



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

March 18, 2025

6:00 PM

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 Councilwoman Matt Murphy, Councilman Peter Altman and Councilman Bertell Butler, IV. Deputy Mayor Kelly Mothershead was excused.

Also in attendance were City Manager Debbie L. Manns, City Attorney Timothy Driscoll, City Clerk Judy Meyers, Fire Chief Chris Fitch, Assistant Public Works Director Colin Eichenmuller, Police Chief Bob Kochen, Library Director Andi Figart, Assistant Parks & Recreation Director Kevin Trapp, Community and Development Director Dale Hall, Assistant Finance Director Heather Saienni, Technology Solutions Director Leanne Mahadeo, and Human Resources Director Arnel Wetzel.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Moment of Silence

4. Approval of February 27, 2025 Special Meeting and March 4, 2025 Regular Minutes

Motion was made to approve the minutes as presented.

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

5. 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:

- Darryl Henderson, 12100 Seminole Blvd., Largo spoke regarding the Recovery Epicenter Foundation and the services they provide.
- Robert Burns, 6727 Trouble Creek Rd., NPR spoke regarding outside storage. He also spoke regarding his process for rezoning his property. He also spoke about proposed Ordinance No. 2024-2296.

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.

6 Consent Agenda

Motion was made to accept the Consent Agenda.

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

- a Purchases/Payments for City Council Approval

7 Public Reading of Ordinances

- a First Reading, Ordinance No. 2025-2320: Amending Section 10.06 of the City Charter RE: Corporate Boundaries

City Attorney Driscoll read the proposed ordinance by title only. City Manager Manns introduced the item to Council. She stated the purpose of this agenda item was to conduct a first reading of an ordinance to amend Section 10.06 of the City Charter pertaining to the boundaries of the city and providing for revised city boundaries. She stated as Council will recall, in April 2024 Ordinance No. 2024-2287 was adopted which brought the legal description of the city up to date. She stated in October 2024 the area known as Town & Country Villas was annexed into the city along with parcels along US Highway 19. Therefore a new legal description was compiled. She stated this request advances that Exhibit A shall replace Ordinance No. 2024-2287 which was adopted in April 2024. 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 Bertell Butler and seconded by Matt Murphy. The Motion Passed. 4-0. Ayes: Altman, Butler, Davis, Murphy Absent: Mothershead

- b Second Reading, Ordinance No. 2025-2321: Rezoning of 5422 Charles Street from Office to MF-10

City Attorney Driscoll read the proposed ordinance by title only. City Manager Manns introduced Community and Development Director Dale Hall who then presented the item to Council. He stated the purpose of this agenda item was to conduct a second and final reading of an ordinance to rezone the property located at 5422 Charles Street from Office to MF-10. The applicant is seeking to build a single family home on the parcel. She stated that this item was presented to the LDRB at their meeting on February 20, 2025. At the time, the LDRB was presented with an incorrect recommendation of MF-14 instead of MF-10. Staff is recommending that Council approve the MF-10. 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 second and final reading.

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

8 Business Items

- a Board Appointment: Amanda Zborek, Environmental Committee

City Manager Manns introduced the item to Council. She stated that the purpose of this agenda item was to approve the appointment of Amanda Zborek to the Environmental Committee. City Manager Manns stated Ms. Zborek is a graduate of the 2024 Spring Citizens Academy. If approved, Ms. Zborek's term will be for two years and will be up for renewal on March 18, 2027. Upon opening the

floor to public comment, Amanda Zborek came forward to state how much she has enjoyed being a part of the Environmental Committee and she is looking forward to move forward in that relationship. With no one else coming forward Mayor Davis returned the floor to Council. Motion was made to approve the item as presented.

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

b Request to Purchase 2025 Ford Transit T-350 Cargo Van for use of Mobile Library Branch

City Manager Manns introduced the item to Council. She stated that the purpose of this agenda item was to approve a proposal from Duval Ford in the amount not to exceed \$77,695.00 for the purchase of a 2025 Ford Transit T-350 High Roof Cargo Van. City Manager Manns stated the Friends of the Library raised \$27,695 to be used towards the purchase of this vehicle and \$22,305 to go towards the special equipment to be stalled on the vehicle. She then introduced Library Director Andi Figart who then presented information about the vehicle to Council. She stated the van will be used as a mobile library branch and will provide library resources free of charge to card-carrying library members. In addition to offering on-the-spot library card registrations, a concierge collection of donated items will also be available for those who do not meet the library card requirements.

Upon opening the floor to public comment, the following people came forward to speak in support of this agenda item:

- Nicholas Pacini, President of the Friends of the Library
- Ronald Becker, 6822 Grand Blvd., NPR

With no one else coming forward Mayor Davis returned the floor to Council. Motion was made to approve the item as presented.

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

c Cultural Affairs Committee Funding Request RE: "The Skyway Bridge Disaster" Documentary and Presentation

City Manager Manns introduced the item to Council. She stated that the purpose of this agenda item was to approve funding support in the amount of \$500.00 for the presentation of the "The Skyway Bridge Disaster" documentary film and related informational presentation by Robert Raiola. If approved, "The Skyway Bridge Disaster" documentary film and Robert Raiola's presentation will occur at 2PM on April 27, 2025, at the Richey Suncoast Theatre.

Upon opening the floor to public comment, the following people came forward to speak:

- Susie Saxe, Executive Director of RST spoke about documentary and the Q&A that will take place after the screening.

