



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 16, 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, Police Chief Kim Bogart, 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, Technology Solutions Director Bryan Weed and Human Resources Manager Bernie Wharran.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Moment of Silence

4. Approval of February 23, 2021 Work Session Minutes

Motion was made to approve the minutes as presented.

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

5. Approval of March 2, 2021 Work Session and Regular Meeting Minutes

Motion was made to approve the minutes as presented.

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

6. Proclamation - Florida Loquat Festival

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

7 Presentation - Environmental Committee Annual Report

Dell deChant presented the Environmental Committee's Annual Report to Council.

8 Vox Pop for Items Not Listed on the Agenda or Listed on Consent Agenda

Mayor Marlowe passed the gavel to Deputy Mayor Davis who then opened the floor for public comment. Sal Stazzone, 4933 Elkner St., NPR came forward to speak about George Floyd. John Kane, 6140 Florida Ave., NPR, came forward to speak about the city's mulch program. Jim Kovaleski, 5705 Virginia Ave, NPR came forward to speak about the yard waste recycling program. Wendy Brenner, 7224 Grand Blvd., NPR came forward to ask if there would be a work session about the American Rescue Plan. George Romagnoli, 6235 Florida Ave., NPR came forward to speak about not moving Vox Pop to the end of the meeting. Marlowe Jones, 6141 Pine Hill Rd., PR came forward to speak about George Floyd. Kate Connolly, 5508 Vermont Ave., NPR came forward to commend the Environmental Committee. She stated Council should consider Derek Anderson, 5517 Tropic Drive, NPR., came forward to speak about golf carts. Chris Lineman, 6140 Indiana Ave., NPR, came forward to speak about the city's mulch program. Natalie Cronin, 5111 Amulet Drive, Unit 204, NPR came forward to speak about the mulch program. With no one else coming forward for public comment, Deputy Mayor Davis 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.

9 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 Meeting Minutes - January 2021
- b Environmental Committee Minutes - January and February 2021
- c Police Pension Board Minutes - January 2021
- d Purchases/Payments for City Council Approval

10 Public Reading of Ordinances

- a Second 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 second and final reading of an ordinance for a conditional use for 5707 Main Street (eCarve, LLC). Council voted to extend the hours were to 10:00 p.m. at the first reading on March 2, 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 second and final reading.

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

- b Second 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 second and final 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. 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 Pete Altman. The Motion Passed. 5-0. Ayes: Altman, Davis, Marlowe, Murphy, Peters

c First Reading, Ordinance No. 2021-2223: Amendments to Fire Prevention Codes Adopted

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 first reading of an ordinance to amend the Fire Prevention Code. 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 Chopper Davis and seconded by Matt Murphy. The Motion Passed. 5-0. Ayes: Altman, Davis, Marlowe, Murphy, Peters

11 Business Items

a Board Re-Appointment: Alfred Renedo, Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

City Manager Manns introduced the item to Council. She stated that the purpose of this agenda item was to approve the re-appointment of Alfred Renedo to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. Mr. Renedo has been a member of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board since 2018. His current term is due to expire on April 3, 2021 therefore he has submitted his application for re-appointment. If approved, Mr. Renedo's term will be for three years and will be up for renewal on April 3, 2024. 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 Pete Altman and seconded by Mike Peters. The Motion Passed. 5-0. Ayes: Altman, Davis, Marlowe, Murphy, Peters

b Request to Purchase Replacement Laptops for Police and Fire Departments

City Manager Manns introduced the item to Council. She stated that the purpose of this agenda item was to approve the replacement of thirty-two laptops from Vology for our Police and Fire Departments in an amount not to exceed \$89,998.00. The purchase will piggyback on an existing contract. 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 Mike Peters and seconded by Chopper Davis. 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 includes comparisons from 15 communities. The study did not include the evaluation of positions within the Police and Fire collective bargaining units. There were 38 out of 167 that were shown to be out of market based on their evaluation of the positions. Upon opening the floor to public comment, Tim McClain, 5443 Main Street, NPR, came forward to speak about salary studies and to compliment the report that was done. His concern is the gap. City Manager Manns stated there were equitable relationships between positions and classifications that were looked at as part of the study. Wendy Brenner, 7224 Grand Blvd., NPR came forward and stated there was information missing from the packet. She stated this

should be approved by ordinance. Rachel Hagenbaugh, 6026 Tennessee Ave., NPR came forward to ask for a current pay scale and go above the minimum.

