



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
June 15, 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, Police Chief Kim Bogart, 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, Human Resources Manager Bernie Wharran.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Moment of Silence

4. Approval of May 25, 2021 Work Session and June 1, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes

Motion was made to approve the minutes as presented.

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

5. Proclamation - Juneteenth Day

Julia Pauls accepted the parchment from Mayor Marlowe.

6. Proclamation - World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (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. Don House, 2104 Beach Trail, Indian Rocks

Beach came forward to speak about the vegetation along Marine Parkway. Sal Stazzone, 4933 Elkner St., NPR came forward to speak about his support of the Juneteenth event. He also spoke about police officers in major cities not pursuing fleeing criminals and President Biden's policy regarding extremists. John Kane, 6041 Florida Ave., NPR came forward to speak about the paving of alleys and the Environmental Committee's recommendations. 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 Purchases/Payments for City Council Approval

9 Public Reading of Ordinances

- a Second Reading, Ordinance No. 2021-2232: Special Exception for 6016 Delaware Avenue

City Attorney Driscoll read the proposed ordinance by title only. City Manager Manns stated the property is located at the southeast corner of Madison Street and Delaware Avenue and was previously used by the Finnish American Club. It is a .86 acre piece of property. The Club lost its nonconforming use as it was vacant over a year. She then introduced Brad Cornelius who then made a presentation to Council. The property has an R3 zoning which allows a church as a special exception for use. Mr. Cornelius then highlighted the provisions in the LDC which made the property lose its nonconforming use. Mr. Cornelius stated the parking lot will have a slight expansion. It must meet the City's parking and landscape requirements. The building will have to meet current Florida Building and Fire Codes. Most traffic will be on Sundays. Deputy Mayor Davis asked how many current spaces there were and Mr. Cornelius stated roughly 25-30. Deputy Mayor Davis asked if there will be potential access off of Madison and Mr. Cornelius stated he did not think so. Councilman Peters asked what other uses could there be and Mr. Cornelius stated a bed and breakfast or a single family home. Councilman Peters asked how much additional space could be added to the building to still qualify and Mr. Cornelius stated there is quite a bit of green space but the factor is how much they need for parking. He did not think there was opportunity to expand. Upon opening the floor to public comment, Donna Harris, 6112 Delaware St., NPR came forward and stated she was concerned with traffic and speeding. She also had a concern whether a larger church moves in to open a soup kitchen to feed transient people. She has safety concern in the alley. She stated the tax value would be better if it was a single family residence. John Fountouklis, 2809 Featherstone Drive, Holiday, came forward and stated it was not their go to turn into a homeless shelter. He stated percentage wise if they grew each year there would not be a large influx of people. He stated he feels the church will bring value to the neighborhood. He stated most of his parishioners are elderly so speeding would not be a factor. He stated it is there goal to be part of the neighborhood. With no one else coming forwarded Mayor Marlowe returned the floor to Council. Motion was made to approve the ordinance upon its second and final reading.

There were two objection letters that were received at first reading for this item. The letters are attached to the minutes of the June 1, 2021 regular meeting.

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

b First Reading, Ordinance No. 2021-2231: Amendments to Golf Cart Ordinance

City Attorney Driscoll read the proposed ordinance by title only. City Manager Manns introduced the item to Council. She stated that when the ordinance was adopted in 2016 it was the consensus of Council to implement safe standards for the operation of golf carts. She stated there was a map created and that there were several streets that were prohibited from use due to safety concerns. She stated there was a request to remove some of the prohibitions however it is staff's recommendation that the prohibitions on those roads remain. Upon opening the floor to public comment, Don House, 2104 Beach Trail, Indian Rocks Beach came forward and stated that Marine Parkway and Grand are necessary corridors. He stated he gets passed on a double line on Marine Parkway. He stated responsible people should not be penalized. City Manager Manns stated it was unfair of Mr. House to degrade staff. Mr. House stated it was his opinion. With no one else coming forward Mayor Marlowe returned the floor to Council. Deputy Mayor Davis stated it is our job to slow down traffic on Marine Parkway. He stated we took two lanes away on Main Street to try to slow traffic down. He stated he would like to see Marine Parkway and Grand up to where the limit is now. Councilman Altman stated this ordinance needs to be passed in order to meet State Statutes. He stated he believes that Allamanda is the only road that has the opportunity to go north or south. He stated there are back roads to get to Allamanda. He would like to see a safe crossing to George St. Councilman Peters stated we can always expand the roadways. He stated we have to maintain the safety in the city. He stated more and more people are using golf carts. Councilman Murphy stated we need to get this passed to be in compliance and we can amend in the future. Mayor Marlowe stated golf carts do slow traffic down. He stated most of the golf carts are traveling at reasonable speeds. He stated he does have concerns over Marine Parkway. He stated we have not done enough traffic enforcement as a city. Motion was made to approve the ordinance upon its first reading.

