



**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**  
**March 2, 2021**  
**7:00 PM**

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**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, Police Chief Kim Bogart, Finance Director Crystal Feast, Fire Chief Chris Fitch, Economic Development Director Charles Rudd, Public Works Director Robert Rivera, Parks and Recreation Director Kevin Adams, Technology Solutions Director Bryan Weed, Human Resources Manager Bernie Wharran and Systems & Services Librarian Stephanie Jones.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Moment of Silence

4. Approval of February 16, 2021 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 - Read Across America Month

Mayor Marlowe presented the proclamation to the Library Advisory Board.

6. Proclamation - Problem Gambling Awareness Month (By Title Only)

Mayor Marlowe read the proclamation by title only.

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

Mayor Marlowe opened the floor for public comment. Chris Lineman, 6140 Indiana Ave., NPR came forward to speak about some Code Enforcement notices he received and speeding on Indiana. Brian Perras, 7401 Allyson St., Port Richey came forward to speak about Black Lives Matter and mask mandates. George Romagnoli, 6235 Florida Ave., NPR came forward to speak about the US19 corridor. Natalie Cronin, 5111 Amulet Drive, #204, NPR came forward to speak about restarting events. Joseph Pisani, 7540 Massachusetts, NPR came forward to speak about his water bill. Salvatore Stazzone, 4933 Elkner St., NPR came forward to compliment the police department. Stephanie Ramirez, 6141 11th Ave., NPR came forward to speak about community patriots. Paul Black, 5844 Madison St., NPR came forward to speak about speeding on Madison and excessive car noise. With no one else coming forward for public comment, Mayor Marlowe closed Vox Pop.

- a Speakers must identify themselves prior to speaking by stating their name and full address for the record. Speakers shall address the City Council as a whole and refrain from addressing individual members of the City Council or the City staff. Speakers shall afford the utmost courtesy to the City Council, to City employees, and to the public, and shall refrain at all times, from rude and derogatory remarks, reflections as to integrity, abusive comments, and statements as to motives and personalities.

## 8 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 Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Minutes - January 2021
- b Purchases/Payments for City Council Approval

## 9 Public Reading of Ordinances

- a Second Reading, Ordinance No. 2021-2224: Amendments to Chpt. 12 LDC RE: Fences

City Attorney Driscoll read the proposed ordinance by title only. Upon opening the floor to public comment, Wendy Brenner, 7224 Grand Blvd., NPR came forward to ask about pre-existing fences and a clarification on side yard. Mr. Cornelius then explained corner lot fencing, river frontage and pool fencing. Linda Connolly, 5746 Wyoming Ave., NPR came forward to speak about pool fencing. Ryan Rapp, 5638 Illinois Ave., NPR came forward to speak about side fences. Chris Lineman, 6140 Indiana Ave., NPR came forward to ask about the three foot side fence. George Romagnoli, 6235 Florida Ave., NPR came forward to speak about side yard fence. With no one else coming forward Mayor Marlowe returned the floor to Council. Mayor Marlowe stated he does not like the three foot fence. Councilman Altman stated a lot of houses in the city face the side and not built to the design of our neighborhoods as they were built. He asked what do we do about empty lots. He stated the side fence should be where the Development Department would allow for the house to be built. There are a lot of houses on double lots. Councilman Peters stated there is some good reasoning as to why we are trying to get a fence ordinance. He suggested having photos taken. Mr. Cornelius stated this is a pure policy decision by Council. Mr. Cornelius stated an amendment could be made to reinstate the six foot fence within ten feet of the property line. That would limit the three feet to one street frontage. Deputy Mayor Davis stated this would unify double lots. City Attorney Driscoll stated he prepared some language to clear up the issue. Councilman Peters then asked about pools on the river. Mr. Cornelius stated that pools have their own section and standards. City Attorney Driscoll stated the fence cannot be over four feet if it is within the forty feet of the river. City Attorney Driscoll then read the language he prepared (see attached). Motion was made to approve the ordinance with additional language provided by our City Attorney.

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

b First Reading, Ordinance No. 2021-2226: Conditional Use for 5707 Main Street (eCarve, LLC)

City Attorney Driscoll read the proposed ordinance by title only. City Manager Manns introduced the item to Council. She stated the purpose of this agenda item was to conduct a first reading of an ordinance for a conditional use for 5707 Main Street (eCarve, LLC). On January 21, 2020, City Council adopted an ordinance granting approval of a conditional use for a scooter and one-wheel vehicle sales retail and rental store, known as "eCarve LLC", located at 5707 Main Street. On January 5, 2021, the City received an application from eCarve, LLC to amend the conditional use regarding the hours of operation. The change requested is to extend the hours until 9:00 p.m. on Wednesday, Thursday and Sunday and to 11:00 p.m. on Friday and Saturday. On January 14, 2021, the Development Review Committee (DRC) reviewed the request and did not support the extension of the operating hours to 11:00 p.m. on Friday and Saturday due to safety concerns. During the DRC discussion the applicant agreed to revise the request from 11:00 p.m. on Friday and Saturday to 9:00 p.m. The DRC recommended approval of the 9:00 p.m. time.

