



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

January 16, 2024

7:00 PM

ORDER OF
BUSINESS

1. Call to Order – Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Chopper Davis at 7:00 p.m. Those in attendance were Deputy Mayor Matt Murphy, Councilman Peter Altman, Councilman Mike Peters and Councilwoman Kelly Mothershead.

Also in attendance were City Manager Debbie L. Manns, City Attorney Timothy Driscoll, City Clerk Judy Meyers, Finance Director Crystal Dunn, Human Resources Manager Bernie Wharran, Fire Chief Chris Fitch, Public Works Director Robert Rivera, Police Chief Bob Kochen, Library Director Andi Figart, Technology and Innovations Director Robert Greene and Assistant City Manager Gregory Oravec.

2 Pledge of Allegiance

3 Moment of Silence

4 Approval of January 2, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes

Motion was made to approve the minutes as presented.

Motion made by Kelly Mothershead and seconded by Matt Murphy. The Motion Passed. 5-0. Ayes: Altman, Davis, Mothershead, Murphy, Peters

5 Proclamation - Arbor Day

Mayor Davis presented the parchment to Environmental Committee Chair Dell deChant.

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

Mayor Davis opened the floor for public comment. The following people came forward to speak:

- Shinikki Whiting, 5755 Indiana Ave., NPR thanked Chief Kochen for attending the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. event and spoke regarding Council's non-attendance.

- Zack Falvo, 6806 Jackson St., NPR spoke regarding the upcoming solid waste program.
- Judith Allen, 5940 Grand Blvd., NPR spoke regarding a Citizens Advisory Committee and Citizens Review Committee.
- Marlowe Jones, 6141 Pine Hill Rd., PR spoke regarding respect from Mayor Davis. He also thanked Chief Kochen for his attendance at the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. event.

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.

7 Consent Agenda

Motion was made to accept the Consent Agenda.

Motion made by Matt Murphy and seconded by Mike Peters. The Motion Passed. 5-0. Ayes: Altman, Davis, Mothershead, Murphy, Peters

- a Budget Amendment - Library Donation
- b Purchases/Payments for City Council Approval

8 Business Items

- a Board Re-Appointment: David Schrader, Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

City Manager Manns introduced the item to Council. She stated that the purpose of this agenda item was to approve the re-appointment of David Schrader to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. She stated that Mr. Schrader has been a member of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board since 2011 and currently serves as Chair. If approved, Mr. Schrader's term will be for three years and will be up for renewal on January 19, 2027. 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 Pete Altman and seconded by Matt Murphy. The Motion Passed. 5-0. Ayes: Altman, Davis, Mothershead, Murphy, Peters

- b Approval of Police Forfeiture Expenditures

City Manager Manns introduced Police Chief Bob Kochen who then presented the item to Council. He stated that the purpose of this agenda item was to approve Police Federal Equitable Sharing Forfeiture expenditures not to exceed \$113,900.00 and Police State Forfeiture expenditures not to exceed \$6,000.00. Staff is also requesting the Council approve the corresponding budget amendment for these forfeiture funds along with a \$9,500.00 Police K-9 donation from the Pasco Florida Kennel Club into the Police Department's F.Y. 2023/2024 budget. The itemized list of expenditures are as follows:

Federal Equitable Sharing Forfeiture Account - total expenditures \$113,900.00:

- 1) Police drone, ancillary drone equipment, drone operational computer, and pilot training costs - expenditure approval up to \$27,000.00.
- 2) Police K-9 dog, ancillary K-9 supplies and equipment - expenditure approval up to \$12,500.00.
- 3) Police upgraded pistol red-dot optic sighting system for all officers - expenditure approval up to \$15,000.00.

- 4) Police upgraded rifle red-dot optic sighting system for all officers - expenditure approval up to \$15,000.00.
- 5) Police upgraded alarm systems for police vehicles - expenditure approval up to \$17,500.00.
- 6) Police vehicle park lock switch for enhanced security of our vehicles - expenditure approval up to \$3,400.00.
- 7) Police Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) & First Aid Kits - expenditure approval up to \$5,000.00.
- 8) Police upgraded utility golf cart for events and police operations. Includes equipment and decal markings - expenditure approval up to \$18,500.00.

State Forfeiture Account - total expenditures \$6,000.00:

- 1) Police upgraded winter jackets with reflective lettering - expenditure approval up to \$6,000.00.

Reserve for Police K-9 - total expenditures \$9,500.00:

- 1) Pasco Florida Kennel Club donation to help fund the purchase of a Police K-9 - expenditure approval up to \$9,500.00.

