



**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**

**August 22, 2017**

**6:00 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 6:00 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 Clerk Judy Meyers, 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, Assistant to the City Manager Martin Murphy and Assistant Public Works Director Barret Doe.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**2**      **Budget Discussion - Capital Improvement Program - Page 2**

City Manager Manns introduced the item to Council. She stated the purpose of the work session was to introduce the Capital Improvement Project budget for the upcoming fiscal year. The total amount of the proposed budget is \$13,461,000. City Manager Manns stated that an updated copy of the CIP budget had been distributed to each of the Council members which outline the four funds that were changed. City Manager Manns then introduced Public Works Director Robert Rivera who then made a presentation to Council on the upcoming projects for the fiscal year.

Councilman Phillips noted that the summary of construction activity was generic and highlight points but asked if staff could identify and itemize elements so that there were more substance. Mr. Rivera then continued with his presentation of the projects proposed starting with the general fund.

General Fund projects included:

- police department generator and shade structure replacement estimated at \$80,000

- senior center roof replacement estimated at \$22,000
- recreation center storage fencing replacement estimated at \$10,000

Councilman Phillips stated he would like to understand if not funding \$430,000 for an additional slide would diminish the amenity for the pool overall. Councilwoman DeBella Thomas asked if there will be a door that leads out to the pool deck from the new activity room and City Manager Manns stated yes. Deputy Mayor Starkey asked about the use of the current slide and Ms. Smith replied some days the line is back to the pool deck.

Stormwater Utility Fund projects included:

- miscellaneous flood control/water quality projects estimated at \$300,000
- 2016/2017 Hemlock Drive stormwater improvements estimated at \$70,000 with \$30,000 from SWFMD funds
- 2017/2018 Maple Street stormwater improvements partially funded with grants
- Meadow Woods stormwater improvements

Councilwoman DeBella Thomas asked about the photo in the power point and Mr. Rivera stated it was just a stock photo to show what it would like after the project was complete. Councilman Phillips asked about putting in the new road on Madison and then having to come back to redo after the improvements and Mr. Rivera stated no that staff already has a plan in place to address that. Councilman Phillips asked what pot were the RESTORE Funds from and Mr. Rivera stated he would look into it and report back to Council.

Capital Improvement Fund - Penny for Pasco 2 projects included:

- Meadows Dog Park upgrades estimated at \$460,000
- Recreation and Aquatic Center facility expansion
- James E. Grey Preserve expansion
- 2016/2017 Frances Avenue restroom upgrades
- tennis court improvements
- Jasmin Park and Frances Avenue Park upgrades
- Grand Blvd. Park playground and restroom upgrades
- gateway entry sign
- skate park project
- Olympic sized competition swimming pool
- central fire station relocation
- Sims Park boat ramp improvements to be done in multiple phases but phase I will be for the police boat lift
- seawall stabilization phase I and II
- Main St. Bridge improvements
- facility and renovation upgrades to City Hall and the Library
- Orange Lake restoration
- Downtown parking structure
- Wayfinding signage
- Grand Blvd. multi-use path
- 2018/2019 streetscape
- Grand Blvd. sidewalk improvements
- Plummer Field parking

Councilman Davis stated he had a problem putting a half million dollars into a dog park. Councilman Phillips stated that the dog park and skate park improvements were almost a million dollars and asked what about improvements to Plummer Field. He stated that where the dog park is now the only benefit is that it could be connected to the Grey Preserve. Deputy Mayor stated his mother goes to the dog park regularly. He stated it was important to have a dog park for a sense of community. Mayor Marlowe stated he was not sure the dog park was in the right location. Councilman Phillips stated youth sports are underappreciated in West Pasco. Mayor Marlowe suggested conducting a work session in October or November about the dog park and little league location issue. Councilman Davis stated a few years ago one of the Rotary clubs

