



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
March 23, 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 Peter Altman, Councilman Matt Murphy and Councilman Mike Peters. Also in attendance were City Manager Debbie L. Manns, City Clerk Judy Meyers, Public Works Director Robert Rivera, Technology Solutions Director Bryan Weed and Assistant City Manager Rodd Hale.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

2 Discussion on Yard Debris Collection Program - Page 2

City Manager Manns introduced the item to Council. She stated the purpose of this agenda item was to advance a discussion related to the City's current yard debris collection program. She stated the pickup is rotated through the city every six to eight weeks. There is a lot of illegal dumping that currently takes place. She then introduced Public Works Director Robert Rivera who then presented the item to Council. Mr. Rivera began his presentation by stating that there has been no discussion in discontinuing the program. City Manager Manns said currently the city pays twice for the program once by the city and once through the trash haulers. Mr. Rivera then highlighted the current level of service. In 2019 there was 3,585 tons from residents and 218 tons from the City. In 2020 there was 3,607 tons from residents and 111 tons from the City and 888 tons due to contractors performing alley trimming. The annual cost is approximately \$219k. Mr. Rivera then showed photos to Council regarding debris piles and illegal dumping.

Mr. Rivera then stated there were three options for Council to consider moving forward. The options were to have the program remain the same, contract with trash hauler for pickup and create a resident satellite/drop off location. Mr. Rivera then highlighted the advantages and disadvantages of each option. Mayor Marlowe stated his personal view is that the biggest issue we are dealing with is commercial dumping. There is no alternative. He would like to see a dump site on Pine Hill. We need to get the piles under control. Councilman Peters asked about the percentage to mulch last year and Mr. Rivera stated he would get that information. Councilman

Peters then talked about the piles from the north city limits on Grand down to Massachusetts. Councilman Peters asked about how equal were the seven sections and Mr. Rivera stated they vary in size and amount. Councilman Murphy stated no matter what option it has to be picked up more often. He stated the dump sites may be an issue for elderly residents and those who do not have larger vehicles. Councilman Altman stated the maintenance of our city is critical to the properties. He stated unsightly piles and convenience are an issue. He stated we are delivering out of city limits at our expense. Councilman Altman stated he would like to see an economic analysis. He stated a different permit is needed to be a transfer station.

Mayor Marlowe then opened the floor for public comment. John Kane, 6041 Florida Ave., NPR came forward and stated there were many discussions on this issue with the Environmental Committee. He said one important thing is signage. Contractors should have to haul the materials out. There should be designated locations and put up signage. He stated drop off for residents who can is a good idea. He stated it will not be handled better with trash haulers. Dell deChant, 6119 Illinois Ave., NPR came forward to ask if this could be referred to the Environmental Committee's input. Council responded yes. He said the Committee will discuss it at their April meeting. He stated promotion of environmental activities would be good. He stated outsourcing city services is a slippery slope. He asked how the mulch will be delivered to the residents if taken away by the haulers. Mr. Rivera stated it would be the same as it is now. He asked if there would be an additional fee and Mr. Rivera stated there has not been a consideration of one. Bob Langford, 5603 Wyoming Ave., NPR came forward and stated he has always liked the program. As he sees it there are many advantages of the program. He stated he appreciates the City doing this program. Rachel Hagenbaugh, 6026 Tennessee Ave., NPR came forward and stated she uses the program and the quality of the mulch is fantastic. The program is a highlight to growers. She stated she liked the idea of a community drop off. With no one else coming forward, Mayor Marlowe returned the floor to Council.

Deputy Mayor Davis stated this topic comes up every couple of years. He stated we need to engage the rest of the citizens. He stated if citizens put smaller piles in the trash that would help. Councilman Peters stated he was not sure signs would help because people are dumping where there are no dumping signs. He stated different neighborhoods have different needs. He likes the ideal of the clam shell pickup four times a year. Councilman Murphy stated people in the city pay more and expect more. He stated we need to increase pickups. He stated it would be good if we could sell the product. Councilman Altman stated this program has been around for thirty years. He stated that the person whose property is used as the community site are not always happy about it. He stated all Council are in favor of the program it just needs to be tweaked. He stated we just need to come up with the best way to create this product. Mayor Marlowe stated on demand makes sense. He stated containers may be an option too. He stated we just need to get the commercial people to dump it where they are supposed to. Deputy Mayor Davis suggested an annual fee. Mr. Rivera stated he was not sure how that would work. An additional site would need to be acquired. Councilman Murphy suggested removing the debris pickup out of the waste hauler contracts.

3 Adjournment

There being no further business to consider, upon proper motion, the meeting adjourned at 7:49 p.m.

Approved: _____ (date)

_____ (signed)

Initialed: _____

Judy Meyers, CMC, City Clerk