



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
February 2, 2021
6:00 PM

ORDER OF
BUSINESS

1 Call to Order – Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Rob Marlowe at 6:02 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, Public Works Director Robert Rivera and Technology Solutions Director Bryan Weed.

2 Pledge of Allegiance

3 Moment of Silence

4 Business Items

a. Public Hearing - Solid Waste Collection within City Limits - Page 3

City Manager Manns introduced the item to Council. She stated the purpose of this agenda item was to conduct a public hearing to seek public input on proposed changes to the City's solid waste collection system, which may include the displacement of some or all of the current private waste collectors operating within the city. She stated that staff has met with all of the haulers. In order to comply with statutory requirements a public hearing must be held. She then highlighted the steps in the process to move to a single hauler. Bid specifications would be put together and updates to current City policies would be done. The final step would be to wait out the remainder of the three year period. She then introduced Public Works Director Robert Rivera who then made a presentation to Council. Mr. Rivera stated the current system is subscription based. Mr. Rivera then highlighted the current system. Mr. Rivera then highlighted the advantages and disadvantages with the current system. The special pickups are not all the same with each hauler. The independent audit that was conducted suggested moving to a single hauler system and have the City take over the billing. Mr. Rivera stated that the haulers were receptive to the idea of temporary districts. All of the haulers were in agreement that the City should take over the billing process. Mr. Rivera then highlighted the advantages of a one hauler system. Upon opening the floor to public comment, Rachel Hagenbaugh, 6826 Tennessee Avenue, NPR came forward and stated she was not in favor of a one hauler system. With no one else coming forward Mayor Marlowe returned the floor to Council. Mayor Marlowe stated he spoke to Ginny Miller earlier who stated in essence if it is not broke don't fix it. He also referenced a letter from Heather

Fiorentino and River Mist's happiness with JD Parker (see attached.)

Councilman Altman stated that any reduction would require the three year notice. With three years it provides an opportunity to work with the haulers to increase collection and pickup. Councilman Altman stated water and trash are utilities which are basic expenses. Councilman Altman stated we have to identify what lots are vacant. He stated there is a good opportunity to lower the cost if we spread it out to everyone. He stated he noticed in Safety Harbor and on SR 50 that trucks with arms are being used. He stated he likes the idea of standardized containers. Councilman Murphy agreed with Councilman Altman's comments. He stated this will give us a time period to make changes we need to and find solutions. Deputy Mayor Davis asked if we are locked into one hauler and City Attorney Driscoll stated no. He stated what is inherent in the statute you have to give notice and you can still negotiate to have multiple haulers. Deputy Mayor Davis stated he does not have a problem with two but he does with one. He knows that there are people in Aripeka that have problems with the one hauler. Mayor Marlowe stated that the haulers expenses must be higher now running citywide and would be reduced with zones. With multiple haulers in zones they can pick up zones if one hauler fails in service. This will simply put the haulers on notice. He stated he is not a fan of putting the bill on the property tax bill but rather the utility bill and make it the responsibility of the property owner. Motion was made to authorize staff to proceed to provide notice according to Florida Law to give notice to the haulers that the City is moving to a one hauler system.

Motion made by Pete Altman and seconded by . The Motion Passed. 4-1. Ayes: Altman, Marlowe, Murphy, Peters Nays: Davis

5 Communications

None.

6 Adjournment

There being no further business to consider, upon proper motion, the meeting adjourned at 6:27 p.m.

(signed) _____
Judy Meyers, CMC, City Clerk

Approved: _____ (date)

Initialed: _____

Ms. Manns and Council,

I read City Council was having a special meeting on Solid Waste Haulers (on Feb, 2, 2021) and wanted to share some concerns our Condo Association had with one of the haulers, Republic.

River Mist issues with Republic were as follows:

1. When requesting recycling they indicated the City of New Port Richey didn't allow recycling in condo complex's. Then they came back and indicated if we wanted recycling we would have to build a separate enclosure for them to support.
2. Missed several pickups with no reasoning. When contacted never returned calls. Did not seem to care that we were missed.
3. When River Mist new Board indicated they were going to get another bid Republic tried to indicate we were breaking our contract when in fact the last contract was back in early 2000's. with a company that was not named Republic.
4. Once another company (JD Parker) was accepted Republic left their dumpsters for several months sitting in the parking lot of River Mist Community. When trying to contact them they never responded and tried collecting monies that were not owed.
We did contact the City and one resident contacted the county code enforcement.

I share this with the City if you continue their agreement to at least ensure staff will follow up with the quality of services they provide your citizens. Not picking up trash on the designated days, lack of communications, lack of returning calls, and when they do their abusive threatening conversation is not the type of businesses the city wants serving their citizens.

We are extremely happy with JR Parker and their service, communication and professionalism.

Thank you for your time and consideration of our concerns.

Heather Fiorentino
President of the Board