



**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**

**July 18, 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, Library Director Andi Figart, 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 July 5, 2017 Regular Meeting Minutes**

Councilwoman DeBella Thomas stated that a correction needed to be made in the minutes from the Communications section of the City Council meeting from July 5, 2017. Reference was made to the Florida League of Cities (FLC) when it should have referenced Suncoast League of Cities (SLC.) Motion was made to approve the minutes with the noted correction.

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

**5 Presentation of Flags for Sims Park by the VFW Post 79**

Mayor Marlowe and Public Works Director Robert Rivera accepted the American, State of Florida and POW flags from Ed White and John Herig of the American Legion Paradise Post 79 to be flown in Sims Park.

**\*\*The flags were donated by the American Legion Paradise Post 79 and not the VFW Post 79 as stated on the agenda\*\***

- 6 Swearing-In of New Firefighters: Robert McCarthy, Corbin Mitchell and John Webber

This item was deferred until the August 1, 2017 regular City Council meeting.

- 7 Swearing-In of New Police Officers: Jessica Hauck, Tyler Sabo and Patrick Volpe

This item was withdrawn from the agenda.

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

Mayor Marlowe opened the floor for public comment. No one came forward to speak therefore Mayor Marlowe closed Vox Pop.

- 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 Environmental Committee Minutes - May 24, 2017
- b Firefighters' Pension Board Minutes - March 14, 2017
- c Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Minutes - May 9, 2017
- d Police Pension Board Minutes - April 25, 2017
- e Purchases/Payments for City Council Approval

- 10 Public Reading of Ordinances

- a First Reading, Ordinance No. 2017-2117 Flood Damage Prevention

City Attorney Driscoll read the proposed ordinance by title only. City Manager Manns introduced the item to Council. She stated that the purpose of this agenda item was to in relation to national flood insurance rating system and to continue our good rating. A recent audit was done and recommendation made that we change some language to include delineation of flood areas in final plats and re-plats. The proposed ordinance was approved by LDRB on June 22nd. Upon opening the floor to public comment, no one came forward therefore Mayor Marlowe returned the floor to Council. Councilwoman DeBella Thomas stated that this was very timely due to the recent weather we have been having. Motion was made to approve the ordinance upon its first reading.

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

- b Second Reading, Ordinance No. 2017-2120 Temporary Moratorium on Wireless Facilities in Public Rights-of-Way

City Attorney Driscoll read the proposed ordinance by title only. City Manager Manns presented the item to Council. She stated that the purpose of this agenda item was to conduct a second reading of an ordinance which would place a 180 day moratorium on wireless communication facilities in public rights-of-way in order to allow staff time to study the new legislation and prepare code amendments as

needed. 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 ordinance upon its second and final reading.

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

11 Business Items

a Annual Membership Drive - Recreation & Aquatic Center

City Manager Manns introduced Parks and Recreation Director Elaine Smith who presented the item to Council. She stated the purpose of this agenda item was to authorize the annual sale of memberships for the Recreation & Aquatic Center. The request is to approve a 20% reduction on annual memberships from December 18, 2017 through January 14, 2018. This agenda item is being presented early in order to increase marketing efforts. Mayor Marlowe asked how will this timeline fit in with the completion of the expansion project and Ms. Smith replied that the full project will be done by December and that we would remain open as we are now and will coincide with the grand re-opening along with promoting gift certificates for the holidays. Upon opening the floor to public comment, no one came forward therefore Mayor Marlowe returned the floor to Council. Councilwoman DeBella Thomas stated that she was at the Rec Center the other day and there is a level of excitement. Deputy Mayor Starkey stated he wanted to see a marketing emphasis on the improvements and childcare area. Ms. Smith stated that yes there will be an emphasis along with promoting the private party rooms. Councilwoman DeBella Thomas stated the Chamber has a new resident packet and perhaps we can insert the parks guide into that. Councilman Phillips asked if there was an opening date in December or a range of time. Ms. Smith replied that we are anticipating January as December is busy with the holidays. It will be more like an open house event on a Saturday to tour and meet instructors and buy memberships. Councilman Phillips suggested splitting it up into a three day function Friday, Saturday and Sunday and target residents to come and coordinate with utility billing customers. Motion was made to approve the item as presented.

