



**MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION**  
**CITY OF NEW PORT RICHEY**

**NEW PORT RICHEY CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS**  
**5919 MAIN STREET, NEW PORT RICHEY, FLORIDA**

**January 12, 2017**  
**7:00 PM**

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**ORDER OF**  
**BUSINESS**

- 1 Call to Order - Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Rob Marlowe at 7:00 pm. Those in attendance were, Deputy Mayor Bill Phillips, Councilwoman Judy DeBella Thomas, City Manager Debbie Manns and City Clerk Judy Meyers. Councilman Jeff Starkey and Councilman Chopper Davis were excused.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

- 2 2017 Legislative Delegation Priorities - Page 2

City Manager Manns introduced the item to Council. She stated the purpose of the work session was for Council to discuss its top priorities to be presented before the Pasco County Legislative Delegation at their meeting on January 18, 2017.

Mayor Marlowe asked Deputy Mayor Phillips if he would make the presentation to the delegation and Deputy Mayor agreed. City Manager Manns stated she could be available to go if that was the pleasure of the Council. City Manager Manns then made a presentation to Council regarding staff's top priorities including supporting of the CRA for redevelopment and revitalization, transportation funding as municipalities have limited funds for road projects, communications services tax and local business tax protection as these funds are essential to providing local municipal services and the city should have diversified revenue base, opposing legislation that limits impact fees and transportation concurrency, supporting public records law reform to minimize harassing requests by individuals trying to achieve financial gain, supporting legislation for cancers suffered in the line of duty as this could have a big impact on workers compensation claims, effective public notice as current public notice includes newspaper and publication notices. During 2016 fiscal year the city spent in excess of \$30,000 in advertising fees. The next item was advocating for additional state aid for libraries as funding has decreased since 2001 and is currently less than \$25,000 per year, and finally the pedestrian walkway project, parking garage and multi-use path project.

Council then discussed the items that were presented. Mayor Marlowe began by stating that the

parking garage would be the top priority. Councilwoman DeBella Thomas stated she would like to see the continued funding for Main Street Programs by potentially re-allocating funding from Visit Florida to local cities instead. She would also like to see environmentally friendly dedicated parking areas. Mayor Marlowe stated that Oldsmar has four charging stations and charges a flat fee of \$1.00 to charge. Mayor Marlowe stated that looking into charging stations may be a good idea as some of the models are relatively inexpensive.

Deputy Mayor Phillips stated that in regards to the CRA, in the past we have encouraged to look at neighborhood improvement districts. Mr. Iezzoni came forward to state that in regards to the CRA it is a valuable tool in redevelopment. The CRA allows for flexibility including public/private partnerships. There is a significant gap within the different areas in the city. Deputy Mayor Phillips stated we turned CRA into a debt service vehicle and need to bring back to a traditional CRA setting. He stated the majority of the delegation has been involved in local governments and they are aware of the issues associated with moving cities forward. Mr. Iezzoni stated the important thing to focus in on how the CRA from a legislative standpoint can broaden its language to further facilitate it from the banking perspective.

Deputy Mayor Phillips stated that transportation funding should also add stormwater funding. He also suggested using the broader term of roadway improvements. Any time a road project is done stormwater needs to be added because water needs to be displaced. Communications tax and business protection continue to evolve due to cell phones. The City in the past has used these revenue streams in the past and could be re-encumbered.

Deputy Mayor Phillips stated that the firefighter disability needs to be better defined. Unfunded mandates need to be better defined. Deputy Mayor Phillips brought up the use of tourist dollars. Mr. Iezzoni stated to compel the legislature to change the language of what the dollars can be used for as our society has changed and places are not funding arenas and stadiums anymore.

Councilwoman DeBella Thomas stated that many small cities have small historic downtowns and it would be costly to recreate them. The resources that can be garnered in terms of historic places, theaters, etc. continue to shrink the budget in the office in Tallahassee. Need to preserve the Main Street Program and to insert a comment to preserve the Main Street Program.

Deputy Mayor Phillips stated that the conversation with Senator Latvala about the pedestrian walkway should have been at Main Street and not Marine Parkway. Parking garage is a top priority. He suggested mentioning the Grey Preserve from an eco-tourism perspective. Elements discussed back in 2014-2015 included reclaimed water expansion, Marine District improvements, boat ramp parking, municipal pension reform, cities ability to recover costs for blight removal and continued allocation for the beautification of US19.

Mayor Marlowe asked Mr. Iezzoni to explain the business grant program. Mr. Iezzoni explained the three different programs that are available including building façade, leasehold program and second story exterior.

Council then conducted a brief discussion regarding the upcoming Chasco Fiesta, Capital Improvement Program, Penny for Pasco funds, parking garage and upcoming budget season.

3 Adjournment

There being no further business to consider, upon proper motion, the meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm.

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

Initialed: \_\_\_\_\_ Judy Meyers, City Clerk