



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

April 15, 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 Deputy Mayor Kelly Mothershead, Councilman Matt Murphy, Councilman Peter Altman and Councilman Bertell Butler, IV. Councilman Butler left the meeting at 6:42 p.m. due to a death in the family.

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, Assistant Parks & Recreation Director Kevin Trapp, Community and Development Director Dale Hall, Technology Solutions Director Leanne Mahadeo, and Human Resources Director Arnel Wetzel.

2 Pledge of Allegiance

3 Moment of Silence

4 Approval of April 1, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes

Motion was made to approve the minutes as presented.

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

5 Presentation of Years of Service Award to Deputy Mayor Kelly Mothershead

6 Oath of Office for Newly Elected City Council Members - Peter Altman and Brian Jonas

7 Appointment of Deputy Mayor

Councilman Altman made a motion for Councilman Butler to be appointed Deputy Mayor. Motion failed for lack of second. Councilman Butler made a motion for Matt Murphy to be appointed Deputy

Mayor. Motion was seconded by Councilman Jonas. Motion passed 5-0.

- 8 Proclamation - Monarch City Day
- 9 Proclamation - Day Of Remembrance
- 10 Proclamation - Gulf High School 2025 Graduates
- 11 Proclamation - Volunteer Recognition Day (By Title Only)
- 12 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 regarding the Schwettman Education Center:

- Beva Stevenson-Karay, 5719 Lafayette St., NPR
- Bill Stevens, 9454 Royal Palm Ave., NPR
- Donna Jensen, 5922 Wyoming Ave., NPR
- Rita King, 10926 Bounty St., NPR
- Mary Beth Isaacson, 8805 Forest Lake Dr., PR
- Susie Johnson, 7832 Castle Dr., NPR

The following people also came forward to speak:

- Carla Cash, 5751 Rio Dr., NPR spoke regarding the sidewalk plan for Rio Drive.
- Paul Black, 5844 Madison St., NPR spoke about the humanitarian crisis overseas.
- Marlowe Jones congratulated Councilmen Altman and Jonas. He also spoke regarding Schwettman.
- Amanda Murphy, spoke on behalf of Chasco, to thank the city employees who helped out with everything during this year's event.

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.

13 Consent Agenda

Motion was made to accept the Consent Agenda.

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

- a Cultural Affairs Committee Minutes- February 2025
- b Library Advisory Board Minutes - February 2025
- c Purchases/Payments for City Council Approval
- d Budget Amendment

14 Public Reading of Ordinances

- a Second Reading, Ordinance No. 2025-2325: Authorize Issuance of Non-Ad Valorem Revenue Notes

This ordinance was deferred until the May 6, 2025 regular meeting.

- b First Reading, Ordinance No. 2025-2322: Repeal Section 6-31 of Article II of Chapter 6 of the Code of Ordinances RE: Toolsheds and Utility Buildings

City Attorney Driscoll read the proposed ordinance by title only. City Manager Manns introduced Development Director Dale Hall who then presented the item to Council. He stated the purpose of this agenda item was to conduct a first reading of an ordinance to amend the City Code to remove the old provisions of Section 6.31 "Toolsheds and Utility Buildings." He stated in 1991, Section 12.03.00 Detached garages, storage building and greenhouse of the Land Development Code (LDC) was updated. This update set forth location and construction standards for the development of detached storage buildings. This revision also superseded Section 6.31 making it no longer necessary for the general health, safety and welfare of the citizens of the City. 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 Matt Murphy and seconded by Pete Altman. The Motion Passed. 4-0. Ayes: Altman, Davis, Jonas, Murphy Absent: Butler

15 Business Items

- a Resolution No. 2025-14: Authorize Issuance of Tax-Exempt Non-Ad Valorem Revenue Note 2025A and Taxable Non-Ad Valorem Revenue Note 2025B and Amended and Restated Interlocal Agreement

This item was deferred until the May 6, 2025 regular meeting.