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

b Alcoholic Beverage Special Event - Caribbean Food & Music Fest

City Manager Manns introduced the item to Council. She stated the purpose of this agenda item was to authorize an alcoholic beverage special event permit for a Caribbean Food & Music Fest hosted by Dulcet. The organizers are requesting to sell alcohol on Saturday August 26th from noon-11PM. This is the second year for the event. The SET team has reviewed the event and approved.

Upon opening the floor to public comment, Nelson Ohioin came forward and stated the whole point is to make New Port Richey more attractive. Last year there was about 500 people and anticipating a larger crowd this year as there is no charge for the event. With no one else coming forward therefore Mayor Marlowe returned the floor to Council. Councilman Davis asked for the event to be put up on the LED screens in Sims Park. Deputy Mayor Starkey stated he was happy to hear it will be family friendly and asked what kind of beer will be served whether it was craft beer. Councilwoman DeBella Thomas stated it was well done last year. Motion was made to approve the item as presented.

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

c 2016/2017 Sanitary Sewer Gravity Lining Project Close Out

City Manager Manns introduced the item to Council. She stated the purpose of this agenda item was to approve a deductive change order in the amount of \$25,991 and a final pay request in the amount of \$45,483.50. This is an annual maintenance program. Upon opening the floor to public comment, no

one came forward therefore Mayor Marlowe returned the floor to Council. Councilman Phillips stated that this is a pretty substantial savings and if we have dollars why not come back and do another series or gauge add on. He asked how it could be better use of contractor and staff time. Mr. Ribera replied that we do not have staff or equipment to devote for a big cost project where a contractor could stay here for longer time. This is piggybacked off other municipal contracts. 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

d Wastewater Treatment Plant/Water Treatment Plant Bulk Chemicals Purchases

City Manager Manns introduced the item to Council. She stated the purpose of this agenda item was to award bids to cover four chemicals used at the WWTP. The four bids are recommended based on low cost and that we have verified the performance standards of what we are purchasing. Asking to award Allied Universal, Thatcher Company Incorporated, Hawkins Inc. and to reject Sterling's bid based on failed performance standards as specified in the bid documents and award to Fort Bend Services instead. 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 Chopper Davis and seconded by Judy DeBella Thomas. The Motion Passed. 5-0.  
Ayes: Davis, DeBella Thomas, Marlowe, Phillips, Starkey

e Resolution No. 2017-21 & No. 2017-22, Initial Assessment Resolutions - Stormwater Utility & Street Lighting

City Attorney Driscoll read both resolutions by title only. City Manager Manns introduced the item to Council. She stated that the purpose of this agenda item was to approve the initial resolutions for the stormwater and streetlight assessments. Rate studies were presented in June. This item will be followed by public hearing to consider the assessments. Upon opening the floor to public comment, no one came forward therefore Mayor Marlowe returned the floor to Council. Councilman Phillips stated as we finish the budget process with the lighting we had the dark areas that are covered and in both accounts if any rollover dollars to have them identified as this is much like a user fee like Penny 4 Pasco funds so people know that the money collected is reinvested. Mayor Marlowe reminded staff of the dark area at Jefferson and Central. Motion was made to approve the resolutions as presented.

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

f Proposed Pavement Management Plan

City Manager Manns introduced the item to Council. She stated that the purpose of this agenda item was to request moving forward with the implementation of the proposed Pavement Management Plan (PMP). We have been studying this matter since December 2014. Fair and equitable method to share the cost. Prioritize roadway maintenance improvement. Staff brought recommendation June 20, 2017 but may not have represented all the variables so staff revised recommendations. She then turned the presentation of the item over to Public Works Director Robert Rivera. He stated that variables that were looked at since the work session included reviewing the multi-use category, tier levels, church classification, review Indiana as arterial/collector road, Van Buren as arterial/collector road, Forest Avenue as arterial/collector road.

