



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

January 5, 2021
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 Chopper Davis, Councilman Peter Altman, Councilman Matt Murphy and Councilman Mike Peters.

Also in attendance were City Manager Debbie L. Manns, City Attorney Timothy Driscoll, City Clerk Judy Meyers, Assistant City Manager Rodd Hale, 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 Kevin Adams, Deputy Police Chief Lauren Letona, Technology Solutions Director Bryan Weed and Human Resources Manager Bernie Wharran.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Moment of Silence

4. Approval of December 15, 2020 Regular Meeting Minutes

Motion was made to approve the minutes as presented.

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

5. Proclamation - Arbor Day

Mayor Marlowe presented the proclamation to Environmental Committee Chairman Dell deChant.

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

Mayor Marlowe opened the floor for public comment. Don House, 2104 Beach Trail, Indian Rocks Beach, came forward to give kudos to the fire department and their assistance with some calls over the holiday season. He stated that all items are being sent to his Marine Parkway addresses except Code items. He asked all mail be sent to the NPR address.

Chris Conca, 6602 Grand Blvd., NPR, came forward to ask how to go about getting some back alleys paved. He stated it would add character to the city.

Bob Smallwood, 7124 Meighan Ct., NPR, came forward and stated he would like to have a look at how trash is collected. He has multiple trucks on his street. He stated he does not like the yard trash piles. He would like to see the fines used as overtime to have the material picked up more quickly. Mr. Smallwood also asked about irrigation rates. He stated the operational costs for the Rec Center are on the residents and asked if the discount could be all year. He spoke about dedicating courts for pickleball on the tennis courts.

Amy Finott-Marin, 6216 River Road, NPR, came forward and stated 1,500 people participated in the voting for the holiday decorating contest. There will be another contest for Valentine's Day. There will be a drink this eat that event at Cotee River in February and some other private events in March. There is also progress on the railroad mural. With no one else coming forward for public comment, Mayor Marlowe closed Vox Pop. Council then briefly discussed the irrigation, paving and trash hauling comments that were raised.

7 Consent Agenda

Motion was made to accept the Consent Agenda.

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

- a Cultural Affairs Committee Minutes - October 2020
- b Library Advisory Board Minutes - October 2020
- c Purchases/Payments for City Council Approval

8 Public Reading of Ordinances

- a Second Reading, Ordinance No. 2021-2218: Special Exception for Central Madison Townhomes Project

City Attorney Driscoll read the proposed ordinance by title only. City Manager Manns introduced the item to Council. She stated that the purpose of this agenda item was to conduct a second and final reading of an ordinance to approve a special exception for the Central Madison Townhomes Project. The townhomes are slated to be 1,835 sq. ft. in size. Mr. Cornelius came forward and stated this a special exception which is permitted in the City's Code. The project is consistent with all requirements. 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 Chopper Davis and seconded by Mike Peters. The Motion Passed. 5-0. Ayes: Altman, Davis, Marlowe, Murphy, Peters

9 Business Items

- a Resolution No. 2021-14: Supporting the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council's Regional Resiliency Action 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 approve a request by the Environmental Committee to adopt a resolution which supports the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council's (TBRPC) Regional Resiliency Action Plan (RRAP.) The proposed resolution expresses the City's support of the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council's Regional Resiliency Action Plan

(RRAP) and incorporates comments/concerns raised by the Environmental Committee. The Environmental Committee discussed this issue at their regularly scheduled meeting on December 14, 2020. Upon opening the floor to public comment, no one came forward therefore Mayor Marlowe returned the floor to Council. Councilman Altman stated the main focus of the consortium is to create standards that everyone can use. Mayor Marlowe asked about food security since the TBRPC focuses on resiliency and asked if it should be a separate resolution. Councilman Altman stated that it can be included as is. He stated having an ample supply of food and energy is important. Resiliency encompasses many things. Councilman Peters asked if the resilience committee addressed the food security issue. Councilman Altman stated it has not been spoken about a lot but he will look into it and provide an answer for it. Councilman Peters asked what other input could be given besides a resolution and Mayor Marlowe replied this was basically it. Councilman Altman stated he is also on the FRA Board and they saw the TBRPC doing design and planning. He stated we need everyone's involvement. Mayor Marlowe stated if we approve the resolution as presented it is us going on record that we agree with our Environmental Committee and it looks at the whole issue beyond resiliency. Councilman Peters stated he was concerned about how effective it would be. Councilman Altman stated the socioeconomics of our community is a growing concern and it is an element we can add to the list. It does not hurt to involve these other concepts. Councilman Murphy asked if there were any outside companies involved on the TBRPC Board and Councilman Altman stated the Governor appoints a few representatives who are not elected officials. Motion was made to approve the item as presented.

