



**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

April 2, 2024  
6:00 PM

\*Please note the meeting times for regular city council meetings has been changed to 6:00 p.m. effective for all meetings after  
April 1, 2024.\*

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**ORDER OF**  
**BUSINESS**

1. Call to Order – Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Chopper Davis at 6:00 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, Fire Chief Chris Fitch, Public Works Director Robert Rivera, Police Chief Bob Kochen, Library Director Andi Figart, Technology and Innovations Director Robert Greene, Assistant City Manager Gregory Oravec and Human Resources Director Arnel Wetzel.

2 Pledge of Allegiance

3 Moment of Silence

4 Approval of March 19, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes

Motion was made to approve the minutes as presented.

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

5 Official Centennial Celebration Logo

6 Presentation of Years of Service Award to Mike Peters

7 Proclamation - Alcohol Awareness and Power Talk 21 Month

8 Proclamation - Water Conservation Month (By Title Only)

9 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:

- Jeff Starkey, 3751 Wiregrass Rd., NPR thanked Councilman Peters for his service to the city.

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.

10 Consent Agenda

Motion was made to accept the Consent Agenda.

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

- a Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Minutes - January 2024
- b Purchases/Payments for City Council Approval

11 Public Reading of Ordinances

- a Second Reading, Ordinance No. 2024-2293: Amending Chapter 7 of the LDC to Create an R-4 Coastal Cottage Zoning District

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 conduct a second and final reading of an ordinance to amend Chapter 7 of the Land Development Code to create an R-4 Coastal Cottage Zoning District. She then highlighted the proposed lot standards. She then introduced Senior Planner Lisa Algiere who then made a presentation to Council. Ms. Algiere began her presentation by highlighting the existing conditions. She stated this would be for residential homes. She then highlighted the setbacks. Ms. Algiere stated there would be architectural style requirements. Upon opening the floor to public comment, no one came forward therefore Mayor Davis returned the floor to Council. City Attorney Driscoll stated the architectural standards are somewhat unusual for this community but due to the reductions they can be justified. Motion was made to approve the ordinance upon its second and final reading.

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

12 Business Items

- a Consideration of Disposal of Surplus Vehicles/Equipment for Auction

City Manager Manns introduced the item to Council. She stated that the purpose of this agenda item was to authorize seven vehicles/equipment as surplus equipment and authorize staff to process the vehicles/equipment for auction using the services of The Public Group, LLC. Mr. Rivera stated that the vehicles range from 8-25 years old. There are high maintenance costs associated with all of the vehicles. Upon opening the floor to public 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 Mike Peters. The Motion Passed. 5-0. Ayes: Altman, Davis, Mothershead, Murphy, Peters

- b Resolution No. 2024-05: Adopting a Neighborhood Improvement and Community Enhancement Program (NICE)

City Attorney Driscoll read the proposed resolution by title only. City Manager Manns introduced the item to Council. She stated the purpose of this agenda was to adopt Resolution No. 2024-05 which would establish the Neighborhood Improvement and Community Enhancement Program (NICE) and approve the corresponding budget amendment to fund the NICE program for the remainder of this fiscal year. She then introduced Chief Kochen who then made a presentation to Council. He stated that the NICE grant program is an innovative approach to assist lower-income to lower-moderate income person(s) in obtaining a city grant to correct outstanding code violations. These outstanding code violations have a negative impact on the property/residence and the surrounding community. The goal of the NICE grant program is to assist homeowners unable to achieve code compliance on their own for reasons of financial hardship or physical limitations. Moreover, this grant program can help to improve the quality of life for the resident(s) obtaining the grant and the surrounding community.

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

- Bertell Butler, IV, 5335 Bellview Ave., NPR stated this provides an opportunity to have Code Enforcement show up in a positive way.

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

- c Approval of Agreement for Lien Foreclosure Services w/Matthew Weidner, PA

City Manager Manns introduced Police Chief Robert Kochen who then presented the item to Council. Chief Kochen stated the purpose of this agenda was to approve a lien foreclosure retainer agreement contract with Matthew Weidner PA. Chief Kochen stated that the City has active outstanding liens on dilapidated unoccupied/non-homestead homes and vacant land. He stated that the program objective would be to repurpose the properties for productive reuse as workforce housing. Chief Kochen then highlighted several of the properties. Chief Kochen stated Mr. Weidner has contracts with several other cities and has been doing this line of work since 1999. 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 Kelly Mothershead and seconded by Mike Peters. The Motion Passed. 5-0. Ayes: Altman, Davis, Mothershead, Murphy, Peters

## 13 Communications

Councilwoman Mothershead stated she will miss Councilman Peters. Deputy Mayor Murphy stated he has appreciated all of the hard work Councilman Peters has done. He stated he will miss him as well. Councilman Altman thanked Councilman Peters for his service. He stated he missed the opportunity to visit the planetarium but he is encouraged by the introduction of the discovery center project in the city. Councilman Altman stated that he had communication with some of the educators including St. Leo University and when we speak about stakeholders to remember the educators. He stated that Council approved a variance a while back for Mark George and it came to his attention today that his permit has been denied. He stated hopefully we can get our Code back so that the City can accept responsibility for parking. He stated if we have to revisit it as a Council he would be happy to do so. Councilman Altman stated there is some concern about the astro turf. He stated there was a group that raised some concerns about the plastics and would like to get some reassurance from the contractor. He stated the area used by the Native Americans could use some improvements. He stated next Monday the TBRPC is having a meeting and would like staff to attend. He also stated that their resiliency conference in May. Councilman Altman stated he did put a map together for the urban service area and needs to do some research regarding population. He stated it is a good opportunity to

get County money for recreation fees. He stated the County is looking to build several recreational complexes. Mayor Davis stated there is lack of knowledge regarding the artificial turf. He stated there is a lot of contact with the ground and there is no difference if it was grass. He stated high school, colleges and other sporting venues have artificial turf. He thanked Councilman Peters for his service. Councilman Peters played a video by the Florida Sports Coast which promoted New Port Richey. He stated that on the west side of US 19 by the north gateway there is a building that caught fire that needs to be demolished that is owned by the County. He suggested reaching out to the County to see if the City could demolish it and be reimbursed for the costs. He stated that the owner of Coastal Liquors stated he plans to build a fence and he has the right to do so. He stated the American Legion is not happy with it. He would like to find a way to discourage it as it would cut off walking and golf cart access. Councilman Peters spoke regarding the land use, rezoning and conditional use for 6727 Trouble Creek Rd. He stated it was his opinion that it is not the best use and urged Council to deny it. He also spoke about the proposed Sea Forest project and the need for more parking. He urged Council to see if more changes could be made to the site plan. City Manager Manns stated she is aware of the Mark George parking issue and will follow up with him. She stated she has not heard from a mother or a group of mothers about the turf that was purchased. She stated there are no PFA's in the product that was purchased and will pass documentation along to Council. City Attorney Driscoll thanked Councilman Peters for his service.

14 Adjournment

There being no further business to consider, upon proper motion, the meeting adjourned at 7:29 p.m.

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

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

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