



**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**

**June 6, 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 Jeff Starkey, Councilman Bill Phillips, Councilwoman Judy DeBella Thomas and Councilman Chopper Davis.

Also in attendance were City Manager Debbie Manns, City Attorney Timothy Driscoll, City Clerk Judy Meyers, Chief of Police Kim Bogart, Finance Director Crystal Feast, Development Director Lisa Fierce, Fire Chief Chris Fitch, Economic Development Director Mario Iezzoni, Public Works Director Robert Rivera, Assistant Library Director Ann Scott, Parks and Recreation Director Elaine Smith, Technology Solutions Director Bryan Weed, Human Resources Manager Bernie Wharran and Assistant to the City Manager Martin Murphy.

**2 Pledge of Allegiance**

**3 Moment of Silence**

**4 Approval of May 16, 2017 Regular Meeting and Work Session Minutes**

Motion was made to approve the minutes as presented.

Motion made by Chopper Davis and seconded by Judy DeBella Thomas. The Motion Passed. 5-0.  
Ayes: Davis, DeBella Thomas, Marlowe, Phillips, Starkey

**5 Proclamation - Playful City USA**

Mayor Marlowe read the proclamation congratulating the Parks and Recreation Department on receiving the Playful City USA designation for the ninth consecutive year. Parks and Recreation Director Elaine Smith accepted the parchment.

**6 Proclamation - World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (By Title Only)**

Mayor Marlowe read the proclamation by title only.

7 Proclamation - Reverend Betty Batey Retirement (By Title Only)

Mayor Marlowe read the proclamation by title only.

8 Vox Pop for Items Not Listed on the Agenda or Listed on Consent Agenda

Mayor Marlowe opened the floor for public comment. John Kane came forward to speak. He stated that he wanted to thank the City Manager and Deputy Mayor Starkey for getting him the information he wanted. He stated ordinances deal with specific matters. Everything he spoke to last time was in the Charter. The City Manager reports to Council. He has been coming here for thirty-four years to speak. He acts on his own behalf.

Dr. Laura Kinhead came forward to speak. She stated there was a rash of vandalism in the downtown area. Thieves have stolen half the plants off of her property. She suggested getting cameras in the downtown along Grand Blvd.

Lou Parillo came forward to speak. He wanted to ask a few things about the Hacienda. Could we open it partially and take the fence down? Read a developer to develop it incrementally. Suggested getting the ballroom back to its original splendor. Can we find money in budget to get this done. Council is forward thinkers.

With no one else coming forward for public comment, Mayor Marlowe closed Vox Pop. Councilman Davis stated he was aware of Dr. Kinhead's problem and would like to see cameras along Grand and down Main. Mayor Marlowe asked to get numbers as we go into budget season. Councilman Davis asked Economic Development Director Mario Iezzoni to address the Hacienda comments. Mr. Iezzoni stated there is a plan to get the first floor open and active. Waiting on grant funding after the governor signs off on the budget. The small matching grant will shell out the building. The fence will come down once the windows and doors are done. Hopefully in the next year to year in a half.

Councilwoman DeBella Thomas stated the vision of the building lets itself so beautifully with the renaissance of the city. However best to eliminate the fence. Heading into busy season now in the park and it is not very nice looking with the fencing. Discussion with merchants regarding cameras in the downtown a year or two ago.

Councilman Phillips stated the summer of 2018 is unacceptable. Lose momentum when it is not accessible. Move fence closer to the building. What happens next year if we don't get grant funding. He would like to make it accessible so people can walk through it. Spent last five years looking like elements could not be done. Now projects are finished or underway. In regards to cameras work on public-private partnership with Southgate to give impression that people are watching what is going on. Time to add cameras to the platform. The Hacienda just does not play well with him personally and has made his thoughts known.