With no one else coming forward Mayor Davis returned the floor to Council. Motion was made to approve the item as presented.

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

d Recommendation of Firm for RFQ25-008 CDBG-MIT Architectural Services

City Manager Manns stated the City received a grant a few years ago to harden Fire Station No. 1. She then introduced Community & Development Director Dale Hall who then presented the item to Council. He stated that the purpose of this agenda item was to approve staff's recommendation of K2M Design for the architectural design services of Fire Station No. 1 as outlined in RFQ25-008. He stated this project will include replacing the roof, bay doors, exterior doors and windows,

generator and other building improvements on Fire Station No. 1 and will be partially funded by a Community Development Block Grant Funds. 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 Bertell Butler. The Motion Passed. 4-0. Ayes: Altman, Butler, Davis, Murphy Absent: Mothershead

e Approval of Florida Wildflower Foundation 2025 Seeds of Knowledge Grant Award

City Manager Manns introduced the item to Council. She stated that the purpose of this agenda item was to approve the Florida Wildflower Foundation's 2025 Seeds of Knowledge Grant Award in the amount of \$750.00 for the purpose of establishing demonstration beds containing native wildflowers in the Library/City Hall Courtyard, dispersing free wildflower seed packets through the seed library, and offering related gardening workshops and educational programs for the public and corresponding budget amendment. Upon opening the floor to public comment, no one came forward Mayor Davis returned the floor to Council. Motion was made to approve the item and corresponding budget amendment as presented.

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

f Recreation & Aquatic Center – HVAC Tandem Compressor Condenser Fan Replacement Project

City Manager Manns introduced the item to Council. Se stated that the purpose of this agenda item was to approve a proposal from rom Air Mechanical and Service Corporation in an amount not to exceed \$52,738.00 for the replacement of tandem compressors units, a variable frequency drive (VFD), and condenser fan motor located at the City Recreation and Aquatic Center. She stated as City Council is aware of the catastrophic impact Hurricane Milton had on Florida in October of last year, the New Port Richey Recreation and Aquatic Center's HVAC equipment took a big hit with power surges, causing major electrical damage to both York Chiller systems. She stated funding for this item would be prior year reserves until the City is reimbursed. Upon opening the floor to public comment, no one came forward Mayor Davis returned the floor to Council. Councilman Altman asked about a detail of the damage and Mr. Eichenmuller provided a detail report. Motion was made to approve the item and corresponding budget amendment as presented.

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

g ITB25-007 2023/2024 Street Improvements Project Bid Award

City Manager Manns introduced Assistant Public Works Director Colin Eichenmuller who then presented the item to Council. He stated that the purpose of this agenda item was to approve the bid submitted by submitted by EZ Contracting, LLC in the amount not to exceed \$1,770,724.47 for the 2023/2024 Street Improvements Project. The streets included in this project are identified as paving group cycle seven; they include:

1. Grand Boulevard from Sims Lane to Broadway Avenue
2. Marine Parkway from US19 to Grand Boulevard
3. Florida Avenue from Madison Street to Congress Street
4. Pennsylvania Avenue from Madison Street to Congress Street
5. Central Avenue from Madison Street to Harrison Street
6. Harrison Street from Old Main Street to Indiana Avenue
7. Polk Street from Old Main Street to Indiana Avenue
8. Marine Pkwy from Gemstone Dr. to US Hwy 19

Upon opening the floor to public comment, no one came forward Mayor Davis returned the floor to Council. Motion was made to approve the item as presented.

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

9 Communications

Councilman Murphy spoke regarding a road issue in front of the boat ramp entrance. He stated Chasco is coming up. Councilman Butler spoke regarding the election on April 8th. He spoke regarding the budgeting for Fire Station No. 1 improvements. City Manager Manns stated originally there were upgrades scheduled that did not involve hardening. There was an opportunity to apply for grant funds to cover the hardening features. She stated there was a very intensive environmental review and the release was just received a few months ago so now the project can move forward. Councilman Altman spoke regarding his conversation with the City Manager regarding the City's finances. He stated the audit findings stated that Council should be receiving monthly statements. He did receive a call from a resident regarding the City's financial status. He stated we have some good resources for funding including some funding through our partnership with the County. Councilman Altman spoke about a candidate forum over the past weekend regarding residents who experienced losses with the hurricanes. He spoke regarding the senior center and housing project. He spoke regarding the Harbors Plan and the County's commitment to helping us. He spoke regarding The White Heron's comments regarding the crowds. He suggested leasing space in the Schwettman Center for the tea room to move there. Councilman Altman spoke regarding the Chamber and former SunTrust properties. Mayor Davis stated when the County and City traded properties that was a good deal but he would not be inclined to trading property by the Recreation & Aquatic Center. Councilman Altman stated there are opportunities to get funds back for the recreational service area. City Manager Manns stated that the County has been very cooperative and have identified a method of payment for the City's property. She stated she is more than willing to work with Councilman Altman on the financial matters of the city. She stated all agenda items include the funding sources. Mayor Davis spoke about the St. Patrick's Day weekend festivities. He suggested that Mrs. Hackman work with other businesses on events.

10 Adjournment

There being no further business to consider, upon proper motion, the meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

(signed) _____
Judy Meyers, MMC, City Clerk

Approved: _____ (date)

Initialed: _____