Upon opening the floor to public comment, Scott Carbone, 5707 Main St., NPR came forward and stated he noticed an increase in revenue on Friday and Saturday nights. He stated he would like to change the hours to 3PM-9PM Monday through Thursday, Noon-10PM Friday and Saturday and Noon-8PM on Sunday. Corey Denninger, 10631 Pearl Berry Lp., LOL, came forward to state his support for eCarve. Chris Lineman, 6140 Indiana Ave., NPR came forward to state his support for eCarve. George Romagnoli, 6235 Florida Ave., NPR came forward to speak about the LDC for permitted and non-permitted uses for the downtown. Harry Palmer, 5605 Montana Ave., NPR came forward to state his support for eCarve. Lisa Langford from Lis' Pieces came forward to state her support for eCarve. Andrew Bryant, 5502 Kentucky Ave., NPR came forward to state his support for eCarve. Charles Davis, 31242 Amberlea Rd., Dade City to state his support for eCarve. Anthony Hoffman, 3550 Nora Lane, NPR came forward to state his support for eCarve. John Beebe, 5649 Main St., NPR came forward to state his support for eCarve. Brad Jurgens, 5232 Carlton Rd., NPR came forward to state his support for eCarve. Julieanna Rains, 3550 Nora Lane, NPR came forward to state her support for eCarve. Ryan Rapp, 5638 Illinois Ave., NPR came forward to state his support for eCarve. Rick Sommer from The Dented Keg came forward to state his support for eCarve. Paul Lester, 7644 Limington Dr., Port Richey came forward to state his support for eCarve. Pete from Rock, Paper, Scissors came forward to state his support for eCarve. Wendy Brenner, 7224 Grand Blvd., NPR came forward to talk about one way on Grand Blvd. With no one else coming forward Mayor Marlowe returned the floor to Council.

Mayor Marlowe stated he attended a Zoom meeting and the St. Pete Mayor stated their hours are from 6AM to 10PM. Councilman Peters stated that he has rode the scooters and they are fun. He likes that they are not left on the sidewalks and that the business is working with the City. He said it does bring something special to the downtown. Councilman Murphy stated eCarve is a great business for the downtown. Councilman Altman stated that he would like to have reflective wear available. Deputy Mayor Davis stated golf carts go slower than scooters and have headlights and taillights. Scooters only have one headlight. He then displayed some pictures of the downtown at night. He stated he is concerned about people going in and out of restaurants. Mr. Carbone stated the speed is variable on weight. Deputy Mayor Davis stated there is also an education problem. He then stated several instances he observed. Councilman Murphy stated there are a lot of people out there who own their scooters and may not know the rules. Councilman Peters asked if they were allowed on Main Street and City Attorney Driscoll stated there are no current regulations. Chief Bogart stated without an ordinance there is no enforcement authority. Mayor Marlowe stated that we may want to visit the issue of locations and possibly banning from sidewalks. Motion was made to extend the hours to 10PM seven days a week.

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

c First Reading, Ordinance No. 2021-2228: Authorizing the Sale of Surplus Property

City Attorney Driscoll read the proposed ordinance by title only. City Manager Manns introduced the item to Council. She stated the purpose of this agenda item was to conduct a first reading of an

ordinance authorizing the sale of a 10.75 acre parcel of property that is located on the southeast section of the Wastewater Treatment Plant further identified as Parcel Id. 08-26-16-0010-02300-0000 to Pasco County in the amount of \$818,289.64. She stated the sale of the property was approved by Council on February 16, 2021. 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 first reading.

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

10 Business Items

a Board Appointment: Amber Blais, Environmental Committee

City Manager Manns introduced the item to Council. She stated that the purpose of this agenda item was to to approve the appointment of Amber Blais to the Environmental Committee. On January 4, 2021 Ms. Amber Blais submitted an application seeking membership to the Environmental Committee. Ms. Blais previously served as a second alternate on the Committee from July 15, 2014 until her resignation on December 27, 2015. If approved, Ms. Blais' term would be for two years and would be up for renewal on March 2, 2023. 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 Pete Altman. The Motion Passed. 5-0. Ayes: Altman, Davis, Marlowe, Murphy, Peters

b Agreement w/Hennessy Construction Services RE: Library Improvement Project

City Manager Manns introduced the item to Council. She stated that the purpose of this agenda item was to enter into an agreement with Hennessy Construction Services Corporation to implement the Library Improvement Project on a guaranteed maximum price basis in the amount of \$2,003,310. The Library Improvement Project is one staff has worked on since 2018 when the space assessment needs was completed. Hennessy Construction Services was contracted to serve as a “Contractor at Risk” construction manager in respect to the Library Improvement Project. Hennessy Construction Services will be receiving a fee of 5% of the construction budget which is \$81,722 for their work on the project. The amount of their fee is in line with industry standards for this size of a project. The project will be financed through revenue bonds and a grant from EBSCO. 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 Pete Altman. The Motion Passed. 5-0. Ayes: Altman, Davis, Marlowe, Murphy, Peters

c Classification and Compensation Study by Cody & Associates, Inc.

