



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

October 12, 2021

4:30 PM

ORDER OF
BUSINESS

1 Call to Order – Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Rob Marlowe at 4:30 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, Fire Chief Chris Fitch, Police Chief Kim Bogart, Finance Director Crystal Feast and Public Works Director Robert Rivera.

2 Pledge of Allegiance

3 Moment of Silence

4 Public Reading of Ordinances

a. Second Reading, Ordinance No. 2021-2244: City Council Salary Increase - Page 3

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 Ordinance No. 2021-2244 which shall effect a salary increase for councilmembers and which shall become effective following the next regular election of the city. The current salary of \$350/month for the Mayor and \$300/month for Council was set back in 1988. The proposed increase would be \$800/month for the Mayor and \$625/month for Council. The increase is needed in order to attract qualified candidates to the role of public service. A salary study from comparable communities was completed. 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 Pete Altman and seconded by Matt Murphy. The Motion Passed. 4-1. Ayes: Altman, Marlowe, Murphy, Peters Nays: Davis

5 Business Items

a. Public Hearing - Small Cities CDBG-CV Application - Page 9

City Manager Manns introduced the item to Council. She stated the purpose of this agenda item was to

conduct the first public hearing for the Small Cities CDBG-CV Application Cycle. The City became aware of this opportunity in September. City Manager Manns stated the City may apply for \$200,000 up to \$5,000,000 in this competitive application process however the application must be for a single project or program. She stated the project activities must meet at least one of the following National Objectives:

- Benefit to Low and Moderate Income Persons (LMI) individuals and/or households including:
 - Indirect benefit activities - at least 51% of beneficiaries must be LMI (e.g. - widening an existing sidewalk); or
 - Direct benefit activities - 100% of beneficiaries must be LMI (e.g. - improvements to a food pantry)
- Prevention of elimination of slum and blight; or
- Address an urgent need.

City Manager Manns stated that the project activities must prevent, prepare for or respond to the Coronavirus and should demonstrate direct or indirect effect. Some examples of activities that could request funding include but are not limited to:

- Rehabilitate a facility for testing, diagnosis or treatment of COVID-19
- Acquire, rehabilitate or construct a group living facility that may be used to centralize patients undergoing treatment
- Installation of wiring, fiber optic cables and permanently affixed equipment such as receivers for areas to receive broadband/internet access
- Rehabilitate a senior center, community center or homeless shelter by replacing the HVAC System and/or installing air purification system
- Acquisition and/or rehabilitation of a building to expand capacity of homeless shelters to accommodate social distancing and isolation
- Installation of wi-fi routers/extenders in affordable housing buildings and/or communities which contain at least 51% LMI residents
- Provide testing, diagnosis or other services at a fixed or mobile location
- Provide equipment, supplies and materials necessary to carry-out a public service
- Reconstruction of sidewalks (expansion) to allow for social distancing
- Deliver meals on wheels to quarantined individuals or individuals that need to maintain social distancing due to medical vulnerabilities

Upon opening the floor to public comment, no one came forward therefore Mayor Marlowe returned the floor to Council.

6 Communications

Before Communications, City Manager presented a walk-on item to request authorization to draft a letter of support for the ARPA Build Back Better Regional Challenge Application by University of South Florida and the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council. Councilman Altman provided comments on this agenda item as he is the City's representative on the TBRPC Board of Directors. Motion was made to approve the item as presented by Councilman Altman and seconded by Councilman Peters. Motion passed 4-0. Deputy Mayor Davis left the meeting at 4:56 p.m. before this item was presented.

Communications

Council then moved on to Communications. Mayor Marlowe stated the hours posted on the garage surprised some of those attending Bike Fest. He stated he discussed the issue with the City Manager. He stated if we are encouraging people to use it the garage should be opened longer. He stated the shuttle will also be of great use to the theater and we should check with them to see what time their shows get over with. Councilman Peters asked if someone gets locked in what kind of issue does it cause. He suggested looking at opening it earlier for Keiser classes. City Manager Manns stated the structure was closed as of 3AM this weekend. She stated this was the first big event with the parking structure and some lessons were learned. Signage will be added to contact the PD if your car is locked in. Councilman Altman stated we were told by the consultant that our parking numbers were out of sync. He just came back from Bradenton and there were two hour parking and it may be the best way to serve and protect our businesses. He would like to hold a parking roundtable discussion. Mayor

