



**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**  
**July 29, 2021**  
**5:00 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 5:00 p.m. Those in attendance were, Deputy Mayor Chopper Davis and Councilman Matt Murphy. Councilman Peter Altman (present at roll call) and Councilman Mike Peters (joined at 5:11 p.m.) participated via electronically.

Also in attendance were City Manager Debbie L. Manns, City Clerk Judy Meyers, 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 Deputy Police Chief Lauren Letona.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

2 Discussion of American Rescue Plan Act Funds - Page 2

City Manager Manns introduced the item to Council. She stated the purpose of this work session was to discuss proposed projects funded through the American Rescue Plan Act funds that the City will be receiving. She then introduced Finance Director Crystal Feast who then made a presentation to Council. Mrs. Feast stated that the Act provides \$360 billion in relief. The City is due to receive \$7,033,259. Half of the funds will be disbursed in August and the other half in August of 2022. Eligible uses of funds included support public health by funding COVID-19 mitigation efforts, assist businesses in replacing lost revenue, cover costs associated with rehiring staff to pre-pandemic levels and to provide premium pay to essential workers. Other eligible uses are worker assistance, household nutrition, rent/mortgage assistance, small business assistance, access to clean water and broadband.

Mrs. Feast then moved to the proposed spending plan which was divided over the two years. The categories included revenue loss, staffing/payroll, programs, projects and purchases/preventative measures. Mrs. Feast then highlighted the calculations for revenue loss. The City was estimated at a 8.3% revenue loss for 2020. City Manager Manns stated the Department of Treasury allows

for the administration of staff however we have not put any money into that program as funds should be focused in other programs and projects. City Manager Manns then highlighted the four proposed expenditures under staffing/payroll, the five proposed expenditures under programs, the five proposed expenditures under projects and the three proposed expenditures under purchases/preventative measures.

Mayor Marlowe asked if the affordable housing number adequate to address the need. If not he suggested moving some out of the business assistance. City Manager Manns stated it is not enough but there are some properties to sell that can be added to the fund. She stated she would rather move money from some of the stormwater projects instead of the business assistance. Councilman Murphy asked if there was a number to get us in the ball park and City Manager Manns stated \$400k. Councilman Altman asked if all of the proposed spending has not been introduced into the budget and City Manager Manns stated yes. Councilman Altman stated he was not sure how much the \$750k grant received will go towards projects. He suggested spending some time to review the consultant's plan. He stated we could take elements and generally identify items that are needed in other areas besides just the downtown. Councilman Altman stated he was not sure where funds would come from in future years. Councilman Peters stated our budget did suffer and we had to cut back and with that in mind it is a wise move to move additional funds into affordable housing. He agreed with Councilman Altman's comments about spreading the money through the downtown and not just Railroad Square. Councilman Murphy asked how does this compare to neighborhood revitalization and City Manager Manns stated that the grant received was for housing rehabilitation. She stated is only available to low to moderate income homeowners.

Rachel Hagenbaugh came forward and stated she wished Council would offer wifi to all city residents. She stated there are funds available through other agencies.

Councilman Altman stated we should look at Qualified Census Tracts. He stated he would be curious to know if we could open the project up to current renters. Deputy Mayor Davis stated it would help the landlord more than the renter. Mayor Marlowe stated Habitat has a whole criteria for that. Mayor Marlowe stated we would need to check if it was legal to provide preference and City Manager Manns stated that she would check with the City Attorney. Deputy Mayor Davis stated that staff has done a good job looking at projects and programs and it may be good to have alternates. Councilman Murphy asked about the partially funded projects on the list and City Manager Manns stated that there are some grant funding in place and will continue to be aggressive looking for grants. Councilman Peters agreed that staff has done a great job at compiling the list of projects. The septic to sewer will provide additional revenue over upcoming years.

Rachel Hagenbaugh came forward again and stated grant funding is available.

3            Communications

None.

4            Adjournment

There being no further business to consider, upon proper motion, the meeting adjourned at 6:04 p.m.

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

\_\_\_\_\_ (signed)

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

Judy Meyers, CMC, City Clerk

