



**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 24, 2024

8:00 AM

---

**ORDER OF**  
**BUSINESS**

1 Call to Order – Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Chopper Davis at 8:00 a.m. Those in attendance were Deputy Mayor Kelly Mothershead, Councilwoman Matt Murphy, and Councilman Bertell Butler, IV. Councilman Peter Altman was excused. Also in attendance were City Attorney Timothy Driscoll, City Clerk Judy, Fire Chief Chris Fitch, Police Chief Robert Kochen and Assistant City Manager Gregory Oravec.

2 Pledge of Allegiance

3 Moment of Silence

4 Business Items

a. Resolution No. 2025-02: Declaring a Local State of Emergency RE: Hurricane Helene - Page 3

City Attorney Driscoll read the proposed resolution by title only. Assistant City Manager Oravec presented the item to Council. He stated the purpose of this agenda item was to declare a local state of emergency in response to Hurricane Helene. The local state of emergency will be in effect as of 12:01 a.m. on Wednesday, September 25, 2024 and will remain in effect for seven days. 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. 4-0. Ayes: Butler, Davis, Mothershead, Murphy Absent: Altman

City Attorney Driscoll read the proposed resolution by title only. Assistant City Manager Oravec presented the item to Council. He stated the purpose of this agenda item was to declare a local state of emergency in response to Hurricane Helene. The local state of emergency will be in effect as of 12:01 a.m. on Wednesday, September 25, 2024 and will remain in effect for seven days. 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 . The Motion Passed. 0-0.

5 Communications

City Attorney Driscoll stated we have our budget meeting this Thursday and his recommendation is to vote now and authorize the City Manager to take such action as necessary if we need to postpone that meeting. He stated the budget statute provides for this eventuality and if we can have the meeting we will certainly try to have it but for some reason City Hall is closed and we cannot we can postpone to a date we can work with within the statute guidelines

Motion was made to authorize the City Manager to postpone the budget meeting that is scheduled for September 26, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. to a date that meets within the terms of the statute if necessary due to the closing of City Hall during that budget hearing by Deputy Mayor Mothershead and seconded by Councilman Matt Murphy. Motion passed 4-0.

There were no other communications.

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

6 Adjournment

There being no further business to consider, upon proper motion, the meeting adjourned at 8:02 a.m.

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

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

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

## **RESOLUTION NO. 2025-02**

### **RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW PORT RICHEY, FLORIDA DECLARING A LOCAL STATE OF EMERGENCY DUE TO THE IMPACTS ASSOCIATED WITH HURRICANE HELENE WHICH IS ANTICIPATED TO MOVE ACROSS THE STATE OF FLORIDA AND DECLARING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

WHEREAS, on September 23, 2024, Florida Governor Ron DeSantis issued Executive Order No. 24-208 declaring a state of emergency due to the impacts associated with Hurricane Helene which is anticipated to move across the State of Florida; and

WHEREAS, Executive Order No. 24-208 includes numerous counties within the storm's forecast area including Pasco County; and

WHEREAS, the City of New Port Richey has already begun preparations for the impending emergency weather conditions, and has determined that a severe threat exists to the life, health, property, and the welfare of the residents of the City of New Port Richey; and

WHEREAS, the hurricane poses a severe threat to the City of New Port Richey and may cause extensive damage to public utilities, public buildings, public streets and roads, public drainage systems, and commercial and residential buildings and areas; and

WHEREAS, the City Council hereby authorizes the City through the implementation of the City Manager to enter into a state of emergency pursuant to its home rule authority; and

WHEREAS, Chapter 252, Florida Statutes, and specifically Section 252.38, Florida Statutes, provides authority for a municipality such as the City of New Port Richey to declare a state of local emergency for a period of time up to seven (7) days, which may be extended as necessary in seven (7) day increments, and to waive the procedures and formalities otherwise required of political subdivisions by law pertaining to:

- a. Performance of public works projects including taking whatever prudent action is necessary to ensure the health, safety and welfare of the community;
- b. Entering into contracts;
- c. Incurring obligations;
- d. Employment of permanent and temporary workers;
- e. Utilization of volunteer workers;
- f. Rental of equipment;
- g. Acquisition and distribution, with or without compensation, of supplies, materials and facilities; and

h. Appropriation and expenditure of public funds.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of New Port Richey that the low pressure system poses a serious threat to public infrastructure and the life, health, property, and welfare of the City of New Port Richey and its residents, and that a state of local emergency is hereby declared effective at 12:01 a.m. September 25, 2024 for a period of time up to seven (7) days, which time period may be extended as necessary in additional seven (7) day increments by subsequent resolution, and all territory within the legal incorporated boundaries of the City of New Port Richey, Pasco County, Florida shall be embraced by the provision of this emergency resolution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council hereby exercises its home rule and statutory authority and waives the procedures and formalities required by law of a political subdivision, as provided in Chapter 252, Florida Statutes; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council hereby designates the City Manager as the declaring official for all purposes necessary to implement the provisions of this resolution including but not limited to expenditure of funds and implementation of an emergency curfew.

All public officials and employees of the City of New Port Richey are hereby directed to exercise the utmost diligence in discharge of duties required of them for the duration of the emergency and in the execution of emergency laws, regulations and directives, both state and local.

All citizens are called upon and directed to comply with necessary emergency measures, to cooperate with public officials and civil emergency/disaster service forces in executing emergency operational plans, and to obey and comply with the lawful directions of properly identified public officers.

DATED THIS 24<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2024.

ATTEST:

CITY OF NEW PORT RICHEY, FLORIDA

---

Judy Meyers, MMC, City Clerk

---

Alfred C. Davis, Mayor/Council Member

Approved as to legal form and content:

---

Timothy P. Driscoll, Esq.  
City Attorney