



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

April 26, 2022

7:15 PM

**ORDER OF
BUSINESS**

1 Call to Order - Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Rob Marlowe at 7:15 p.m. Those in attendance were Deputy Mayor Mike Peters, Councilman Peter Altman, Councilman Matt Murphy and Councilwoman Kelly Mothershead. Also in attendance were City Manager Debbie L. Manns, City Clerk Judy Meyers, Finance Director Crystal Feast and Public Works Director Robert Rivera.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

2 Discussion Regarding Future Penny for Pasco Projects - Page 2

Mayor Marlowe stated that there is normally no Vox Pop at a work session but he was asked by George Romagnoli if he could say a few words. Mayor Marlowe then invited Mr. Romagnoli to the podium. Mr. Romagnoli came forward to speak about affordable housing and what the City can do to assist current homeowners who are unable to make necessary repairs. He stated the City should bring back the home rehabilitation grant program. Mr. Romagnoli stated that the residential rental inspection is for outside but it is now the time to create standards for inside inspections. He suggested creating a loan fund for landlords in order to make the necessary repairs.

City Manager Manns presented the format for the work session. She stated she will talk about the history of the Local Government Infrastructure Sales Surtax (LGISS) and then Finance Director Feast will talk about Penny for Pasco 1 and 2. She stated then Public Works Rivera will then highlight proposed projects for Penny for Pasco 3.

City Manager Manns Stated the LGISS revenues are to be used to enhance the quality of life for residents through the completion of capital projects and purchases. At the time it was instituted in 2004 it was considered a tax measure. The allocation formula is 45% Pasco County, 45% School Board and 10% for the cities. The funding for the cities is distributed to all six municipalities and is calculated on population. The formula will not change with the upcoming Penny for Pasco 3. She stated the referendum vote will take place this November.

Finance Director Feast then presented Penny for Pasco 1. She stated this bucket was effective as of 2005. The City received \$13,954,686 in this first bucket. Past projects included Main Street widening project, Sims Park Improvement Project and replacement of Fire Engine #3. She then moved on to the second bucket. During that ten year term, the City received \$16,735,311. There were 8 spending categories that were approved and the utilities category was eliminated in 2021. Finance Director Feast stated that 22% of the bucket went to Public Facilities. She stated that 20% of the funds went to transportation projects. She stated that 20% of the funds went to parks and recreation facilities. A total of 18% of funds were allocated for Economic Development. Finance Director Feast then stated that 13% of the funds were allocated for public safety. She stated that 5% of funds were allocated for community redevelopment. She stated that 2% of the funds allocated were for urban forestry. She then highlighted the projects that were included in the eliminated utilities category.

Public Works Director Rivera then presented Penny for Pasco 3 spending categories and proposed projects. He stated the category descriptions remained the same. Proposed projects in the public facilities included storm hardening, Fire Station #2 Project and Fleet Maintenance Replacement Project. Under Transportation, proposed projects included Grand Blvd. MUP, continuation of the 10% contribution to the PMP and the Alley Improvement Project. Proposed projects for parks and recreation facilities included the pedestrian overpass, Grey Preserve Expansion Project, Frances Avenue Park Improvement Project, Skate Park Project, and miscellaneous improvements to the RAC. Mr. Rivera stated that under economic development, projects included improvements to the boat ramp, NE corner of US19 and Main Street, Railroad Square Phase 2 and Downtown Underground Facility Improvements Project and Streetscape Improvements. Under public safety, proposed projects included a replacement Fire Pumper Truck, vehicle replacement program, CAD Project and purchase of marine craft response vessel. Under community redevelopment, projects included purchase of blighted properties and infill housing program. He stated the urban forestry has been broadened to environmental stewardship and included solar panels and yard debris compost program. Mr. Rivera stated that the utilities category would be added back in and projects included North River Neighborhood Drainage Project, Aspen St. Drainage Project and Grey Preserve & Congress Street Entrance Reclaimed Water Project.

Mayor Marlowe stated that flooding is an issue from Park west to US19. Councilman Altman stated that Penny for Pasco was expressed for a way for us to do things that we are normally unable to do. He stated the real job as a city is to generate excitement for the need and the future of what we are going to have. He stated this is a good start for our CIP. Councilman Altman stated if we could use Penny for Pasco 3 to match our infrastructure projects it would help overall. Councilman Altman's suggestions were for microtransit, quality of life issues, environment, workforce and job development. He stated the categories are useful. Councilman Altman stated there are partnering opportunities with Pasco County and the School Board.

Councilwoman Mothershead stated partnerships will help utilize the funds. She stated we have to work on the neighborhood projects. People have to see the City doing projects to know the money is well spent.

Councilman Murphy stated we can be flexible with the projects as things change all the time. He stated if the underpass is completed we have to look at the north side. He asked if any of the previous Penny funds were used for the boat ramp and City Manager Manns stated no improvements have been made. Mr. Rivera stated that you have to look at the Strategic Plan and the CIP. He stated we have always used the Penny funding sources as projections. He stated leveraging Penny funds on projects shows our skin in the game. Councilman Murphy stated we need to work with the County on the Grand Blvd. Bridge. He stated he likes the programs to help the homeowners. He asked if there are any stipulations on the grant programs and City Manager Manns stated we rely on HUD and CARES funding. He stated he has been a proponent of infrastructure so he definitely thinks the utilities category should be added back in. Councilman Murphy asked about the marine craft and Chief Fitch stated it would be for water rescues.

Councilman Murphy stated trails will help increase property values.

Deputy Mayor Peters stated that when Penny for Pasco began it was basically for infrastructure projects to improve quality of life. He stated that the County and the cities have taken the funding in order to complete projects. He stated we have had good support as the first time Penny for Pasco was on the ballot it failed. There is also another tax referendum on the November ballot. Deputy Mayor Peters stated that parking lot improvements helped economic development and transportation. He stated that construction is going to begin soon for the new GHS and there are sidewalks proposed for around GMS. Deputy Mayor Peters stated we need to have some flexibility. We have some CIP projects that will begin this year. This can be used as a road map. He stated there may be a better use of the boat ramp property. He stated overall the categories are good. Deputy Mayor Peters stated we need to enhance our alleyways.

Mayor Marlowe stated that using some of these funds for matching is similar to what we did with the solar panels at the library. He stated there are grant opportunities to take advantage of. He stated hundreds of thousands of dollars could be saved. He stated Ford started delivering their F150 Lightning today and change is coming quick. He stated that gas tax revenues will be decreasing. Mayor Marlowe stated we have made some really great progress with funds from Penny for Pasco 1 & 2. He stated it may be more important to show what we have accomplished with the funds over the last 20 years. He stated securing that revenue stream is important.

Finance Director Feast stated that the categories can be broadened. City Manager Manns stated the percentages can be amended by resolution.

City Council then held a brief discussion regarding rental properties.

3 Communications

None.

4 Adjournment

There being no further business to consider, upon proper motion, the meeting adjourned at 8:32 p.m.

Approved: _____ (date)

_____ (signed)

Initialed: _____

Judy Meyers, CMC, City Clerk