- b Kentucky Derby Pub Crawl Alcohol Special Event Permit Application and Event Wet Zone Request

City Manager Manns introduced Assistant Parks & Recreation Director Kevin Trapp who then presented the item to Council. He stated that the purpose of this agenda item was to review the Alcohol Special Event Permit Application and wet zone request by the Rotary Club of West Pasco Sunset for a Kentucky Derby Pub Crawl event scheduled for Saturday, May 3, 2025 from 11AM until 7PM. This event is requesting a "wet zone" be established in the alleyway behind Infusion Brewing Company. Event activities include a walking pub crawl to local downtown businesses concluding at Infusion Brewing Company and the alleyway located behind the Brewery. The alleyway will have tables, chairs, 10x10 tents, small stage for entertainment, and a variety of derby themed activities. The wet zone would span only in the alleyway noted on the site map. The wet zone hours would be 11:00am to 7:00pm. The Gloria Swanson Public Parking Lot would not be impacted or included in the wet zone. Barricades will be placed to prevent vehicles from entering the event 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 Matt Murphy and seconded by Brian Jonas. The Motion Passed. 4-0. Ayes: Altman, Davis, Jonas, Murphy Absent: Butler

- c Request to Waive Permit Fees for Richard Miller, 6129 Lafayette St.

City Manager Manns introduced the item to Council. She stated that the purpose of this agenda item was to consider an appeal for relief from various building department permit fees for property located at 6129 Lafayette Street in the amount of \$1,109.32 related to damage sustained during Hurricane Helene. She stated the City put in place a program as a result of the devastation of Hurricanes Helene and Milton which provided for the waiver of building permit fees for property owners implementing repairs of damage caused by one of the hurricanes. The program was in operation from September 26, 2024, through January 15, 2025. She stated the City was penalized by FEMA for offering such a program. She stated the City learned that FEMA and homeowner's insurance will pay for permit fees. The City experienced a loss of revenue as a result of the fee waiver program at an amount estimated to

be \$136,416.00 in addition to FEMA penalties. She stated there have been 57 other homeowners who have paid their fees since the program ended. She stated the cost associated with the work being done at Mr. Miller's home is \$97,992.15. The permit fee associated with a scope of work in that amount is \$1,109.32.

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

- Richard Miller, 6129 Lafayette St., NPR stated he spoke with his FEMA adjuster and was told today they do not reimburse fees. Mr. Miller read from a prepared letter providing a summary of his property and insurance process.

With no one else coming forward Mayor Davis returned the floor to Council. Motion was made to reduce the permit fees by fifty percent. Motion passed 4-0. Mr. Miller then came back up to the podium to speak briefly regarding an electrical permit.

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

d Memorandum of Agreement w/IAFF, Local 1158 RE: Wage Increases for FY 2024-2025

City Manager Manns introduced Human Resources Director Arnel Wetzel who then presented the item to Council. He stated that the purpose of this agenda item was to vote affirmatively in favor of ratifying the proposed agreement reached between the City of New Port Richey and the International Association of Firefighters (IAFF), Local 1158 for a wage increase covering FY 2024-2025. The proposed agreement was reached as part of a wage re-opener in the current Collective Bargaining Agreement with the IAFF, Local 1158.

After several positive negotiation meetings with the firefighters, Staff is pleased to present to you a proposed final agreement that has been reached between the City and the IAFF regarding wages for FY 2024-2025. The following highlights the term that has been agreed upon by the Union and the City's negotiating teams. The term is as follows:

Wages:

For Fiscal Year 2024-2025, the steps reflected in Appendix A of the current Collective Bargaining Agreement shall be replaced and increased by 5.0% from Fiscal Year 2023-2024. The increase will be retroactive to October 1, 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 item as presented.

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

e Consideration of Appointments to Intergovernmental Committees

City Manager Manns introduced the item to Council. She stated that the purpose of this agenda item was to appoint a member to serve as the City's representative on each of the following intergovernmental committees: Pasco County Metropolitan Planning Organization, Pasco County Tourist Development Council, Suncoast League of Cities, Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council and Tampa Bay Water and to appoint a member to serve as an alternate on the Pasco County Metropolitan Planning Organization.

Upon opening the floor to public comment, no one came forward therefore Mayor Davis returned the floor to Council.

