



**MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING**  
**CITY OF NEW PORT RICHEY**

NEW PORT RICHEY CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
5919 MAIN STREET, NEW PORT RICHEY, FLORIDA

September 9, 2021

6:00 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 6:00 p.m. Those in attendance were Deputy Mayor Chopper Davis, Councilman Peter Altman, and Councilman Mike Peters. Councilman Matt Murphy was excused.

Also in attendance were City Manager Debbie L. Manns, City Attorney Timothy Driscoll, City Clerk Judy Meyers, Police Chief Kim Bogart, Finance Director Crystal Feast, Fire Chief Chris Fitch, Public Works Director Robert Rivera, Parks and Recreation Director Kevin Adams, Technology Solutions Director Bryan Weed, Human Resources Manager Bernie Wharran and Systems and Services Librarian Stephanie Jones.

2 Pledge of Allegiance

3 Moment of Silence

Proclamation - Welcoming Florida State Elks President Suzi Simonelli (By Title Only) - Page 3

Mayor Marlowe read the proclamation by title only.

4 Business Items

a. First Public Hearing - FY21-22 Operating Budget & Capital Improvement Program - Page 4

City Attorney Driscoll read Resolution No. 2021-49 and 2021-48 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 public hearing on the proposed budget for the upcoming fiscal year. City Manager Manns then provided a budget overview. There was an overall decrease of 3.2% which calculates to \$2,386,710. The City will received ARPA funds over the next two years to assist in our economic recovery. City Manager Manns then highlighted the fiscal health and accountability for the upcoming fiscal year. City Manager Manns then highlighted the General Fund balance which is \$25,732,690. She stated that taxable values of all properties increased by 8.3%. The total taxable value is \$723,785,834. She stated

the millage rate proposed is 8.5000 mills which is a decrease of .2500 mills from last year. There is a increase of 9 full-time employees.

She then introduced Finance Director Crystal Feast who made a presentation to Council. Mrs. Feast began her presentation by highlighting the city-wide budget by fund. The total budget is \$73, 239, 890. The Water & Sewer Fund is the largest fund. Finance Director Feast then highlighted expenditures. Police, Fire and Public Works were the highest percentage. The millage has consistently lowered each year since 2013. Finance Director Feast then highlighted personnel changes. She then highlighted the categories of the CIP. The General Fund was balanced without using any prior years reserves.

Mayor Marlowe opened the floor for public comment. With one one coming forward, Mayor Marlowe returned the floor to Council. Councilman Altman stated it was important to highlight that ARPA funds were used to balance the General Fund. He stated that the incoming Council members will inherit this budget. He stated the estimate for the half cent sales tax is up. Mayor Marlowe commended the City Manager, department heads and Finance Director Feast on their hard work on the budget. Deputy Mayor Davis also commended staff. Councilman Peters expressed appreciation for all of the staff's help through this process. He stated there is a lot more than what meets the eye. It takes a lot to run a city that we don't see up front. He stated the City is being responsible with its dollars. He is very pleased to see the millage rate decreased. He stated also commended the City Manager and staff.

Motion was made to approve Resolution No. 2021-49 adopting the tentative millage rate as presented. Motion made by Deputy Mayor Davis and seconded by Councilman Peters. Motion passed 4-0 at 6:31 p.m.

Motion was made to approve Resolution No. 2021-48 adopting the tentative budget for FY20/21 and the CIP for FY20/21 as presented. Motion made by Deputy Mayor Davis and seconded by Councilman Peters. Motion passed 4-0 at 6:32 p.m.

Motion made by Chopper Davis and seconded by Mike Peters. The Motion Passed. 4-0. Ayes: Altman, Davis, Marlowe, Peters Absent: Murphy

b. Public Hearing - Resolution No. 2021-51: Approving Annual Assessment for Stormwater - Page 248

City Attorney Driscoll read the proposed resolution by title only. City Manager Manns introduced the item to Council. She stated the purpose of this agenda item was to generate revenue for the stormwater utility. Finance Director Crystal Feast Feast stated the ordinance was passed in 2001 for the collection of the assessment. The billing of the assessment fee is provided for by the County and is located on the tax bill. The dollar amount of the assessment did not change and remains at \$80 per ERU. Proper publication of this hearing as required for ordinance. Upon opening the floor to public comment, no one came forward therefore Mayor Marlowe returned the floor to Council. Councilman Altman stated he has expressed his concerns with drainage on the west side of US19. Mayor Marlowe stated he would be forwarding a residents concerns with flooding to the City Manager. Motion was made to approve the item as presented.

Motion made by Chopper Davis and seconded by Pete Altman. The Motion Passed. 4-0. Ayes: Altman, Davis, Marlowe, Peters Absent: Murphy

c. Public Hearing - Resolution No. 2021-52: Approval of Annual Assessment for Street Lighting - Page 255

City Attorney Driscoll read the proposed resolution by title only. City Manager Manns introduced the item to Council. She stated the assessment is a means to recover costs for street lighting. Finance Director Feast stated the ordinance was passed in 2003. The billing of the assessment fee is provided for by the County and is located on the tax bill. The dollar amount of the assessment did not change and remains at \$37.81 per ERU. Proper publication of this hearing as required for ordinance. Upon opening the floor to public comment, no one came forward therefore Mayor Marlowe returned the floor to Council. Councilman Altman stated there has been an approach from Duke Energy regarding

solar. He stated he wanted to make note that City Council took action to be part of the solar initiative. Mayor Marlowe stated that several Council spoke to representatives of Duke Energy at the FLC Conference in regards to different kinds of lights available. Motion was made to approve the item as presented.

Motion made by Chopper Davis and seconded by Mike Peters. The Motion Passed. 4-0. Ayes: Altman, Davis, Marlowe, Peters Absent: Murphy

- d. Public Hearing - Resolution No. 2021-53: Approving Annual Assessment for Paving Services - Page 261

City Attorney Driscoll read the proposed resolution by title only. Finance Director Feast presented the item to Council. She stated that the Pavement Management Program was created in 2017. She stated this is the most equitable means to fund city paving projects. The billing of the assessment fee is provided for by the County and is located on the tax bill. The dollar amount of the assessment did not change and remains at \$85 per ERU. Proper publication of this hearing as required for ordinance. 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. 4-0. Ayes: Altman, Davis, Marlowe, Peters Absent: Murphy

- e. Public Hearing - Resolution No. 2021-54: Approving Special Assessment for City Liens - Page 268

City Attorney Driscoll read the proposed resolution by title only. Finance Director Feast presented the item to Council. She stated a resolution was passed in 2019 to allow for code enforcement fines to be collected through assessment. All affected property owners have been notified. 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. 4-0. Ayes: Altman, Davis, Marlowe, Peters Absent: Murphy

5 Communications

Mayor Marlowe stated that this Saturday is our annual 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony in Sims Park. He stated on a personal note his son was sworn into the Navy on September 11, 2002. Deputy Mayor Davis stated President Biden spoke earlier regarding COVID vaccines. Councilman Peters stated he reached out to Commissioner Mariano regarding his comments on drainage and he will be providing information.

6 Adjournment

There being no further business to consider, upon proper motion, the meeting adjourned at 6:49 p.m.

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

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

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