



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

August 2, 2022

4:00 PM

**ORDER OF
BUSINESS**

1 Call to Order - Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Rob Marlowe at 4:00 p.m. Those in attendance were Deputy Mayor Mike Peters, Councilman Matt Murphy and Councilwoman Kelly Mothershead. Councilman Peter Altman was excused.

Also in attendance were City Manager Debbie L. Manns, City Clerk Judy Meyers, Public Works Director Robert Rivera, Community and Development Director Dale Hall and Economic Development Director Barbara Carr.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

2 Presentation by Wannemacher Jensen Architects, Inc. RE: Railroad Square

City Manager Manns introduced the item to Council. She stated the purpose of this work session was to review the updated proposed improvements for Railroad Square. City Manager Manns stated a meeting for business owners who had adjoining property was conducted on July 21st. She stated the City has been working on this project for some time and it is important to have spot in the downtown area where public assembly is convenient and comfortable.

She then introduced Hannah Ambrose from Wannemacher Jensen Architects who then presented the updated design to Council. Ms. Ambrose began her presentation by stating that this project is about place making and has the potential to be the heart of the downtown. City Manager Manns stated this is Phase 1 of the project and would span from Adams Street to Grand Blvd. Ms. Ambrose then highlighted the proposed objectives which included moving electrical wiring underground, narrowing Nebraska and converting it one-way, creating interesting pedestrian space, revitalize Cavalaire Square, create a child-friendly atmosphere, providing permanent shade, improved street lighting, activating street with local vendors and contemporary artwork, bringing more life-greenery pedestrian furniture and providing trash pick-up locations.

Ms. Ambrose then moved on to proposed features which included planters, shade sails, raised planter benches, market incubators, treewell benches and a playground. The project also calls for

new pavers for Cavalaire Square along with an overhead canopy.

Mayor Marlowe stated the owners of Dulcet would have events that disturbed neighbors so having anything that would break up the sound coming off the stage would be a good idea. Mayor Marlowe stated we are not building the playground for the mix of businesses that are there today but for those that may coming in the years to come. Councilman Murphy stated he really liked the proposed design and it will really draw people to the area. He asked about the height of the sails and whether or not trucks could get through and Ms. Ambrose stated they did consult with the fire department on the height to make sure trucks could get through if needed. Councilman Murphy asked about public restrooms and City Manager Manns stated she contacted Frontier to see if the city could possibly lease space for that use. She stated absent of that option, restrooms could be provided for in Phase 2 of the project. Councilwoman Mothershead stated she agreed that restrooms were needed and liked the play structure as it would entertain the kids. City Manager Manns stated that if there were City sponsored events in Railroad Square port-o-lets would be brought in. Deputy Mayor Peters asked about the lighting in the shade structures. He stated the meeting with the businesses owners stated there were some concerns over the pocket park. He pointed out that there is another large parking lot immediately east of Railroad Square. He stated he liked the idea of open space for kids. Deputy Mayor Peters asked about the murals and City Manager Manns stated that is a conversation that is occurring. He stated there have been some craft shows and Sunday markets in Railroad Square and it is a great location. These improvements will allow pedestrian activity to move off of Main Street. He stated this will be a comfortable and inviting space. Mayor Marlowe stated that narrowing Grand would allow the east side businesses more room to have outdoor dining. He stated once the second DART is up and running it will be a ten minute loop. Councilwoman Mothershead stated the clamshells could be used for businesses outside of the downtown during events.

3 Communications

None.

4 Adjournment

There being no further business to consider, upon proper motion, the meeting adjourned at 4:34 p.m.

Approved: _____ (date)

_____ (signed)

Initialed: _____

Judy Meyers, CMC, City Clerk