Deputy Mayor Starkey stated he was in favor of the cameras as long as the business owners agree to it. He asked City Attorney Driscoll for clarification to Mr. Kane's comments. City Attorney Driscoll stated the Charter provides that Council will make the decisions by ordinance and that is what has been done legally in 1995. When home rule was enacted all Charters became ordinances by law. Deputy Mayor Starkey stated he wants the Hacienda open as well but we can't force a developer to come in. Can't renovate it just like a shopping center. Are we looking for private funds or try to budget the city to fund it.

Councilwoman DeBella Thomas agreed with Councilman Phillips' comment about moving the fencing back towards the building. Mr. Iezzoni stated looking at other options in regards to fencing. Mr.

Iezzoni stated \$1.2 million to open the first floor. Councilman Phillips stated that the report Mr. Iezzoni referred to was from last year. It is a conversation that needs to be had. All people are asking for is what it will take to make this area accessible. Already answered the question that the city wants to be involved in the project for a long time. He spoke to the City Attorney about a referendum during last election cycle. What can we do to enhance development capabilities. Chief Fitch stated that the structure needs to be deemed safe and meets all codes.

Mayor Marlowe asked City Manager to get the figures of what it would cost and then discuss at a work session.

9     Consent Agenda

Motion was made to accept the Consent Agenda.

Motion made by Chopper Davis and seconded by Judy DeBella Thomas. The Motion Passed. 5-0.  
Ayes: Davis, DeBella Thomas, Marlowe, Phillips, Starkey

- a     Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Minutes - April 2017
- b     Purchases/Payments for City Council Approval

10    Public Reading of Ordinances

- a     Second Reading, Ordinance No. 2017-2115 Amendments to Section 14-23 of the City Noise Ordinance to Address Portable Microphones

City Attorney Driscoll read the proposed ordinance by title only. City Manager Manns stated the purpose of this agenda item was to specifically address megaphones at public events. Upon opening the floor to public comment, no one came forward therefore Mayor Marlowe returned the floor to Council. Councilman Phillips stated he appreciated Chief Bogart's attention on this matter and then proceeded to speak about the gentleman who was at the concert the past weekend. Councilwoman DeBella Thomas stated she hears what is being said and distressed by the noise but still feels it is a first amendment right. Mayor Marlowe stated that the ordinance is not restricting first amendment just keeping the volume down. Motion was made to approve the ordinance upon its second and final reading.

Motion made by Bill Phillips and seconded by Jeff Starkey. The Motion Passed. 4-1. Ayes: Davis, Marlowe, Phillips, Starkey Nays: DeBella Thomas

11    Business Items

- a     Second Amendment to the NPR Surplus Water and O&M Agreement Tampa Bay Water- Consideration for Approval

City Manager Manns introduced the item to Council. She stated that the purpose of this agenda item was to execute a second amendment to the agreement between the City and Tampa Bay Water in regards to the operation and maintenance costs of the treatment plant. Suzannah Folsom from Tampa Bay Water made a brief presentation to Council. She stated that Tampa Bay Water provides 165 million gallons a day. The original agreement that was negotiated included complex calculations. There were some improvements that were made. At the end of the year the City would have to go back and recalculate the costs on actual costs. The first amendment was done in 2009. Made the calculation adjustable. Now calculations are based on the year 1967 instead of 1913. The second amendment has the new calculations. New rate will be \$.60/1,000 gallons. Upon opening the floor to public comment, no one came forward therefore Mayor Marlowe returned the floor to Council. Mayor Marlowe stated

he is on the Board of Tampa Bay Water but the City Attorney has advised there is no conflict. Councilwoman DeBella Thomas stated she appreciated the due diligence by bringing this to the city's attention. Councilman Phillips stated anything that can be done to reduce ground pumping. Better not to take down the aquifer. Motion was made to approve the item as presented.

Motion made by Bill Phillips and seconded by Judy DeBella Thomas. The Motion Passed. 5-0.

