



**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

September 18, 2024

6:00 PM

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**ORDER OF**  
**BUSINESS**

1 Call to Order – Roll Call

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

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 Business Items

a. First Public Hearing - FY24-25 Operating Budget & Capital Improvement Program - Page 3

City Manager Manns introduced the item to Council. She stated the purpose of this agenda item was to approve the resolutions for the FY24/25 tentative operating budget and Capital Improvement Program. She stated the budget represents expenditures and anticipated revenues. She stated the staff is prudent in its duties while providing a high level of service. City Manager Manns stated the proposed millage is 8.3000 mills which is 1.22% greater than the rollback rate of 8.19970 mills therefore represents a 1.22% increase in property taxes. City Manager Manns then gave a brief overview of the Strategic Plan. She stated this was a challenging budget year with decreases in many state revenues. Although the taxable value increased it did not amount to more than the decrease in revenues.

City Manager Manns then introduced Finance Director Crystal Dunn who then made a presentation to Council. Mrs. Dunn began her presentation by highlighting the total budget of \$105,174,130 and the sources of revenue for the city and what percentage each fund makes up of the General Fund budget. She then highlighted the proposed expenditures which total \$34,705,450. She stated that property taxable values totaled \$1,056,693,312 which is up 11.54% over the previous year. Overall decrease in state revenues was 1.2%. Retirement contribution rates increased in FRS at .44%, police pension

4.42% and fire pension 12.23%. Mrs. Dunn stated that current vacation positions were frozen for the upcoming fiscal year. Total revenues are anticipated to be \$34,702,450. Transfer from other funds to cover administrative services provided by the General Fund are \$4,040,180. Mrs. Dunn then highlighted the Capital Improvement Program which projects totaled \$29,355,000.

Deputy Mayor Mothershead then opened the floor for public comment. The following people came forward to speak:

- Nancy Cote, 4845 Rainbow Race, NPR spoke in support of the library budget and the request for the mobile library branch.

With no one else coming forward, Deputy Mayor Mothershead returned the floor to Council. City Attorney Driscoll then read Resolution No. 2024-19 by title only. He stated for the records what the requirements were for the tax increase. Motion was made to approve Resolution No. 2024-19 adopting the tentative millage rate as presented. Motion made by Peter Altman and seconded by Bertell Butler, IV. Motion passed 4-0 at 6:24 p.m.

City Attorney Driscoll then read Resolution No. 2024-20 by title only. Deputy Mayor Mothershead then opened the floor for public comment. No one came forward therefore Deputy Mayor Mothershead returned the floor to Council. Motion was made to approve Resolution No. 2024-20 adopting the tentative budget for FY23/24 and the CIP as presented. Motion made by Bertell Butler, IV and seconded by Matt Murphy. Motion passed 4-0 at 6:39 p.m.

Motion made by Pete Altman and seconded by Bertell Butler. The Motion Passed. 4-0. Ayes: Altman, Butler, Mothershead, Murphy Absent: Davis

5 Communications

None.

6 Adjournment

There being no further business to consider, upon proper motion, the meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

(signed) \_\_\_\_\_  
Judy Meyers, MMC, City Clerk

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

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 2024-19**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF NEW PORT RICHEY, PASCO COUNTY, FLORIDA,  
ADOPTING THE TENTATIVE LEVYING OF AD VALOREM TAXES FOR ALL NON-  
EXEMPT REAL AND PERSONAL PROPERTY IN NEW PORT RICHEY, PASCO  
COUNTY, FLORIDA, FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE  
DATE.**

**WHEREAS**, the City Council of the City of New Port Richey, Pasco County, Florida, on September 18, 2024, adopted Fiscal Year Tentative Millage Rate following a public hearing as required by Florida Statute 200.065; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council of New Port Richey, Pasco County, Florida, held a public hearing as required by Florida Statutes 200.065; and

**WHEREAS**, the gross taxable value for operating purposes not exempt from taxation within the City of New Port Richey, Pasco County has been certified by the County Property Appraiser to the City of New Port Richey as \$1,056,693,312.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the City of New Port Richey, of Pasco County, Florida, that;

1. The FY 2024-2025 operating millage rate is 8.3000 mills, which is greater than the rolled-back rate of 8.19970 mills by 1.22%, which represents a 1.22% increase in property taxes.
2. There is no voted debt service millage.
3. The resolution will take effect immediately upon its adoption.

**DULY ADOPTED** at a public hearing this 18<sup>th</sup> day of September 2024.

Time Adopted \_\_\_\_\_PM

(ATTEST)

CITY OF NEW PORT RICHEY

\_\_\_\_\_  
Judy Meyers, MMC  
City Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
Kelly Mothershead  
Deputy Mayor-Councilwoman

Approved as to legal form and content:

(SEAL)

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Timothy P. Driscoll, Esq.  
City Attorney