



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

May 20, 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 Matt Murphy, Councilman Peter Altman, Councilman Bertell Butler, IV, and Councilman Brian Jonas.

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 Wetzell.

2 Pledge of Allegiance

3 Moment of Silence

4 Approval of May 6, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes

Motion was made to approve the minutes as presented.

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

5 Swearing In of New Police Officer Joseph Rable

6 Proclamation - Little Free Library Month

7 Proclamation - Family Abduction Awareness Day (By Title Only)

8 Proclamation - Older Americans Month (By Title Only)

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:

- Beva Stevenson-Karay, 5719 Lafayette St., NPR spoke regarding Schwettman Education Center and the recent walk and talk with the City Manager.
- Dale Webb, 5647 Kentucky Ave., NPR spoke regarding a historical book about the coastline and Muscovy ducks.
- Nathan Pollock, 6153 Massachusetts Ave., NPR spoke regarding his appeal for his sign issue.
- John Gilliss, 6658 River Rd., NPR spoke regarding the Schwettman Education Center and the plan for the property owned by the CRA.

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

- a Library Advisory Board Meeting Minutes- March 2025

- b Purchases/Payments for City Council Approval

11 Public Reading of Ordinances

- a Second 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 the item to Council. She stated in 1991 Section 12.03.00 Detached garages, storage building and greenhouse of the Land Development Code 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 second and final reading.

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

12 Business Items

- a Board Appointment: Donna Pendland Jensen, Historic Preservation Board

City Manager Manns introduced the item to Council. She stated that the purpose of this agenda item was to approve the appointment of Donna Pendland Jensen to the Historic Preservation Board. If approved, Ms. Pendland Jensen's term would be for two years and would be up for renewal on May 20, 2027. Upon opening the floor to public comment, Ms. Jensen came forward to thank Council for the opportunity to serve on this Board. 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 Matt Murphy and seconded by Bertell Butler. The Motion Passed. 5-0. Ayes: Altman, Butler, Davis, Jonas, Murphy

b Board Appointment: Jennifer Helton, Cultural Affairs Committee

City Manager Manns introduced the item to Council. She stated that the purpose of this agenda item was to approve the appointment of Jennifer Helton as second alternate member of the Cultural Affairs Committee. If approved, Ms. Helton's term will be for two years and will be up for renewal on May 20, 2027. Upon opening the floor to public comment, Ms. Helton came forward to state she is looking forward to working on this Committee. Richard Melton came forward to welcome Ms. Helton. 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 Pete Altman and seconded by Bertell Butler. The Motion Passed. 5-0. Ayes: Altman, Butler, Davis, Jonas, Murphy

c Recommendation of Firm for RFP25-012 Disaster Recovery and Debris Removal Services

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 consider for award the proposal submitted by T.F.R. Enterprise, Inc. for RFP 25-012 Disaster Recovery and Debris Removal Services and to approve staff to enter into a contract agreement in accordance with the same terms and conditions set forth in RFP 25-012 to T.F.R. Enterprise, Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$20,035,000. In addition, staff would request that City Council consider for approval to allow staff to enter into agreements with Bergeron Emergency Services and Ceres Environmental Services, Inc. as redundancies should T.F.R. Enterprise, Inc. not be able to fulfill their obligations called out in the agreement during a major event. 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. 5-0. Ayes: Altman, Butler, Davis, Jonas, Murphy

d Recommendation of Firm for RFP25-009 Unarmed, Uniformed, Licensed Class D Security Services for City Parking Garage

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 consider for award the proposal submitted by GardaWorld Security (GWS) for RFP25-009 Unarmed, Uniformed, Licensed Class D Security Services for City Parking Garage in an amount not to exceed \$95,312.09. Although GWS was not the lowest bidder, it was the lowest complete bid received. The term of the contract will be for three years. 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 Bertell Butler and seconded by Pete Altman. The Motion Passed. 5-0. Ayes: Altman, Butler, Davis, Jonas, Murphy

e Planning & Development Department - Addition of a Development Clerk Position and Corresponding Budget Amendment

City Manager Manns introduced Community & Development Director Dale Hall who then presented the item to Council. He stated that the purpose of this agenda item was to establish a Development Clerk position from existing positions within the Planning & Development Department and approve the corresponding budget amendment. He stated this request would involve changing an existing part-time Planning Intern position to full-time and upgrading that position to a Development Clerk role. This new position will be better suited to provide administrative and clerical functions in the department and will be cross trained in permitting activities to provide back-up to the other departmental personnel. He stated the need for this position is due to the following:

- Continued increase in the residential and commercial growth of the community.
- Increased permitting due to redevelopment of hurricane damaged homes.
- Increased permitting due to recent annexations.
- Reduction to the amount of current Staff overtime to reduce potential fatigue.
- Succession Planning due to pending retirements of Staff members.

Mr. Hall stated adding this position at this time will allow for the Planning & Development Department to address development activities in an efficient and expeditious manner. 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 Bertell Butler and seconded by Brian Jonas. The Motion Passed. 5-0. Ayes: Altman, Butler, Davis, Jonas, Murphy

13 Communications

Councilman Altman spoke regarding the TBRPC Resiliency Summit he recently attended. He spoke regarding Mr. Webb's comments about the coast and the gulf. He spoke regarding the assemblage of different individuals that were at the summit. He spoke about a study of people who bought and sold houses in the high hazard areas. Councilman Butler spoke regarding Muscovy ducks. He stated he would pass along the contact information for someone who does humane removal. He also spoke regarding Mr. Pollock's comments. Deputy Mayor Murphy spoke regarding the survey that was conducted regarding Muscovy ducks. He spoke regarding an interactive map of properties and projects. Councilman Jonas also spoke regarding Muscovy ducks. He stated we have a beautiful river and we need to use it to our advantage. Mayor Davis thanked staff for their extra effort on the bids. City Manager Manns spoke regarding Mr. Pollock's letter that he submitted to Council. She stated that it warranted a fair response. She stated he will receive a response. She stated she is disappointed he did not remember the conversation he had with her about grant funds for his sign. She spoke regarding Mr. Gilliss' comments about property assemblage. She stated she does intend to hold a strategy session with Council about the redevelopment of the properties and the meeting will be open to the public. She stated that updates on projects can be put on the website. She also addressed Mr. Webb's comments about the Muscovy ducks.

14 Adjournment

There being no further business to consider, upon proper motion, the meeting adjourned at 7:16 p.m.

(signed) _____
Judy Meyers, MMC, City Clerk

Approved: _____ (date)

Initialed: _____