABC Action News last fall. He stated he would like to put the LGBT resolution on the website. He thanked the other Library Board members in attendance to support Mr. Becker. He stated if people come to speak with a calm voice he is more willing to help instead of people who come and yell. The conversation stops at yelling. Councilman Altman stated that the gas station across from KIA has frequent homeless that camp out there. He stated he caught someone going through the dumpster last week at Main Street Landing. He stated the homeless and drug addicts have been around since the 1950's. He stated the jail isn't taking them due to COVID-19. He stated he appreciates the effort that is being done. He stated that most folks do not want help. Councilman Altman stated he would be curious to find out what the County is doing with the CARES funding to help those with rent, utilities, etc. He stated there are times when we have all been assaulted whether on social media, in person or the press. He stated our city is doing great as we just had 6 new businesses open. Mayor Marlowe stated he has gotten phone calls from both sides of the spectrum. He has seen drug paraphernalia near the old post office. He has seen them sit on the lift station near Congress and Massachusetts. He stated realistically there is nothing that city tax paying residents will be able to do for a problem that is in the whole county. This is an issue that needs to be addressed at the county level. He stated the County needs to stand up to the NIMBY's and build transitional housing facilities. We can do our part but this is bigger than all of us. Deputy Mayor Starkey stated he has high standards and will continue to have those high standards for our city for the remainder of his term. He

suggested meeting with the County on this issue.

11 Adjournment

There being no further business to consider, upon proper motion, the meeting adjourned at 8:23 p.m.

(signed) _____

Judy Meyers, City Clerk

Approved: _____ (date)

Initialed: _____



St. Pete Cop Watch's Post

Do you feel comfortable with Officer Dennison patrolling the streets of New Port Richey?

Please share and contact:

Mayor Marlowe
Marlower@cityofnewportrichey.org
(727) 853-1290

Chief Bogart
BogartK@CityofNewPortRichey.org
(727) 232-8908

Let them know how you feel.

🙄🤔 11

4 Comments 19 Shares

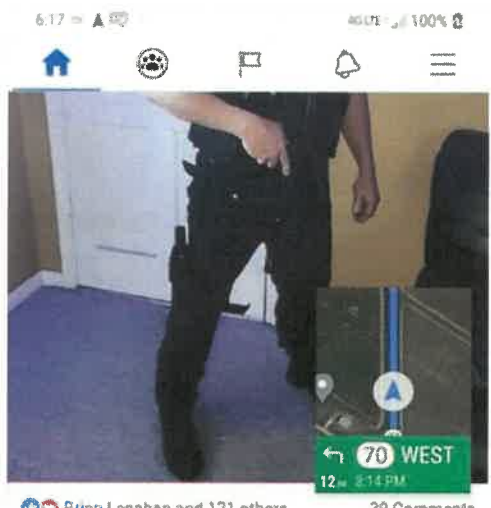
👍 Like

💬 Comment

➦ Share



accuse black folks of being the problem, when there's escalators like this coming downtown to c... See More



Brian Lenahan and 121 others 39 Comments

Jason Gator Guralny
Yes, we've been watching the pathetic freaks for awhile. But had info that they were bringing more down from the Tampa area tonight. I could care less if they want to walk around looking like clowns. But pull out one can of spray paint, or any acts of violence. And guarantee it will not be in their best interest. And will show other communities on how to handle domestic terrorists, as proud Americans.

84 205 Comments 141 Shares

Like Comment Share



ROCK ON



6h Like Reply



Brittany Anne

🔥🔥🔥🔥🔥 100 100 100 !!!



6h Like Reply



Corey Oliver

They canceled for tonight but will be doing silent protest tomorrow per my departments intel



6h Like Reply



Jane Lawless

Corey Oliver what department are you at!?

6h Like Reply



Jason Gator Guralny

Corey Oliver

Really?

Ok thanks. I'm still always prepared though 🍷



6h Like Reply



Jane Lawless

Jason Gator Guralny are you a police officer now?

6h Like Reply



Done

7 of 7



Jason's Post



Gabby Lawrence Ivers
Jane Lawless he's just locked & loaded 💪

6h Like Reply



Jason Gator Guralny
Jane Lawless No, just a patriotic American. Standing up for our community and our law enforcement officers. 🇺🇸💪

6h Like Reply



Corey Oliver
Jason Gator Guralny I think she was asking me lol I work at NPR PD as an Officer now

6h Like Reply

