



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

January 4, 2022

6:00 PM

**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 Matt Murphy. Councilman Mike Peters participated via electronically. Also in attendance were City Manager Debbie L. Manns, City Clerk Judy Meyers, Police Chief Kim Bogart, Public Works Director Robert Rivera and Parks and Recreation Director Kevin Adams.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

2 Proposed Tram Route and Parking Structure Hours - Page 2

City Manager Manns introduced the item to Council. She stated the purpose of this agenda item was to discuss the proposed tram route and parking structure hours. She stated the benefit of the parking structure is to serve as a benefit to our downtown area so the transportation link is very important. The tram is contemplated to operate according to the following schedule:

- Thursday – 5:00 p.m. to 12:00 a.m.
- Friday – 5:00 p.m. to 12:00 a.m.
- Saturday – 12:00 p.m. to 12:00 a.m.
- Sunday – 12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Extended hours would be offered on days when there are events in Sims Park. In respect to the parking structure the recommendation is to operate the building from 7:30 a.m. until 12:00 a.m. seven days a week. Once the hotel is built, the parking structure will be open 24 hours a day. There are five proposed tram stops. There will be signage at each of the stops. The full route takes around 20-25 minutes. It may take longer depending on any disabled passengers.

Mayor Marlowe opened the floor up for public comment. George Romagnoli, 6235 Florida Ave., NPR came forward and asked if someone is in the garage after midnight can they get out. City Manager Manns stated there will be a sign with a number to call. He asked why midnight was chosen for the closing time and City Manager Manns stated it was due to operational

expenses. Mr. Romagnoli asked about the stop in Main Street Landing and Chief Bogart stated the parking area provides a safe spot to unload passengers especially those who may need the wheelchair ramp. With no one else coming forward, Mayor Marlowe closed public comment and returned the floor to Council. Mayor Marlowe stated that he had the same question about the north side of River because of the businesses that are filling up the plaza. He stated it seemed safe to him to use the driveway into Keiser and then onto Acorn. It would make things easier for people on the north side. Deputy Mayor Davis stated there should be a loop on the west end. Mayor Marlowe stated another alternative would be to go to the end of the shopping center where Pasco Camera is and then double back to River Rd. Councilman Altman stated the one thing he suggests to look at again are the parallel parking spaces as they are very wide. He stated if the objective was to drop passengers off without having to cross streets then perhaps we could look at the property where the Chamber is. Councilman Murphy stated we need to have a stop in the northwest corner and also he suggested looping around Railroad Square and then coming down Main. Public Works Director Rivera stated there are limited operating hours and the goal was to get people to a general area. Councilman Murphy stated once the second tram comes in we could expand the route. Councilman Peters stated this is a learning process. He stated he thinks there are people who will park elsewhere that will just want to ride over the bridge. Councilman Altman stated the boat ramp is not going to be busy in the evenings and we could look at using the property where the Chamber is as a turnaround spot. Chief Bogart stated we have to remain aware which side of the tram the ramp is on as it folds out.

3 Communications

None.

4 Adjournment

There being no further business to consider, upon proper motion, the meeting adjourned at 6:36 p.m.

Approved: _____ (date)

_____ (signed)

Initialed: _____

Judy Meyers, CMC, City Clerk