Ayes: Davis, DeBella Thomas, Marlowe, Phillips, Starkey

b KIAFest Main Street Blast Alcoholic Beverage Special Event

City Manager Manns introduced the item to Council. She stated that the purpose of this agenda item was to approve an ABSEP for New Port Richey Main Street's KIAFest Main Street Blast. The specific proposal is for June 30 and July 1st. The request is to sell alcohol on Friday from 5-11pm and on Saturday from noon-11pm. The event organizers have since submitted the hold harmless and insurance.

Upon opening the floor to public comment, no one came forward therefore Mayor Marlowe returned the floor to Council. Councilwoman DeBella Thomas stated that NPR Main Street has been working with veterans to have them view the fireworks in a safe location to accommodate them. Councilman Phillips stated they need to take out Cavalaire Square out of the special event functions. Ms. Smith stated that NPR Main Street submitted this request on an old application. New application has that omitted. Deputy Mayor Starkey reiterated he wanted a work session with organizers, bars and restaurants. Look at events to benefit residents and business owners. Councilman Davis would like to see the park as a whole and not as each event comes along. Mayor Marlowe stated that being at the hospitality meeting the Main Street group seemed receptive. Glad to see new sod put down. Motion was made to approve the item as presented.

Motion made by Chopper Davis and seconded by Judy DeBella Thomas. The Motion Passed. 5-0.

Ayes: Davis, DeBella Thomas, Marlowe, Phillips, Starkey

c Allocation of Penny for Pasco Proceeds

City Manager Manns introduced the item to Council. She stated that the purpose of this agenda item was to dedicate an allocation as it relates to the second "bucket" funding more commonly referred to as Penny for Pasco funds. First bucket had three categories. In December 2014 set percentage for each funding category. In 2015 Council established proceeds to Penny for Pasco 2 funds. Council came up with eight categories. The percentage recommendations that are outlined in the agenda item. She then went through each category and percentage. City estimate \$2 million a year through 2024. The percentage allocation does not have to be precise but in conclusion of the funding cycle they will need to be in compliance.

Upon opening the floor to public comment, no one came forward therefore Mayor Marlowe returned the floor to Council. Councilman Davis asked why we were setting percentages so far in advance. Can we look at a few years. City Manager Manns stated this was done by resolution but the funding mechanism calls for a distribution formula. Ms. Feast stated the previous resolution and funding is what was done previously.

Mayor Marlowe stated that a future City Council could amend the resolution. Sets a guide for staff.

Councilman Phillips stated back when the first Penny funds were needed we wanted the electorate to know that when the money came in it was going to be reinvested in the community. Everyone saw the benefits of the first Penny. When the second Penny came around. He stated he appreciated Councilman Davis' comments but staff needs it to be systematic. He has been adamant about how to direct the city with no game plan. Leveraging dollars to push projects out that haven't been progressive enough about. Economic Development and public facilities can be leveraged with grant funding. He stated if only allocate for projects for the next five years that's fine but at end of the day public trust that when \$2 million comes in it is being used appropriately. Have the tool and know where it's funding.

Councilman Davis stated we should look at two years or three not on Council's in 2024. He suggested conducting a work session instead.

Councilwoman DeBella Thomas stated she looks at this as a guide and it is not carved in stone. Not necessarily a problem.

Mayor Marlowe stated that this is a guide.

Deputy Mayor Starkey stated he doesn't need a work session. Staff needs a guide. Can change next year to move percentages around.

Motion was made to approve the item as presented.

Motion made by Jeff Starkey and seconded by Judy DeBella Thomas. The Motion Passed. 5-0.  
Ayes: Davis, DeBella Thomas, Marlowe, Phillips, Starkey

d Request to Purchase Two Portable Radios

City Manager Manns introduced the item to Council. She stated that the purpose of this agenda item was to approve the purchase of two portable radios. The radios would be purchased with forfeiture funds. Upon opening the floor to public comment, no one came forward therefore Mayor Marlowe returned the floor to Council. Motion was made to approve the item as presented.

