



MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING
CITY OF NEW PORT RICHEY
NEW PORT RICHEY CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS
5919 MAIN STREET, NEW PORT RICHEY, FLORIDA
September 22, 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, 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 Business Items

a. Final Public Hearing - Resolution No. 2020-50: Adopting Final Millage Rate for FY2021 - Page 3

City Manager Manns then read the following into the record:

Florida Statute 200.065(2)(C)1 prescribes that Council adopt the millage rate prior to adopting the 2020-2021 budget. A notification regarding the Public Hearing has been provided to every property owner in the City by the Pasco County Property Appraiser's Office. This notification in the form of the Truth in Millage (TRIM) notice was mailed the week of August 17th. Action requested is to adopt Resolution 2020-50. The name of the taxing authority is the City of New Port Richey. The tentative millage rate of 8.7500 mills is 2.23% less than the roll-back rate of 8.9497 mills. Total ad valorem revenues that will be generated are estimated to be \$5,505,630; that is approximately \$355,000 more than what was generated in ad valorem in FY19-20, due to the increase of property values. The millage rate is 8.7500 and is the same rate as the prior year's millage. Although the statute requires discussion regarding the percent increase over the rolled back rate and specific purposes for which ad valorem is being increased, for the record, in our case, neither apply. At this time, the City's Finance Director, Crystal Feast, will make a presentation. After the close of the presentation, it is requested that the

Mayor invite public comment on the millage.

Finance Director Crystal Feast began her presentation by highlighting the city-wide budget by fund. The total budget for FY20/21 is \$75,626,900. The millage remains the same as last year and what was presented at the first budget hearing. Mrs. Feast then highlighted the changes from the first budget hearing including increases due to grants. Decreases were made in Equitable Sharing. There were also increases for software and expenses related to the purchases of the body cameras. City Attorney Driscoll then read the proposed resolution by title only. Upon opening the floor to public comment, no one came forward therefore Mayor Marlowe returned the floor to Council. Councilman Altman stated he would like to review a document from the CRA. He stated it was the goal to decrease the millage by .15 per year. He stated our growth rate has gone up faster than we projected. He stated the only taxes that are coming in are from the base year. He stated \$.15 on every dollar generates about \$55k. He stated a reduction of \$55k is something we would not have a hard time covering. He stated the CRA projections are ahead by a year. He stated the reality is we are still passing on a small tax increase to our residents. Councilman Altman stated we need to strive to get back to the chart and look at a .3 deduction in millage next year. He stated our rates are higher than the City of Port Richey's. Motion was made to approve the item as presented. Motion passed 5-0 at 6:15 p.m.

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

- b. Final Public Hearing - Resolution No. 2020-51: Adopting FY2020-2021 Operating Budget & Capital Improvement Program - Page 5

City Attorney Driscoll read the proposed resolution by title only. City Manager Manns introduced the item to Council. She stated the operating budget supports the direction of Council and the Strategic Plan. It represents months of work by staff and City Council. Upon opening the floor to public comment, no one came forward therefore Mayor Marlowe returned the floor to Council. Mayor Marlowe stated we received very favorable loan terms on the proposed parking structure. Once we are past budget he would like us to look at that to see if there are opportunities to move some capital projects forward. Motion was made to approve the item as presented. Motion passed 5-0 at 6:18 p.m.

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

- c. Public Hearing - Resolution No. 2020-52: Approving Annual Assessment for Stormwater Management Services - Page 251

City Attorney Driscoll read the proposed resolution by title only. City Manager Manns introduced the item to Council. She stated the purpose of this agenda item was to generate revenue for the stormwater utility. Finance Director Crystal Feast Feast stated the ordinance was passed in 2001 for the collection of the assessment. There were five property owners who received notice this year. The dollar amount of the assessment did not change and remains at \$80 per ERU. Upon opening the floor to public comment, Scott Miller 6807 Edgewater Drive came forward and stated since he has not improved the property yet is this something that once adopted is that something that strictly something property owners have that do not have improvement on the property and is it an assessment every year. Mrs. Feast stated the assessment is based on the building not the parcel. Once a structure is built then the rate will be recalculated. There is a calculation for vacant parcels. With no one else coming forward Mayor Marlowe returned the floor to Council. Councilman Altman stated he would like to review the calculation of the ERU. Mrs. Feast stated she did not think that stormwater differentiates between residential and commercial. She stated the paving assessment does however. 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

- d. Public Hearing - Resolution No. 2020-53: Approval of Annual Assessment for Street Lighting Services - Page 258

City Attorney Driscoll read the proposed resolution by title only. City Manager Manns introduced the item to Council. She stated the assessment is a means to recover costs for street lighting. 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

- e. Public Hearing - Resolution No. 2020-54: Approving Annual Assessment for Paving Services - Page 265

City Attorney Driscoll read the proposed resolution by title only. City Manager Manns presented the item to Council. She stated that the Pavement Management Program was created in 2017. She stated this is the most equitable means to fund city paving projects. The Program included recommendations from a CAC. Upon opening the floor to public comment, Scott Miller 6807 Edgewater Drive came forward and asked what is the reason for all the non-ad valorem assessments. Councilman Davis then explained the history of the paving program and the move to the Pavement Management Plan. Councilman Davis stated that this program is one he gets the most compliments on. The program is set for 20 years. Mayor Marlowe stated the money from the paving assessment goes to the roads only. The administrative costs come from a different fund. Councilman Altman stated the ad valorem is for the value of the home. The methodology for non-ad valorem are for the benefits provided for each property. In the past, some of the paving assessment costs came from LOGT. Mayor Marlowe stated the property taxes are assessed only to taxable property owners the assessments are also assessed to non-profits. 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 Chopper Davis. The Motion Passed. 5-0. Ayes: Altman, Davis, Marlowe, Murphy, Starkey

- f. Public Hearing - Resolution No. 2020-55: Approving Special Assessment for Code Enforcement Liens - Page 272

City Attorney Driscoll read the proposed resolution by title only. City Manager Manns presented the item to Council. She stated back in December 2019 a resolution was passed for the Uniform Method of Collection. Since that time we have entered into agreements with the Tax Collector and Property Appraiser to aid in the collection of outstanding fines. There is an estimated \$22k still outstanding. Those on the list this evening are ones who have not made payments. 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

5 Communications

Deputy Mayor Starkey commended Governor DeSantis for the proposed legislation for protesting and defunding police departments. He thanked some friends for donating some old news articles they found in their home. He stated he had a business owner ask if the BTR fee could be waived due to businesses closed from the COVID-19 pandemic. Mayor Marlowe wished Charles Rudd a happy birthday. He stated it was interesting seeing the Governor's report. He stated defunding police is a non-starter. He stated it is nice to put the protestors on notice they need to behave. He thanked those in the audience for attending the budget hearing.

6 Adjournment

There being no further business to consider, upon proper motion, the meeting adjourned at 6:44 p.m.

(signed) _____
Judy Meyers, CMC, City Clerk

Approved: _____ (date)

Initialed: _____