



MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION
CITY OF NEW PORT RICHEY
NEW PORT RICHEY CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS
5919 MAIN STREET, NEW PORT RICHEY, FLORIDA
January 26, 2021
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 Chopper Davis, Councilman Matt Murphy and Councilman Mike Peters. Councilman Peter Altman participated via telephonically. 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, Public Works Director Robert Rivera and Technology Solutions Director Bryan Weed.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

2 Discussion on Waste Hauling - Page 2

City Manager Manns introduced the item to Council. She stated the purpose of the work session was to discuss the City's solid waste disposal system. What staff has done so far is conducted preliminary meetings with all of the waste haulers and have analyzed the variables related to their service. Staff also performed an audit of the franchise fees that are paid to the City by the service providers. A considerable number of residents in the city do not subscribe to any trash service. The providers are also not transmitting the proper amount of fees to the City. The items to be discussed tonight is awarding a single trash hauler for the city. The public hearing will be on February 2, 2021. After the public hearing an RFP will be compiled. Staff is recommending that the amount for trash service be added to the property tax bills. This will ensure that every resident has trash service and will ensure proper franchise fee amount paid to the City.

She then introduced Public Works Director Robert Rivera who then made a presentation to Council. Mr. Rivera began his presentation by stating that staff is recommending that Council move to a single hauler system and incorporate the billing for service as a special assessment. The current system is a subscription based system. The amount charged is \$18.49/month/\$55.47/quarter plus a 10% franchise fee. Mr. Rivera then highlighted the program administration which included waste hauling applications, quarterly customer list, regular trash collection, recyclable collection, yard debris and 10% franchise fee. Mr. Rivera

then highlighted the current system advantages and disadvantages. The biggest impact was the trucks on the city roads. The independent audit recommended the City consolidate trash hauling services and collecting fees as part of a real estate assessment. Mr. Rivera then highlighted the single trash hauler system process which includes providing a three year notice to the haulers. This time period would allow for the City to review administrative operations. Mr. Rivera then highlighted the advantages of a single hauler system which included lower cost for trash pickup, less damage to roadways, 100% participation by residents, improved collection rate of franchise fee, potential additional revenue to the General Fund, an Ombudsman for complaints and illegal dumping reduced.

Deputy Mayor Davis asked about triplexes who utilize dumpsters and City Manager Manns everyone is required to have service. Council briefly discussed the billing process. City Manager Manns stated putting the fees on the tax bill helps to eliminate the bad debt and may encourage the haulers to go to a temporary district system. Councilman Altman, who participated telephonically, stated he was in favor of the City taking over the billing process. He would rather have the fees placed on the water bill instead of the tax bill. Councilman Peters stated there are some residents who live here part of the year and suspend service. Finance Director Feast explained the lien process and the advantages of adding the fees to the tax bills.

The discussion then moved to yard debris. Deputy Mayor Davis asked what the annual fee is for pickup and Mr. Rivera stated it was \$219k. Deputy Mayor Davis stated we need to decide whether the City wants to continue the program. He stated if we have a service that is available for a small fee it would eliminate the hunt for landscapers. Mayor Marlowe stated he agrees the problem has been getting worse. Mayor Marlowe stated he would like to have a discussion about residents dropping off debris at the location on Pine Hill. Mr. Rivera stated that staff is currently working on options that will be presented at the work session scheduled in February.

The discussion then moved to the single hauler system. Mayor Marlowe stated he hoped the haulers would each want a section. He stated the haulers are spending more money in a redundant manner. Councilman Altman stated there may be some satisfaction by the haulers if we set up a temporary system. The first thing is to get the system in place. A single hauler would provide uniform collection. Councilman Murphy stated the residents must get a lower rate if we move to a one hauler system. He asked if the contract would be annual and City Manager Manns stated typically the contracts are five years. Councilman Murphy asked what would happen if residents were dissatisfied and City Attorney Driscoll stated performance standards would be built in to the agreement and there would be a way to dismiss a hauler prior to the expiration of their term. Councilman Peters stated the advantages overwhelm the disadvantages. Councilman Altman stated the three years gives us flexibility. Deputy Mayor Davis stated he is not for one hauler but not for five either. He stated he is for two haulers. Business breeds business. Councilman Altman stated it would be problematic to divide and assign.

3 Communications

Mayor Marlowe stated he attended a Habitat for Humanity home dedication on High Street earlier today. City Manager Manns wished Mayor Marlowe a happy birthday.

4 Adjournment

There being no further business to consider, upon proper motion, the meeting adjourned at 7:06 p.m.

Approved: _____ (date)

_____ (signed)

Initialed: _____

Judy Meyers, CMC, City Clerk