Upon opening the floor to public comment, the following people came forward to speak:

- Marlowe Jones, 6141 Pine Hill Rd., PR asked about the total of the expenditures and the number of drones. Chief Kochen stated \$119,900.00 and one drone.

With no one else coming forward Mayor Davis returned the floor to Council. Motion was made to approve the item and corresponding budget amendment as presented.

Motion made by Pete Altman and seconded by Matt Murphy. The Motion Passed. 5-0. Ayes: Altman, Davis, Mothershead, Murphy, Peters

c Interlocal Agreement w/Pasco County RE: Disaster Response and Recovery Related Services

City Manager Manns introduced the item to Council. She stated that the purpose of this agenda item was to approve entering into an Interlocal Agreement with Pasco County for disaster response and recovery related services. Fire Chief Fitch stated the proposed agreement meets the provisions outlined in Florida Statutes. He stated the goal of the agreement is to make the most use of the powers of each of the entities in the event of a disaster. Upon opening the floor to public comment no one came forward therefore Mayor Davis returned the floor to Council. Councilman Altman spoke regarding getting a report of the homes affected from the hurricane miss and City Manager Manns stated she will forward one on to Council. Motion was made to approve the item as presented.

Motion made by Pete Altman and seconded by Kelly Mothershead. The Motion Passed. 5-0. Ayes: Altman, Davis, Mothershead, Murphy, Peters

d Bitdefender XDR Software Purchase

City Manager Manns introduced Technology Solutions Director Robert Greene who then presented the item to Council. He stated that the purpose of this agenda item was to approve a proposal for the purchase of the Bitdefender MDR and XDR software services from vTECH iO DBA Computers At Work! Inc in an amount not to exceed \$45,000. The software will be used to continue improving the City's cybersecurity efforts. Upon opening the floor to public comment, the following people came forward to speak:

- Judith Allen, 5940 Grand Blvd., NPR asked about the current software and how this will

advance. Mr. Greene stated this will provide much more services. She spoke about Smarsh and Mr. Greene stated that was for text messages.

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 Mike Peters and seconded by Pete Altman. The Motion Passed. 5-0. Ayes: Altman, Davis, Mothershead, Murphy, Peters

9 Communications

Councilwoman Mothershead stated that she has attended the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. event the last few years and she had to work yesterday. She stated that Ms. Whiting's comments that her attendance was not there because it was a black event was simply untrue. Deputy Mayor Murphy stated that he agreed with Councilwoman Motherhead's comments as we all have lives and things we have to do that did not allow for them to attend the event. He stated he attended the MPO meeting last week and was re-elected Chair. There is still talk about creating a regional MPO. Councilman Peters stated he was with his father yesterday and could not attend the event yesterday. He stated that the December 20th Suncoast News edition had an article about the LIFT Team. He stated it is a great service provided by our Police Department. He also spoke about an article about the City Manager and the activities she has been a champion for. He stated he is looking forward to visiting our legislators in Tallahassee. Councilman Altman stated he and his wife went to the Dade City Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. parade. He was encouraged to see such a turnout. He stated after the parade they assembled at the Historic Courthouse for a prayer service. He stated it was great to see a shared humanity. Councilman Altman stated he saw the resolution for the urban service area on the upcoming agenda items and he knows he still needs to submit the map. He spoke about the circles and the zones and the interest of opening up our recreation services to be better partners with the County. He stated the discussion with Cliff Shepard was helpful for all of us. He also spoke about Schwettman, the reverter clause for the Hacienda and the Richey Suncoast Theatre. Councilman Altman stated he is taking a strong stand as a councilman that the City is the end owner of the Schwettman property. He spoke regarding yard debris pickup and charging a fee for the pickup of items that cannot fit into a garbage can. He spoke about St. Leo's comments that a community garden would be good at Schwettman. He also suggested moving Tasty Tuesdays there. Mayor Davis stated Schwettman is an asset for the city. He spoke regarding his earlier comments with Mr. Jones. He spoke about the lineage of his name Alfred. Councilman Peters stated public comment is the opportunity for the public to express their views on various issues and not for a fact finding mission of staff. It is not appropriate for the public to enter into dialogues with staff. Councilman Altman suggested having the public sign a civility pledge.

10 Adjournment

There being no further business to consider, upon proper motion, the meeting adjourned at 8:04 p.m.

(signed) _____
Judy Meyers, CMC, City Clerk

Approved: _____ (date)

Initialed: _____