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

10 Business Items

a Special Request by John Gilliss for KIAFest Beer and Wine Tent

City Manager Manns introduced the item to Council. She stated that the purpose of this agenda item was to approve a request by John Gilliss to allow for a private beer and wine tent in Sims Park for the KIAFest 2021 celebration event in Sims Park on Saturday, June 26, 2021. As Council is aware, Mr. John Gilliss of Friendly Kia contacted staff in regards to holding the annual KIAFest celebration in Sims Park on Saturday, June 26, 2021. The event will include entertainment and the annual fireworks display. 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 Matt Murphy. The Motion Passed. 5-0. Ayes: Altman, Davis, Marlowe, Murphy, Peters

b Discontinuing the Closure of Railroad Square on Weekends

City Manager Manns introduced the item to Council. She stated the discussion is in respect as to whether or not we should continue with the COVID-19 shutdown of Railroad Square. The space has been used by some of the businesses. Some business owners have requested it be reopened to allow for more parking. She is seeking direction from Council as to what they would like to do. Upon opening the floor to public comment, Frank Starkey, 5939 Grand Blvd., NPR came forward to speak in favor of continuing the closure. He stated Railroad Square is the closest thing we have to a town square. He stated there is a benefit for having it pedestrian oriented in the evening. With no one else coming forward Mayor Marlowe returned the floor to Council. Mayor Marlowe stated he has spoke with a few restaurant owners and it doesn't seem to be used much. He stated the one restaurant that seems to use it is Juan-a-Taco. He asked if there was a timeframe for the improvement to Railroad Square and City Manager Manns stated the consultant is still working on the plans. Councilman Murphy stated we could keep it closed but open it to golf cart parking only. Councilman Peters stated that most of the pedestrian traffic seems to be on the north side. He suggested changing it to a one-way

street. Deputy Mayor Davis requested a detour sign. He stated he would like to see it remain closed. Councilman Altman asked if we could get an interim look at where the consultant is going. Councilman Altman stated there is very little traffic out there. Motion was made to keep the closure in place from Friday at 4PM until Sunday at 2AM and also to allow access by golf carts. Frank Starkey came forward to advocate for 4PM on Sunday to allow for brunch. John Kane came forward and stated he can access parking from either street. He stated he supports keeping it closed.

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

c Three Minute Report: Recreation & Aquatics

11 Communications

Mayor Marlowe stated that everyone he has served with has wound up on the wrong end of the 4-1 vote. He stated that he is amazed at how well the parking garage looks. Councilman Murphy stated he attended the MPO last Thursday and the Underpass Project is back on the list. They also discussed microtransit. Councilman Altman stated he would like to see an increase in Council salary to \$600 a month. The last increase was done in the 1980's. Councilman Altman commented on an anti-Biden sign that is prominent on the river. He attended the TBRPC meeting on Monday and Pasco County has requested them to address US19 issues. Port Richey has also requested it as well. He stated there is a great opportunity to do something great on the north entrance to the city. He would like to see the West Pasco Press building appraised. Councilman Peters asked how many participants are in summer camp and Mr. Adams stated 100 per week. The program is maxed out. Councilman Peters stated that we may have to dust off the alley study and work on it again. He stated he wished the church well that will be moving into the space on Delaware. Deputy Mayor Davis showed some of the pictures from his vacation.

12 Adjournment

There being no further business to consider, upon proper motion, the meeting adjourned at 8:52 p.m.

(signed) _____
Judy Meyers, CMC, City Clerk

Approved: _____ (date)

Initialed: _____