Motion was made to appoint each of the representatives as follows:

- Pasco County Metropolitan Planning Organization representative Councilman Matt Murphy with alternate representative Councilman Bertell Butler, IV
- Pasco County Tourist Development Council representative Councilman Brian Jonas
- Suncoast League of Cities representative Councilman Bertell Butler, IV
- Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council representative Councilman Peter Altman
- Tampa Bay Water representative Mayor Chopper Davis

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

f Approval of Florida Humanities Summer Reading Grant Award Agreement

City Manager Manns introduced Library Director Andi Figart who then presented the item to Council. She stated that the purpose of this agenda item was to review and consider for approval the attached Summer Reading Grant Agreement between the City of New Port Richey Public Library and Florida Humanities and corresponding budget amendment. This grant agreement allocates funding in the amount of \$3,000.00 for the purchase of new children's books to be used in the bookmobile. The selected books are recommended from the 2025 Collaborative Summer Library Program reading list and include engaging and educational titles for youth. Popular board books, beginning readers, early literacy books, juvenile non-fiction, and chapter books will be purchased. 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 and corresponding budget amendment as presented.

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

g Request to Rezone Edgewater Gardens Subdivision - MHP to R-4

City Manager Manns introduced Development Director Dale Hall who then presented the item to Council. She stated that the purpose of this agenda item was to allow for the creation and future consideration of an Ordinance to rezone the Edgewater Gardens subdivision from Mobile Home Park (MHP) to Coastal Cottages (R-4). Mr. Hall began his presentation by giving an overview of the current area. He then highlighted the existing zoning of the area. Mr. Hall then presented the definitions of a mobile home park in the City's current code. He then highlighted the future land use which is MDR-14 and would remain the same with this request. He also highlighted the special flood hazard area. He then highlighted the present concerns which included parcels that did not meet definition of MHP, existing lot sizes and flood issues. Mr. Hall then spoke regarding R-4 Coastal Cottage zoning. Mr. Hall then highlighted the development numbers since Hurricanes Helene and Milton. Mr. Hall then presented a comparison of the different standards. Upon opening the floor to public comment, no one came forward therefore Mayor Davis returned the floor to Council. Motion was made to authorize City Manager to engage staff in preparation of rezoning modification as requested.

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

h Memorandum of Understanding w/Tampa Bay Multi-Agency Gang Task Force

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 authorize the Chief of Police to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Tampa Bay Multi-Agency Gang Task Force (MAGTF.) He stated currently forty-one law enforcement agencies, including the New Port Richey Police Department, are members of MAGTF. This task force allows police agencies across the Tampa Bay Area, and beyond, to share intelligence, train officers, and conduct multi-agency operations related to illegal gang activity. The MAGTF MOU outlines how forfeiture proceeds from illegal activity are distributed among the participating law enforcement agencies. This MOU will be in effect until May 30, 2030, unless terminated prior thereto by the participating agencies. 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 Brian Jonas and seconded by Matt Murphy. The Motion Passed. 4-0. Ayes: Altman, Davis, Jonas, Murphy Absent: Butler

16 Communications

Councilman Altman stated he attended the 50th anniversary of the Energy Management Center. There was attendance from TBRPC and other entities. He stated he spoke with Commissioners Yeager and Mariano. He stated it was a fantastic event. He stated perhaps aquaculture could come and be a part of Tasty Tuesdays. He spoke about ARPA funding projects in 2021 and State Statutes about what you can and cannot do. He briefly spoke about the recent CRA amendment currently in the Florida Legislature. He spoke about acquired properties and putting together a request for proposals. He spoke about the upcoming work session with the School Board. He stated we have to get this project underway. Councilman Altman spoke about the US Highway 19 project including public/private partnerships. He stated he wants to have a public conversation with the rest of his colleagues. Deputy Mayor Murphy thanked the SOS group for coming to each of the meetings. He thanked the Chasco committee and all of the volunteers. He spoke briefly about the Highway Safety Measures from the MPO. Councilman Jonas stated he is looking forward to working with everyone to make decisions. He also thanked the SOS group. Mayor Davis thanked the SOS group as well. He stated Chasco was a great event. City Manager Manns thanked Kelly Mothershead for her service to the community. She also congratulated Councilmen Altman and Jonas. She then gave a brief summary of the School Board meeting that took place regarding Schwettman. Mayor Davis stated a work session would be a good idea.

