



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 10, 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, Development Director Earl Hahn, Technology Solutions Director Bryan Weed and Human Resources Manager Bernie Wharran.

2 Pledge of Allegiance

3 Moment of Silence

4 Business Items

a. First Public Hearing - FY20-21 Operating Budget & Capital Improvement Program - Page 3

City Manager Manns introduced the item to Council. She stated that the purpose of this agenda item was to conduct a first public hearing on the proposed budget for the upcoming fiscal year. City Manager Manns then highlighted the budget process. She stated the pandemic has impacted markets all over the world and has definitely impacted our budget. She stated we have lost nearly a million dollars in our general fund. City Manager Manns then highlighted the fiscal health and accountability for the upcoming fiscal year. City Manager Manns then highlighted community engagement initiatives. City Manager Manns then highlighted the General Fund balance which is \$24,203,600. She stated that taxable values of all properties increased by 5.9%. The total taxable value is \$662,331,521. She stated the millage rate proposed is the same as last year 8.75 mills. There is a decrease of 8.13 full-time employees. Healthcare insurance premiums increased by 4.9%. City Manager Manns thanked Finance Director Crystal Feast and the department directors for their hard work on the budget.

She then introduced Finance Director Crystal Feast who made a presentation to Council. Mrs. Feast

began her presentation by highlighting the city-wide budget by fund. The largest is the Water & Sewer Fund and the General Fund. Mrs. Feast then highlighted the history of the millage rate over the last ten years. She stated the personnel changes proposed were mostly vacant positions. She then highlighted the CIP. She concluded her presentation by stating that the budget is balanced without using any previous year carryover funds. Councilman Davis asked if any funds will be left over this year and City Manager Manns stated it will be tight due to COVID-19 expenditures. Councilman Altman asked about the transfer out for the pavement management fund and asked if there were any other proprietary funds and Mrs. Feast stated when the program was approved there was a \$200k obligation for the General Fund. Councilman Altman stated there is greater opportunities for the Chamber building than what they are paying in rent. He stated he would like to ask if we can move the overpass project up a year and putting the parking project back a year. Councilman Altman stated the parking projects should come out of the CRA. Deputy Mayor Starkey stated he agreed with Councilman Altman regarding the Chamber building but disagreed about the parking project. Mayor Marlowe agreed that he did not want to switch the projects out but stated we needed to be flexible. Councilman Davis stated when the County moves out of the health building it will free up spaces. Councilman Murphy stated if the ROW's have not be acquired the overpass project will be kicked out by the legislature. It is all about timing. Councilman Altman stated we need to press Mr. Pridgen as to what his plans are for the property.

City Attorney Driscoll then read Resolution No. 2020-48 adopting the tentative millage rate by title only. Mayor Marlowe opened the floor for public comment. With no one coming forward, Mayor Marlowe returned the floor to Council. Motion was made to approve the item as presented. Motion made by Councilman Davis and seconded by Deputy Mayor Starkey. Motion passed 5-0 at 6:42 p.m.

City Attorney Driscoll then read Resolution No. 2020-47 adopting the tentative budget for FY20/21 and the CIP for FY20/21 by title only. Motion was made to approve the item as presented. Mayor Marlowe opened the floor for public comment. With no one coming forward, Mayor Marlowe returned the floor to Council. Motion made by Councilman Davis and seconded by Councilman Murphy. Councilman Altman requested to see the break down for the right on right at Main Street. Motion passed 5-0 at 6:50 p.m.

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

5 Communications

Mayor Marlowe stated he received a call from someone in Gulf Harbors that golf carts are being driven recklessly all through Gulf Harbors. He stated it might be worth for us to put something at Widow Fletcher's that it is in the city limits and they need to adhere to our guidelines. Deputy Mayor Starkey stated that you have to go out of the city to get to Widow Fletcher's so it would take an ordinance amendment. Deputy Mayor Starkey stated that everyone loves golf carts. He stated he was at a soccer tournament outside of Jacksonville and there was a great golf cart community with multi-use paths. Deputy Mayor Starkey thanked City Manager Manns and staff for their hard work on the budget. Councilman Murphy also thanked staff. Councilman Altman stated he has some additional questions he will get with the City Manager on related to the budget. He stated the timeliness of collecting money from the CRA to the General Fund is good. He stated we will need to look for new revenue sources. He stated he spoke with a couple yesterday who said the town was headed in the right direction. He said it is always good to hear that people want to move here. City Manager Manns introduced Rodd Hale as the new Assistant City Manager.

6 Adjournment

There being no further business to consider, upon proper motion, the meeting adjourned at 7:01 p.m.

(signed) _____
Judy Meyers, CMC, City Clerk

Approved: _____ (date)

Initialed: _____