



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

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

September 17, 2024

6:00 PM

\*Please note the meeting times for regular city council meetings has been changed to 6:00 p.m. effective for all meetings after April 1, 2024.\*

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**ORDER OF**  
**BUSINESS**

1. Call to Order – Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Chopper Davis at 6:00 p.m. Those in attendance were Deputy Mayor Kelly Mothershead, Councilwoman Matt Murphy, Councilman Peter Altman and Councilman Bertell Butler, IV.

Also in attendance were City Manager Debbie L. Manns, City Attorney Timothy Driscoll, City Clerk Judy Meyers, Finance Director Crystal Dunn, Fire Chief Chris Fitch, Public Works Director Robert Rivera, Police Chief Bob Kochen, Library Director Andi Figart, Technology Solutions Director Mike Miller, Assistant City Manager Gregory Oravec and Human Resources Director Arnel Wetzel.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Moment of Silence

4. Approval of September 3, 2024 Work Session and Regular Meeting Minutes

Motion was made to approve the minutes as presented.

Motion made by Matt Murphy and seconded by Kelly Mothershead. The Motion Passed. 5-0. Ayes: Altman, Butler, Davis, Mothershead, Murphy

5. Swearing-In of New Police Officer Richard Rodriguez

6. Swearing-In of New Firefighter Samuel Barnhill

7. Proclamation - National Recovery Month

8. Proclamation - National Drive Electric Week

9. Vox Pop for Items Not Listed on the Agenda or Listed on Consent Agenda

City Attorney Driscoll read aloud the rules governing Vox Pop. Mayor Davis then opened the floor for public comment. The following people came forward to speak:

- Denise Houston, 5619 Virginia Ave., NPR spoke regarding the mulch pile being quarantined due to the giant African snail. She also suggested changes to the mulch pile and proposed a community drop off.

With no one else coming forward for public comment, Mayor Davis closed Vox Pop.

- a Speakers must identify themselves prior to speaking by stating their name and full address for the record. Speakers shall address the City Council as a whole and refrain from addressing individual members of the City Council or the City staff. Speakers shall afford the utmost courtesy to the City Council, to City employees, and to the public, and shall refrain at all times, from rude and derogatory remarks, reflections as to integrity, abusive comments, and statements as to motives and personalities.

## 10 Consent Agenda

Motion was made to accept the Consent Agenda.

Motion made by Kelly Mothershead and seconded by Matt Murphy. The Motion Passed. 5-0. Ayes: Altman, Butler, Davis, Mothershead, Murphy

- a Purchases/Payments for City Council Approval

## 11 Public Reading of Ordinances

- a First Reading, Ordinance No. 2024-2304: Amendments to Camping Ordinance

City Attorney Driscoll read the proposed ordinance by title only. City Manager Manns introduced Police Chief Robert Kochen who then presented the item to Council. He stated that the purpose of this agenda item was to conduct a first reading of an ordinance to amend the City's camping ordinance by adding reference to the "Unauthorized Public Camping and Public Sleeping Laws", which takes effect on October 1, 2024. Chief Kochen then highlighted the new law provisions as follows:

- Prohibits public camping or sleeping on non-designated public property overnight effective October 1, 2024. Under Florida State Statute 125.0231, a municipality/county may not authorize or permit public camping or sleeping (as defined by Florida Law) on public property, public buildings, or public rights-of-way. Our city ordinance already prohibits this any time of the day or night.
- Provides an avenue for counties and cities to create safe and managed areas for homeless people to live while being provided with running water, sanitation, and services. These managed areas must be approved by the state if a county or city decides to establish them.
- Allows any city or county to be sued (beginning 01/01/25) for allowing homeless encampments on non-designated public property.