17 Adjournment

There being no further business to consider, upon proper motion, the meeting adjourned at 8:01 p.m.

(signed) _____
Judy Meyers, MMC, City Clerk

Approved: _____ (date)

Initialed: _____

Richard Miller

6129 Lafayette Street

N.P. Richey

85 year old male, widower
home purchased in 1992.

Have secured home with
continuous flood insurance
since home was purchased!

Hurricane Helene hit the area, September 26, 2024.

Neighbor called and reported the house had 4 feet of water inside.

I immediately notified FEMA and filed a claim!

I called a friend to come to Ohio and drive me to Florida.

We were notified Joe Bird was assigned as the adjuster.

Meeting was set for October 4th 2024.

Meeting was 10-4 and viewing the damages was difficult due to extensive damage and water.

Doors were broken, furniture upside ~~and~~ down and appliances floating inside. Entry to garage impossible due to broken door.

The adjuster decided he wouldn't enter due to the doors inside smokeless & broken, mold was just solid coverage on each & everything inside the home. floors were wood and had popped up and dangerous to walk on! Adjuster felt it safer to stay outside and not cause any injury to anyone!

Attached E-mails will show and explain each & everything we had to do to even get response from our Adjuster! Communication had been lost!

Out of frustration I contacted Mr. Birds Employer, which was Turner Group Adjuster. I was referred to the senior field supervisor Jan Caraynes. He immediately came to my residence to assemble necessary temporary. As text messages show was lost contact with

Residence
Temporary

Jim Little did we know at the time he was in hospital (!)

I finally contacted Clenden Webb Insurance Company. They became very helpful with my insurance check.

Once check received I contacted my contractor and entered into a contract!

Due to my delays I was unable to be signed in for immediate restoration and had to be shoved to end of line.

Please note date on text message from Jim Cavazos April 25 from December. No contact with him for 4 months!

< @ CAVAZOS JAMES ▾ ⋮

Hey Jim. Rich Miller here. Just wondering how my claim is proceeding. Please let me know. Thanks

11:21 AM

Monday, April 7

Rich I just saw your text. I'm sorry I didn't get back to you sooner. On December I passed out on was in the hospital for 2 weeks and didn't know anything then. I was then in rehab for 6 weeks. Again I'm sorry for not getting back to you.

18th

5:43 PM

00:02

||| ○ <

Subject: **UNRECOVERABLE EXPENSES**
Date: 4/15/2025 1:26:10 PM Eastern Daylight Time
From: dalpen@aol.com
To: RICHARDMILLER@aol.com

1.	POOL PUMP	\$1156,89
2,	RESTORATION OF POWER	\$350.00
3	POWER WASHER	\$806.00
4	LAUNDRY	\$343.66
5	STORAGE UNIT	\$100 PER MONTH \$600. TO DATE
6	POOL HEATER	\$4800.00
7	POOL CLEANING/REFILL	\$4,000.00
8.	PATIO FURNITURE	\$1500.00
9.	PICTURES, PILLOWS, MISC.	\$PRICELESS
TOTAL		\$13,556.55

RE:

From: Joe Bird Joe.Bird@fgclaims.com
To: Rich Miller richmiller10@msn.com
Sent: Saturday, November 30, 2024, 3:21 PM

Mr. Miller,

I'm sorry, but this still isn't sufficient. Is there anyone who could come over and help you attach the spreadsheet to an email? It would only take 2-3 minutes of someone's time.