went in and cleaned up the ball field. He stated that not much has been done since. Councilman Davis stated that we still need to contract with County for infield dirt and sod. Councilman Davis then highlighted some of the repairs that were needed at the park. Councilwoman DeBella Thomas stated she had concerns over the conditions at the park should someone get hurt since it is city owned but county maintained. Councilwoman DeBella asked about the entry sign in the budget and City Manager Manns stated it is was put into the budget as a proposal as there has been no design work on it done yet. Councilman Davis asked why the engineering services amount doubled for the Grey Preserve and City Manager Manns stated that the grant provides for payment of 15% for engineering services. She also noted that the calculation of \$70,000 was incorrect. Councilwoman DeBella Thomas also asked about the shade element for the Grey Preserve as shade is critical in Florida. Councilman Phillips stated that people should be smart enough to get out of the heat. Mayor Marlowe reminded the rest of Council to focus back on looking at the numbers and to not get too far down into the weeds. Deputy Mayor Starkey stated he drives by Grand Blvd. Park each day and is concerned with the vagrants hanging out waiting for the restrooms to be opened. Councilman Davis stated that perhaps there should be state or county money available to put to the boat ramp improvements since we cannot limit the use to just city residents. Mayor Marlowe stated he received a request from a constituent regarding adding a color wheel to the fountain in Orange Lake. Mr. Rivera stated he would look into that proposal. Mayor Marlowe asked for a timeframe for the completion of the parking study and Mr. Rivera replied it should be complete by mid-September. Deputy Mayor Starkey asked about streetscaping along Central Avenue and Mr. Rivera stated that staff is looking at getting a consultant here to speak with Council and the public and provide input before the design phase began. Councilman Phillips stated we could look at angle parking. Mayor Marlowe said Jefferson was much better now that there is a four way stop.

#### Water and Sewer Construction Fund Projects included:

- purchasing warehouse improvements
- miscellaneous right-of-way irrigation expansion
- Grey Preserve reclaimed water expansion
- AMI meters phase III
- 2016/2017 inflow and infiltration abatement (smoke testing)
- sewer main and manhole rehabilitation
- potable and reclaimed water system extension
- bulk meter backflow prevention upgrades
- potable and reclaimed water system improvements
- 2017/2018 water utility system improvements
- 2015/2016 sewer utility system improvements
- sewer system extension - misc. projects

#### Redevelopment Fund

- Hacienda Hotel restoration project
- Hacienda exterior decorative railing improvement project

Councilman Phillips asked to note the grant funding and the Friends of the Hacienda funds as the way it looks on paper the City is funding the entire project. He would like the CIP budget to show we are looking for an active development partner. Deputy Mayor Starkey asked if any potential developers were invited to the fundraiser this Saturday. Mr. Iezzoni stated no but there are conversations with a few different developers.

#### Street Improvement Fund projects included:

- street improvement project
- traffic sign upgrades
- streetscape improvements
- neighborhood improvement project
- roadway striping project
- LED crosswalk signage and lighting
- alley needs assessments

- public charging stations

Councilwoman DeBella Thomas asked if any residents could provide improvements for the neighborhood improvement project and Mr. Rivera stated that yes their input would be appreciated. Councilman Phillips stated it may be advantageous to look at seal coating technologies that are out there in regards to the roadway striping. Mayor Marlowe stated he would like to see an additional LED crosswalk at the south end of downtown possibly by Dulcet. Councilman Davis stated there also needs to be one near the parking lot by Sims Park. The Mayor led a discussion on the different types of electric cars. He stated that the demand for charging stations is out there. Mr. Rivera also stated that by installing the charging stations it would draw people to the downtown and possibly boost businesses while their cars are charging. Councilman Phillips noted correction to be made that no assessment monies were for engineering only the LOGT. Mayor Marlowe then suggested taking a look at smaller sidewalks up and down River Road and possibly making the driving lanes smaller and the sidewalks larger.

### 3 Adjournment

There being no further business to consider, upon proper motion, the meeting adjourned at 7:59 pm.

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_ (signed)

Judy Meyers, City Clerk