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

b Parking Garage – Duke Energy Transformer Relocation

City Manager Manns introduced the item to Council. She stated that the purpose of this agenda item was to approve an invoice from Duke Energy in an amount not to exceed \$50,132.27 for the relocation of an existing electric transformer for the parking structure project. Electrical engineers from Duke Energy and the City's contractor, Kokolakis Contracting Inc., reviewed the existing electrical grid in the area where the proposed parking structure is to be located and identified the need to relocate an existing electrical transformer. The invoice is for the installation of a new utility pole, electrical lines and transformer at a proposed location directly north of the SunTrust Bank. Upon opening the floor to public comment, no one came forward therefore Mayor Marlowe returned the floor to Council. Councilman Murphy asked about the future of the SunTrust branch and City Manager Manns stated that through her communications with SunTrust they have said they will know more the second quarter of the year. Councilman Peters asked if this is moving to underground and City Manager Manns stated no they will be overhead lines. Councilman Murphy stated the conduits being used are for underground. 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, Peters

c Request for Funding for Cultural Affairs Committee RE: Holiday Window Decorating Contest

City Manager Manns introduced the item to Council. She stated that the purpose of this agenda item was to approve a funding request in the amount of \$500 from the Cultural Affairs Committee for the Holiday Window Decorating Contest conducted by the New Port Richey Main Street Organization. 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, Peters

d Three Minute Report: Library

10 Communications

Deputy Mayor Davis thanked Regan Weiss for the Christmas tree event in Sims Park. Councilman Peters encouraged citizens to apply for the open positions in the city. He stated we are looking for

qualified for volunteers to serve on the City's boards and committees. He stated the LDRB meets at 2PM on the third Thursday and he suggested alternating the time to allow for citizens to attend. Councilman Peters stated he is looking forward to the yard debris work session. Councilman Murphy stated he is looking forward to it as well. He hoped everyone had a Merry Christmas and wished everyone a Happy New Year. Councilman Altman stated the blinking lights on the street at the crosswalk at Lincoln and Main are out. He stated the Christmas tree event was a big success. He stated appreciation also needs to go to staff. Councilman Altman stated he has been asked about the money raised by the charity. There was \$1k given to the City for water bills. He stated the flyer everyone received from the FLC is an outreach to raise public understanding on how a city is operated. He stated there is a lot of support for our city right now. He stated we have many growth opportunities. Mayor Marlowe stated the State announced last week the COVID-19 vaccine for those over 65. He stated the Health Department began to administer it last week. He stated he encourages everyone to give serious consideration to getting the vaccine when it is available. The pandemic has caused so much disruption to our community and businesses. The sooner we can get vaccinated the sooner we can put the pandemic behind us. He has had many compliments about the Gloria Swanson Parking Lot and the parking spaces around the lake. Mayor Marlowe recognized City Council candidate Rachel Hagenbaugh who was sitting in the audience. City Manager Manns announced that Human Resources Manager Bernie Wharran was retiring and this would be her last Council meeting.