Thank you,

Joe Bird
Adjuster



(281)250-2732 Phone
(866)265-4661 Fax

Flood Handbook copy and paste the link below:
<https://agents.floodsmart.gov/sites/default/files/fema-claims-handbook-04-2022.pdf>

ICC Brochure copy and paste the link below:
https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/2020-05/Increased_Cost_Compliance.pdf

Standard Flood Policy-Dwelling Form copy and paste the link below:
https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/2020-05/F-122_Dwelling_SFIP_102015.pdf

From: Rich Miller <richmiller10@msn.com>
Sent: Friday, November 29, 2024 2:36 PM
To: Joe Bird <Joe.Bird@fgclaims.com>
Subject:

Miller Flood Claim

From: Joe Bird Joe.Bird@fgclaims.com

To: RICHMILLER10@MSN.COM

richmiller10@msn.com

Sent: Saturday, December 28, 2024, 4:31 PM

Mr. Miller,

Your claim was submitted weeks ago when I sent you the email with a copy of it. I cannot process a supplement until you receive the original claim settlement checks. In addition, to process this supplement request, I need photos of the omitted items.

Thank you,

Joe Bird

Adjuster



[\(281\)250-2732](tel:2812502732) Phone

[\(966\)265-4661](tel:9662654661) Fax

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paste the link below:

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From: Rich Miller <richmiller10@msn.com>

Sent: Sunday, December 1, 2024 6:38 AM

To: Joe Bird <Joe.Bird@fgclaims.com>

Subject: Re:

Sorry Joe. No help available! I'm 84 and widowed without a house staying with a friend. I'm going to call Fema today or tomorrow and try to get someone to help walk me through this process. I'm beginning to feel like this is elderly abuse and it's affecting my health! Any suggestions you might have would be greatly appreciated.

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy
smartphone
Get [Outlook for Android](#)

From: Joe Bird <Joe.Bird@fgclaims.com>

Sent: Saturday, November 30, 2024 3:19:56 PM

To: Rich Miller <richmiller10@msn.com>

Subject: RE:

Mr. Miller,

I'm sorry, but this still isn't sufficient. Is there anyone who could come over and help you attach the spreadsheet to an email? It would only take 2-3 minutes of someone's time.

Thank you,

Joe Bird
Adjuster



Fw:

From: Rich Miller richmiller10@msn.com
To: Penny/Dale Siebert dalpen@aol.com
Sent: Monday, December 2, 2024, 8:03 PM

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy
smartphone
Get [Outlook for Android](#)

From: Joe Bird <Joe.Bird@fgclaims.com>
Sent: Monday, December 2, 2024 3:37:44 PM
To: Rich Miller <richmiller10@msn.com>
Subject: RE:

You just went to Penny's daughter's house for
thanksgiving dinner. She can't come over and help
you with it? If not, get it pulled up on the screen one
more time and I can walk you through it. It is on your
computer. All you have to do is find it.

Thank you,

Joe Bird
Adjuster



[\(281\)250-2732](tel:2812502732) Phone

[\(866\)265-4661](tel:8662654661) Fax

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https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/2020-05/Increased_Cost_Compliance.pdf

Fw: contents spreadsheet

From: Rich Miller richmiller10@msn.com

To: dalpen@aol.com dalpen@aol.com

Sent: Tuesday, November 5, 2024, 4:39 PM

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy
smartphone

Get [Outlook for Android](#)

From: Rich Miller <richmiller10@msn.com>

Sent: Tuesday, November 5, 2024 3:39:51 PM

To: Penny/Dale Siebert <dalpen@aol.com>

Subject: Fw: contents spreadsheet

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy
smartphone

Get [Outlook for Android](#)

From: Joe Bird <Joe.Bird@fgclaims.com>

Sent: Monday, November 4, 2024 9:43:35 AM

To: RICHMILLER10@MSN.COM

<RICHMILLER10@MSN.COM>

Subject: contents spreadsheet

I've sent this a few times now. Please confirm receipt.

Thank you,

Joe Bird

Adjuster



(281)250-2732 Phone

(866)265-4661 Fax

Miller Flood Claim

From: Joe Bird Joe.Bird@fgclaims.com

To: RICHMILLER10@MSN.COM

richmiller10@msn.com

Sent: Saturday, December 28, 2024, 4:31 PM

Mr. Miller,

Your claim was submitted weeks ago when I sent you the email with a copy of it. I cannot process a supplement until you receive the original claim settlement checks. In addition, to process this supplement request, I need photos of the omitted items.

Thank you,

Joe Bird

Adjuster



[\(281\)250-2732](tel:(281)250-2732) Phone

[\(866\)265-4661](tel:(866)265-4661) Fax

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