He stated the revisions to the City's ordinance are as follows:

- Section 14-12 "Camping prohibited" (b)(1) was amended by adding Section B. "public camping or sleeping, as defined in Section 125.0231 Florida Statutes, as amended from time to time." This new section of the City's ordinance references the Florida Statute on public camping and public sleeping.
- Section 14-12 (d)(5) was changed to read: "Camping for recreational purposes on property designated for such purposes by the city, or in conjunction with any special event approved by the city council."

Upon opening the floor to public comment, no one came forward therefore Mayor Davis returned the floor to Council. Motion was made to approve the ordinance upon its first reading.

Motion made by Kelly Mothershead and seconded by Bertell Butler. The Motion Passed. 5-0. Ayes: Altman, Butler, Davis, Mothershead, Murphy

12 Business Items

a Third Amended School Impact Fee Intergovernmental Agreement

City Manager Manns introduced the item to Council. She stated that the purpose of this agenda item was to enter into an agreement with Pasco County and the Cities of Dade City, Port Richey, Zephyrhills, San Antonio, and the Town of St. Leo and the District School Board of Pasco in respect to school impact fees. She stated this agreement amendment is in response to the 2024 School Impact Update Report prepared and adopted by the School Board. Upon opening the floor to public comment, no one came forward therefore Mayor Davis returned the floor to Council. Motion was made to approve the item as presented.

Motion made by Pete Altman and seconded by Matt Murphy. The Motion Passed. 5-0. Ayes: Altman, Butler, Davis, Mothershead, Murphy

b Replat for Cottages at Oyster Bayou

City Manager Manns introduced Senior Planner Lisa Algieri who then presented the item to Council. She stated that the purpose of this agenda item was to approve a request to replat a portion of the Cottages at Oyster Bayou. She stated it does mean City Code and State Statutes and will net 4 lots. Upon opening the floor to public comment, no one came forward therefore Mayor Davis returned the floor to Council. Motion was made to approve the item as presented.

Motion made by Pete Altman and seconded by Kelly Mothershead. The Motion Passed. 5-0. Ayes: Altman, Butler, Davis, Mothershead, Murphy

c 2024 Vulnerability Assessment and Action Plan

City Manager Manns introduced Public Works Director Robert Rivera who then presented the item to Council. He stated that the purpose of this agenda item was to review and consider for approval the 2024 Vulnerability Assessment and Action Plan. He stated that the purpose of the vulnerability assessment and action plan is to meet the requirements of Florida State Statute 380.093. He then introduced Brent Heath from Stroud Engineering and Dana Gaydos from GHS Environmental who then presented the 2024 Vulnerability Assessment and Action Plan to Council. Ms. Gaydos stated that there are six basic steps that we have gone through to date. She stated this is phase one of the grant. Phase two will be implementation of the funding. Ms. Gaydos then provided an overview of the critical assets. She then highlighted the exposure analysis. She then highlighted the five categories identified by the FDEP including transportation & evacuation routes, critical infrastructure, critical emergency facilities, historical resources and neighborhoods. Ms. Gaydos then highlighted the sensitivity analysis. She then introduced Cindy Tarapini who then presented the proposed programs, concepts and policies. Ms. Gaydos then highlighted the adaptation planning. Upon opening the floor to public comment, no one came forward therefore Mayor Davis returned the floor to Council. Motion was made to approve the item as presented.

Motion made by Pete Altman and seconded by Bertell Butler. The Motion Passed. 5-0. Ayes: Altman, Butler, Davis, Mothershead, Murphy

d Approval of Memorandum of Understanding with the Pasco County Sheriff's Office RE: Operation Stonegarden

City Manager Manns introduced Police Chief Robert Kochen who then presented the item to Council. He stated that the purpose of this agenda item was to approve the Operation Stonegarden Memorandum of Understanding between the Pasco County Sheriff's Office (PSO) and the New Port Richey Police Department to allow our department to seek cost reimbursements for police operations under a Homeland Security Grant that the Sheriff's Office administers. Operation Stonegarden is a Homeland Security Grant Program that provides overtime and equipment funding for state and local

law enforcement agencies in support of border security specific operations. By entering into this MOU, it will allow for the City to bring in more resources and funding to combat the importation of illegal drugs into the Tampa Bay Area. Upon opening the floor to public comment, no one came forward therefore Mayor Davis returned the floor to Council. Motion was made to approve the item as presented.