City Manager Manns introduced the item to Council. She stated that the purpose of this agenda item was to formally accept the Classification and Compensation Study conducted by Cody & Associates, Inc. On January 28, 2021, Cody & Associates, Inc. completed work on an employee Classification and Compensation Study for the City of New Port Richey. The study did not include the evaluation of positions within the Police and Fire collective bargaining units. The purpose of the study was to evaluate the City of New Port Richey’s current employee compensation, in comparison to other similar cities in Florida, while also assessing the City’s current job classifications/descriptions. The compensation information will be utilized to ensure equitable, and competitive, pay relative to pay received by other employees performing a similar role both within the City and within the survey market. The job classifications/descriptions information will be used to ensure employee positions are properly classified in regards to essential functions, education, experience, knowledge and skill set requirements. Upon opening the floor to public comment, Wendy Brenner, 7224 Grand Blvd., NPR came forward to ask when the last pay plan was approved by the City. She asked about the market data and salary ranges for other cities. With no one else coming forward Mayor Marlowe returned the

floor to Council. City Manager Manns stated the attachment was not included and the item would be deferred to the next meeting. The study done in 2014 was not completed by a professional group.

d 2019 Nebraska Ave. Parking Lot Improvements – Project Award

City Manager Manns introduced Public Works Director Robert Rivera who then presented the item to Council. He stated that the purpose of this agenda item was to approve the lowest bid submitted by Right of Way Contracting, LLC. in the amount not to exceed \$721,942.50 for the 2019/2020 Nebraska Ave. Parking Lot Improvements Project. The project will increase spaces by a total of 16. There will also be landscape, lighting and ADA upgrades. 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 Mike Peters. The Motion Passed. 5-0. Ayes: Altman, Davis, Marlowe, Murphy, Peters

e Discussion Regarding Native American Festival

City Manager Manns introduced the item to Council. She stated that the purpose of this agenda item was to conduct a discussion regarding the possibility of permitting a Native American festival in Sims Park. This item is at the request of Councilman Altman. Upon opening the floor to public comment, Al Renedo came forward and stated that the Native Americans have asked if they can set up in the park March 19th-21st. The SET meeting would need to be fast tracked. He stated there would be an admission fee and the area would be roped off. There is an estimate of 250 people a day. Wendy Brenner, 7224 Grand Blvd., NPR came forward to ask about the spacing for the vendors. Mr. Renedo stated they would be set up on the north side on the sidewalk. Tim McClain, 5334 Main St., NPR came forward and stated that people need to see the event as it is the history and heritage of where Chasco came from. He stated the Chamber will assist in the advertising. With no one else coming forward Mayor Marlowe returned the floor to Council. Deputy Mayor Davis stated when we had the work session he stated we needed to keep Chasco's name out there and this is a good example. Councilman Altman stated that the event in Brooksville required everyone to wear a mask. Councilman Murphy asked if we are opening back up for events because if this is approved others will want to hold their events. City Manager Manns stated the point is relevant. Councilman Peters asked how many people could it fit and Mr. Renedo stated that other years there have been about 150 watching the shows. Councilman Peters asked about a Rotary event in May and City Manager Manns stated they have requested to use the park but no other information is released yet. City Attorney Driscoll stated that if other similar events come forward it would be hard to deny them. Councilman Altman stated Chasco, the 4th of July and Christmas Parade should be city events. City Attorney Driscoll stated by making this a City sponsored event that would provide for more control over protocols. Motion was made to approve the Native American festival for March 19th-21st and to allow the City Manager to impose certain COVID-19 protocols as deemed necessary. A second motion was made by Councilman Murphy and seconded by Deputy Mayor Davis to approve costs up to \$3k. Motion passed 5-0.

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

f Resolution No. 2021-33: City of New Port Richey Public Meeting Rules

City Attorney Driscoll read the proposed resolution by title only. Upon opening the floor to public comment, Wendy Brenner, 7224 Grand Blvd., NPR came forward and stated this item was ridiculous. This is a representative form of government. Paul Black, 5844 Madison St., NPR came forward and asked to retain the three minute time limit. Tim McClain, 5443 Main St., NPR came forward and stated moving it to the end makes sense. He stated businesses and residents should have priority. With no one else coming forward Mayor Marlowe returned the floor to Council. No motion was made on this item.

g Three Minute Report: Technology Solutions

This item was deferred until March 16, 2021.

11 Communications

Communications were deferred to the CRA meeting.

12 Adjournment

There being no further business to consider, upon proper motion, the meeting adjourned at 9:39 p.m.

(signed) \_\_\_\_\_  
Judy Meyers, CMC, City Clerk

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ (date)

Initialed: \_\_\_\_\_

j. On lots having more than one street frontage, a fence may be constructed in the front yard along the street frontage not facing the front door of the residence which does not meet the front yard standards set forth in subsection 3 of this section pertaining to height and opacity, so long as said portions of the fence are set back at least ten (10) feet from the property line of the property along said street.