11 Adjournment

There being no further business to consider, upon proper motion, the meeting adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

(signed) _____
Judy Meyers, CMC, City Clerk

Approved: _____ (date)

Initialed: _____

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-14**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW PORT RICHEY, FLORIDA SUPPORTING THE TAMPA BAY REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL'S REGIONAL RESILIENCY ACTION PLAN.**

WHEREAS, the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council (TBRPC) is developing a Regional Resiliency Action Plan (RRAP); and

WHEREAS, the RRAP will provide a blueprint for local-regional planning and implementation by creating a positive aspirational vision of resilient communities, both coastal and inland urban, suburban and rural areas, defining goals, objectives, strategies and actions for local and regional agencies to support for alignment on critical issues, considering federal and state planning requirements, defining best practices, national metrics, certification programs and including a community scorecard; and

WHEREAS, between the local and regional governments there are shared concerns, including energy security, food security, infrastructure (buildings, transportation and communications), water management and health and community well-being, as well as urban concerns on building and infrastructure design, innovative financing for infrastructure adaptation and addressing social equity and vulnerable populations, as well as rural concerns of economic diversification, broadband deployment, ecosystem valuation and farm and forest adaption; and

WHEREAS, the TBRPC has specifically requested input from stakeholders on the proposed RRAP; and

WHEREAS, as an advisory committee to City Council, it is the mission of the Environmental Committee to facilitate the development of responsible environmental policies, including improving access to culturally appropriate, nutritionally sound and sustainably produced food in the city; and

WHEREAS, the Environmental Committee is tasked with providing recommendations to City Council regarding community policies that can dramatically reduce instances of ecological destruction, preserve agricultural lands, promote sustainable agricultural practices throughout the city while assisting in the development of new businesses that are ecologically sound and environmentally resilient; and

WHEREAS, the Environmental Committee reviewed the proposed RRAP at their regular meeting on December 14, 2020 and voted to present their recommendations/concerns, further described in Attachment "A" affixed hereto, to City Council for their approval and support of the RRAP; and

WHEREAS, City Council hereby supports the Environmental Committee's recommendations/concerns and is in support of the TBRPC RRAP.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of New Port Richey that said City Council hereby expresses its support for the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council's Regional Resiliency Action Plan, including and subject to the

recommendations/concerns from the City's Environmental Committee as set forth in Attachment "A" to this resolution.

DONE AND RESOLVED this 5th day of January, 2021.

ATTEST:

CITY OF NEW PORT RICHEY, FLORIDA

Judy Meyers, CMC, City Clerk

Rob Marlowe, Mayor – Councilmember

(SEAL)

APPROVED AS TO LEGAL FORM AND CONTENT

Timothy P. Driscoll, City Attorney
CA Approved 1-4-21

ATTACHMENT “A”

Environmental Committee, City of New Port Richey Statement on the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council – Regional Resiliency Action Plan

Based on the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council's (TBRPC) Regional Resiliency Action Plan (RRAP), the Environmental Committee of the City of New Port Richey submits the following comments and feedback to TBRPC for consideration to include in the 2020 TBRPC Regional Resiliency Action Plan (RRAP).

The RRAP outline:

- ❖ A lack of attentiveness to food security as a serious regional concern.
- ❖ Food policy strategies were not listed as a high enough priority on the RRAP's action items.
- ❖ The temporary Governor's Executive Order allows the local governments to feed any child, 18 and under, until funds are depleted. In Pasco County, these funds will be depleted in December 2020. The RRAP should take into consideration the likelihood of future natural disasters and pandemics that can cause massive disruption to food systems. What is the RRAP plan to feed these children after December 2020?
- ❖ Too low of a level of significance for explicit food system security needs. A much higher emphasis is needed regionally.
- ❖ Local food production needs to be preserved and encouraged, especially in urban areas of the region.
- ❖ Increased involvement of food system stakeholders in the development of RRAP Plan priorities is needed.
- ❖ RRAP needs to elevate food system security, resiliency, and food access to a higher level of prioritization;
- ❖ Lack of acknowledgement that food affordability and inaccessibility are still prescient issues in Pasco County and other Tampa Bay communities.
- ❖ Food policy advocates within the Tampa Bay region should be invited to TBRPC Resiliency Coalition meetings, sub-committee meetings and trainings to ensure food security matters are addressed in the RRAP. Existing Food Policy Advisory Councils should be invited to send a council member representative to future trainings, summits, coalition meetings, committee and sub-committee meetings.