Motion made by Kelly Mothershead and seconded by Bertell Butler. The Motion Passed. 5-0. Ayes: Altman, Butler, Davis, Mothershead, Murphy

e 2024 SCADA Software and Licensing Upgrades

City Manager Manns introduced the item to Council. She stated that the purpose of this agenda item was to review and consider for approval the attached proposal and sole source form submitted by Alford, Woods and Childs, Inc in the amount not to exceed \$42,530.00 for the upgrade of the City's Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system software and licenses for the Reuse Reclamation Facility. Mr. Rivera stated the current version was installed in 2009. He stated this will be a considerable upgrade. Upon opening the floor to public comment, no one came forward therefore Mayor Davis returned the floor to Council. Motion was made to approve the item as presented.

Motion made by Pete Altman and seconded by Matt Murphy. The Motion Passed. 5-0. Ayes: Altman, Butler, Davis, Mothershead, Murphy

f Resolution No. 2024-11: Adoption of Florida Department of Emergency Management Statewide Mutual Aid Agreement

City Attorney Driscoll read the proposed resolution by title only. City Manager Manns introduced Fire Chief Chris Fitch who then presented the item to Council. He stated that the purpose of this agenda item was to approve Resolution No. 2024-11 adopting the 2023 Florida Department of Emergency Management Statewide Mutual Aid Agreement. He stated that Florida State Statute 252.32, the Emergency Management Act, provides each local government of the state the authority to develop and enter into mutual aid agreements within the state for reciprocal emergency aid in the event of emergencies that extend beyond local capabilities of managing. The agreement also ensures timely reimbursement of costs incurred by local governments which render such assistance. He stated the Florida Department of Emergency Management Statewide Mutual Aid Agreement formally incorporates the Statewide Emergency Response Plan which was established in 1992 by the Florida Fire Chief's Association after Hurricane Andrew devastated southern Miami - Dade County, which was the worst natural disaster to strike the United States up to that time. The Statewide Emergency Response Plan, which is divided into seven regions, provides for the systematic mobilization, deployment, organization, and management of emergency resources throughout Florida, and the Nation, in assisting local agencies in mitigating the effects of any large-scale disaster. Upon opening the floor to public comment, no one came forward therefore Mayor Davis returned the floor to Council. Motion was made to approve the item as presented.

Motion made by Matt Murphy and seconded by Kelly Mothershead. The Motion Passed. 5-0. Ayes: Altman, Butler, Davis, Mothershead, Murphy

13 Communications

Councilman Altman stated that he is curious on how the snail issue is and how it relates to the mulch issue. He stated he has always supported the opportunity to have debris removed. He stated if there is a benefit for faster collection he is in favor of imposing a fee. Councilman Butler stated he is interested in a fee structure for next year. He thanked the NPRPD for enhanced presence on school campus due to recent school threats. He rode a letter from a resident regarding the recent summer camp. Deputy Mayor Mothershead stated she would like to have a work session with the businesses regarding food trucks. She stated that she met with two environmental committee members this week on minimizing styrofoam for city events. She suggested putting verbiage on the special event application. Councilman Murphy stated he had an opportunity to work on a project in Port Richey in which a block house was lifted up fifteen feet in response to potential flooding issues. Mayor Davis stated Councilman Butler was a no show on the dunk tank. Councilman Butler stated he had phone issues which led him to miss

the budget meeting last week. He stated last week his schedule was thrown off due to personal issues.

14 Adjournment

There being no further business to consider, upon proper motion, the meeting adjourned at 7:41 p.m.

(signed) \_\_\_\_\_

Judy Meyers, MMC, City Clerk

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

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