****Kate Connolly, 5508 Vermont Ave., NPR, made the following comments on this item during Vox Pop: She stated that Council should consider the pay plan adopted in 2014 and would facilitate the discussion as to why the Library Director or Recreation Director are paid less than the other directors. She stated that requiring higher degrees and certificates should receive higher equitable pay compared to similar positions. She stated 82% of library workers are females and historically make less pay than males in director level positions with advanced degrees. She stated the Charter says adoption by ordinance which helps the discussion further and considering revisions based on the discussion.****

With no one else coming forward Mayor Marlowe returned the floor to Council. City Attorney Driscoll stated this is an administrative action and no ordinance is needed for this item. 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

d City Manager Performance Evaluation

City Manager Manns introduced the item to Council. She stated that the purpose of this agenda item was to conduct the annual evaluation of her performance as City Manager. The evaluation serves as a tool for open and productive discussions and the feedback allows her to assist Council better. The review process also aids in any adjustments to her salary structure. Deputy Mayor Davis commended City Manager Manns for her response to the COVID crisis. He would propose a 3% raise. He also would like to increase severance to five months. Councilman Peters stated that he has spoken to other city employees and they have all spoken highly of her. He stated that City Manager Manns has always been there to help since he came onto Council. She has excellent communication skills. Councilman Murphy stated that for the amount of work she does that is more than fair. He stated any time he needs her help she is there. Councilman Altman stated that the communication is good between each of them. He stated he hopes that communication between Council related to policies improve. He would like to have regular CRA meetings. Mayor Marlowe stated it has been his pleasure to have her as City Manager since he became Mayor. There have been some things that have slipped through the cracks but now having the Asst. CM that will help. He would like to see annexation as a priority item. Motion was made to approve a 3% salary increase and to increase severance to five months.

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

e Three Minute Report: Technology Solutions

12 Communications

Mayor Marlowe stated the City will pick up \$7m in recovery funds and a list of what the funds can be used for including helping businesses and infrastructure projects. An example would be sewer lines in the Leisure Lane/Van Doren area. He stated that there is a discussion on the yard debris program next week. He had the opportunity with Read Across America to read a book via Zoom to some first graders. He stated there was a TB Water meeting last Monday and Barret Doe gave a presentation on behalf of the City. Councilman Murphy stated he cannot imagine the city getting rid of the mulch program. He would like to get a minute each right after Vox Pop to have some dialogue. Councilman Murphy stated there are some projects at the top of the MPO list. The projects will be reprioritized in June. He stated that every year the MPO does a traffic analysis and he is interested to see what 2020 will show as a result of COVID. Councilman Altman stated we can convey messages for golf cart users. He would like a report on what the CARES Act funding was distributed to our residents by the County. We need to have shovel ready projects in order to obtain grant funding. Deputy Mayor Davis wished everyone a Happy St. Patrick's Day. He stated Lis' Pieces will be putting on an art show for

March 27th. Councilman Peters stated he had an opportunity to speak with some citizens about the Grand Bridge and they are looking forward to the project. He commended the Environmental Committee for staying for the entire Council meeting. He stated maintaining the quality of the river is near to his heart. He would like to see it gradually increase. Councilman Peters gave an update on legislation regarding building design features. He stated that COVID numbers continue to decline as more people get vaccinated and it may be time to look at restrictions on events. Mayor Marlowe stated things should hopefully be better by summer. Deputy Mayor Davis stated he met with Chief Bogart about a summary on rules for golf carts. City Manager Manns thank Council for their kind words during her evaluation and that it was a pleasuring serving as City Manager.

13 Adjournment

There being no further business to consider, upon proper motion, the meeting adjourned at 9:13 p.m.

(signed) _____
Judy Meyers, CMC, City Clerk

Approved: _____ (date)

Initialed: _____