Motion made by Bill Phillips and seconded by Chopper Davis. The Motion Passed. 5-0. Ayes: Davis, DeBella Thomas, Marlowe, Phillips, Starkey

e Request to Purchase Mobile Fingerprint Identification Devices

City Manager Manns introduced the item to Council. She stated that the purpose of this agenda item was to approve the purchase of three mobile fingerprint devices. A donation of \$2,000 came in from the Elks Lodge, \$2,000 from an anonymous doner and the remainder would come from forfeiture funds to cover the cost of this agenda item. Upon opening the floor to public comment, no one came forward therefore Mayor Marlowe returned the floor to Council. Motion was made to approve the item as presented.

Motion made by Judy DeBella Thomas and seconded by Chopper Davis. The Motion Passed. 5-0.  
Ayes: Davis, DeBella Thomas, Marlowe, Phillips, Starkey

f Board Appointment: Dawn Curinga, Cultural Affairs Committee

This item was pulled from the agenda.

Motion made by and seconded by . The Motion Withdrawn. 0-0.

g Three Minute Report: Development Department

12 Communications

Mayor Marlowe stated that Public Works has been doing speed checks on River Road. He does not see speed problem. He reminded Council about the proposed temporary road diet on Grand Blvd. coming in October. Monday afternoon met with homeless coalition talking about homeless navigation center at the old Boys and Girls Club. Getting them housed and safe and then integrate into society. Looking to open the facility next summer. Some months back had discussion with the landscape architect with the downtown trees and he was not a fan of palms however looking at the palms that have

been planted, he concedes he was wrong. Look down Grand from Main at the palm trees the palms were the right decision. He would like a discussion on outdoor dining and small tables out on sidewalk. Historically there needs to be a fence around it. If you look at ordinances there is nothing that requires that. Would like to see it tried in a few places similar to what the ice cream and cupcake shop are doing.

Deputy Mayor Starkey stated that there is the flagpole on Grand Blvd. but not in the park. He stated there needs to be one perhaps by the band shell. City Manager Manns stated that staff is working on three flagpoles and they will be established in a month. He received a message on Facebook from someone who was fined \$500 for a food truck. Police Chief is collecting facts. City Manager Manns stated that Council will need to give direction whether to allow food trucks. City Manager Manns stated staff is collecting sample ordinances and a formal recommendation will be advanced in the near future. Finally he was e-mailed regarding a water bill. Mr. Rivera stated that the meter was read in error and that it has been taken care of.

Councilwoman DeBella Thomas there a lot inquiry about flags in and around downtown. People are interested in launching flags on the streetlights. She congratulated the Parks and Recreation Department for the Playful City USA designation. Thanked those who corresponded over the last week and asked to please sign your name to e-mails and contact number so she can return calls and e-mails. When there is disagreement or miscommunication applaud the fact that we can express our opinion and ideas and although may not come to an agreeable conclusion nice to have that exchange of communication.

Councilman Phillips stated he did not get update on Dr. Grassin request for the bridge. He is looking for an update on Central Avenue and River Road for quieting mechanisms. He hopes that Playful City will get kids out to play in the city and get on recreation youth board as we need next wave of leadership. He attended the City cleanup and concert on Saturday. The new shade structures are in place are a net benefit and they were throwing shade to three quarters of the area. He would like the West Pasco Board of Realtors to come and give a presentation about New Port Richey. Want to know what's going on in our own backyard. The Property Appraiser has given preliminary numbers and he's not impressed. Find out what we need to do with Penny fund and strategic plan how to make programs work. Not a big sense of community on Grand Blvd. as it looks good in some areas and then desolate in others. He brought attention to the snipe signs about a program fostered through a HVAC business. He thinks it may be a scam. Code is on top of it. He just wanted to let residents know we are on top of it and doing the best they can.

City Manager Manns thanked Ann Scott for her dedication to city and wished well on her new job.

### 13 Adjournment

There being no further business to consider, upon proper motion, the meeting adjourned at 8:49 pm.

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

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

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