Marlowe stated that the agreement that was written provides that Keiser contribute to security. Councilman Murphy asked about allowing cars to get out and not in and City Manager Manns stated it is wired for that technology. Councilman Altman stated a police vehicle present may deter activity. Mayor Marlowe stated the park got trampled this weekend from Bike Fest. He stated we have to decide if we have a fair ground or a park. You can see where all the tents were. He stated we need to have a sit down discussion related to events. He stated he did enjoy the mileage study and was glad to comment on it before Deputy Mayor Davis left the meeting. Once COVID is over we need to re-establish communications with our Sister City. He stated Habitat for Humanity dedicated another home on Leisure Lane this morning. Councilman Peters stated he would like to see an HOA created for the area to keep the area moving forward. Councilman Peters suggested inviting the community to name the new shuttle.

7 Adjournment

There being no further business to consider, upon proper motion, the meeting adjourned at 5:21 p.m.

(signed) _____
Judy Meyers, CMC, City Clerk

Approved: _____ (date)

Initialed: _____

October 12, 2021
Special Meeting
Walk-On Agenda Item

Request:

The request is for City Council to authorize the City Manager to submit a letter of support to the U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration in regard to the American Rescue Act Plan Build Back Better Regional Challenge in regard to establishing a microgrid innovation cluster.

Discussion:

On October 11, 2021 I received a communication from Wren Krahl, Deputy Executive Director for the Tampa Bay Regional Planning requesting letters of support for the American Rescue Act Plan Build Back Better Regional Challenge. Attached to the communication was a form letter along with an Executive Summary which outlined this initiative. At the request of Councilman Altman, this agenda item is being advanced to you for your consideration as Councilman Altman is the City's representative on the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council Board. The form letter is attached for your review and approval. The deadline for the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council to receive the signed letters is this Friday, October 15th.

Recommendation:

Staff recommends that City Council grant authorization to the City Manager to submit a letter of support to the U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration in regard to the American Rescue Act Plan Build Back Better Regional Challenge in regard to establishing a microgrid innovation cluster as requested.

Funding:

No funding is required for this item at this time.



OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

October 12, 2021

Letter of Commitment/Support for the ARPA Build Back Better Regional Challenge Application by University of South Florida (USF) and the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council (TBRPC)

Dear Assistant Secretary Alejandra Y. Castillo:

On behalf of the Mayor and members of City Council, I am pleased to offer this letter of support and commitment to participating in the Clear Sky Ecosystem initiative for the US Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration's American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Build Back Better Regional Challenge. The program will build a coalition led by USF and TBRPC in partnership with the University of Central Florida (UCF) and the Regional Planning Councils in East Central Florida and Central Florida (ECRPC/CRPC) to establish a microgrid innovation cluster that will position the region as a leader in this emerging industry.

The City of New Port Richey is a municipal corporation whose goal is to retain, grow, attract and develop business and industry in West Pasco County. We take pride in fostering and maintain strong relationships with our local community and region partners. We are actively growing our innovation cluster and this promising project is ideal for investment and encouraging entrepreneurship. This project has the potential to not only stimulate job growth but stimulate sustainable growth in underrepresented communities in our region as well.

The City of New Port Richey is very interested in the opportunities arising from implementing the Clear Sky Ecosystem in the region that will lead to increased collaboration, knowledge and capacity building. We recognize that microgrid innovations for the localized generation, storage, and transmission of electricity are necessary for our region's future economic security. Creating a microgrid innovation cluster in central Florida will provide a sustainable technology base, grow renewable energy and other crosscutting manufacturing products, make the region's power system more resilient, enable rapid expansion of electric vehicle charging infrastructure for both public and personal use, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, create hundreds of high paying jobs, and overall stimulate our region's economy.

The City of New Port Richey will be interested in providing technical support for the program and be an active partner in the effort. We intend to contribute to the project by sharing the data with industry, identifying workforce partners to train the needed workforce, and most importantly, we will support the innovative development and entrepreneurial opportunities derived from this collaborative.

Letter to Assistant Secretary Alejandra Y. Castillo
RE: ARPA Build Back Better Regional Challenge
October 12, 2021
Page 2 of 2

We look forward to being part of this critical EDA ecosystem and working with the coalition to create an enduring industry cluster for microgrid solutions in central Florida.

Best regards,

Debbie L. Manns
City Manager

DLM/jm