David Fleeman from Genesis then made a presentation to Council on the updated plan. He began his presentation by stating the objectives of the PMP. He then discussed the history of the old paving assessment program. He stated that the Board of Equalization varied from project to project and

created inequality over time. The Citizens Advisory Committee's directive was to simplify the methodology, not burden neighborhood businesses, consider city as interconnected roadways and include every residential unit. Land use changed to residential and non-residential. Four levels included less than 5,000, 5,000-9,999, 10,000-24,999 and over 25,000. Non-residential includes mixed use, non-profit, retail/commercial, office and warehouse. Roadway divided into arterial/collector and local roads. Arterial/collector annual maintenance 1 is /20 of engineer's opinion then deduct \$200,000 and LOGT dollars. City Council then discussed the classifications for apartment complexes and Main Street Landings. Mr. Fleeman then continued his presentation and discussed the exemption and appeal to City Manager however pointed out that appeal would be to reviewing methodology application. Mr. Fleeman also stated that a credit would be given based on remaining useful life of roadway provided to parcels who participated in prior street assessment program. It would be a prorated cost. Councilman Phillips stated the appeal process to City Manager is fine but needs to be process to come to Council. At the end of day Council sets policy. There has been inadequacy over the last thirty years. He asked if there will be an assessment for local road incremental charge back to homeowner for local street. He staed getting to a set revenue stream important. Catch up on things that haven't been done. Mr. Fleeman continued by saying that alleys are special circumstance and should be excluded from plan. No consensus among residents. Create an alley improvement policy and guideline criteria to address improvements. Councilman Phillips complimented the maps used in the agenda packet which shows the boundaries.

Upon opening the floor to public comment, Lisa Tinker came forward and stated that this is another tax don't want it to be like the lottery. The money using towards the roads that it is going to stay there. Mayor Marlowe replied Pasco County changed allocation for gas tax and if we don't spend money on roads we don't get money in the next year. Need to show road projects being done. Can't take assessment money and spend on other city departments and projects. Councilman Phillips stated he would like to put in ordinance form instead of resolution. Utilize this to drive down ad valorem rate for this year. Want to give peace of mind. With no one else coming forward, Mayor Marlowe returned the floor to Council.

Deputy Mayor Starkey agreed with Councilman Phillips that residents should be able to come to Council to seek relief. He thanked Genesis and the Citizens Advisory Committee for all of their hard work. The initial plan did not address issues.

Mayor Marlowe stated that roads were the big issue in his re-election campaign and this gives opportunity to address concerns. He agreed with Deputy Mayor Starkey that mixed use gets charged for commercial. Disagreed that business have no responsibility for local and collector. Need to pay their fair share. Agreed with appeal process.

Councilman Davis stated that the only thing that can appeal is residential, multi use or commercial. Decided at County level can't really appeal anything. City Attorney Driscoll stated they can show evidence they are classified incorrect. Councilman Davis stated he did not want to go any further without mixed use being addressed.

Councilwoman DeBella Thomas stated kicking alley situation down the road. If explore options will everyone have to agree. Mr. Rivera stated that they will start working on guidelines and it will be a priority. Councilwoman stated she was curious to know how many streets have alley issues.

Councilman Phillips stated that alleyways needs assessment to identiy conditions. Identify those residents who have captured the end of the alleyway and have turned it into their yard as there are a few on Lafayette and the one that dead ends at apartment complex on Indiana. Unique classifications for dead end areas.

Councilman Davis stated he wanted to reiterate that 100% of the tax money is going to roads. City Attorney Driscoll corrected that this is a fee and not a tax as Council can only impose a fee and not a tax.

Motion was made to approve the item as presented.

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

g Three Minute Report: Fire Department

12 Communications

Communications and reports were deferred until after the conclusion of the CRA meeting.

13 Adjournment

There being no further business to consider, upon proper motion, the meeting adjourned at 8:19 pm.

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

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

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