



**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 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 Kelly Mothershead, Councilwoman Matt Murphy, Councilman Peter Altman and Councilman Bertell Butler, IV.

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 Solutions Director Mike Miller, Assistant City Manager Gregory Oravec and Human Resources Director Arnel Wetzel.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Moment of Silence

4. Approval of June 18, 2024 Work Session and Regular Meeting Minutes

Councilman Butler stated he would like to suggest two corrections to the minutes. The first was on page 7 it was missing the developer amount of 62 and page 9 he stated he had a meeting on the sign ordinance but not on the order. Motion was made to approve the minutes as amended.

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

5. Presentation - Environmental Committee Annual Report

Environmental Committee Chairman Dell deChant provided an introduction and then former-Mayor Rob Marlowe highlighted the committee's recommendations.

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

City Attorney Driscoll read aloud the rules governing Vox Pop. Mayor Davis then opened the floor for

public comment. The following people came forward to speak:

- Robin Burdick, 5417 US Highway 19, NPR spoke regarding the opening of her new restaurant, Ribticklers, in the Southgate Shopping Center and opportunities for better signage and marketing.
- Judith Allen, 5940 Grand Blvd., NPR spoke regarding her violation for logs and Special Magistrate on July 16th.

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 Bertell Butler. The Motion Passed. 5-0. Ayes: Altman, Butler, Davis, Mothershead, Murphy

- a Purchases/Payments for City Council Approval

## 8 Public Reading of Ordinances

- a Second Reading, Ordinance No. 2024-2302: Creating the Flood Risk and Preparedness Public Information Committee

City Attorney Driscoll read the proposed ordinance by title only. 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 ordinance upon its second and final reading.

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

## 9 Business Items

- a Board Appointments: Tad Clements and Kevin Robinson, Parks & Recreation Advisory Board

City Manager Manns introduced the item to Council. She stated that the purpose of this agenda item was to approve the appointments of Tad Clements and Kevin Robinson as members to the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board. If approved, their terms would be for three years and will be up for renewal on July 2, 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 Bertell Butler and seconded by Kelly Mothershead. The Motion Passed. 5-0. Ayes: Altman, Butler, Davis, Mothershead, Murphy

- b Request to Purchase Sanitary Sewer Smart Manhole Covers

City Manager Manns introduced Public Works Director Robert Rivera who then presented the item to Council. He stated that the purpose of this agenda item was to consider for approval the a proposal from Hadronex Incorporated aka SmartCover Systems in the not to exceed amount of \$66,701 for the purchase of smart sanitary sewer manhole covers. He stated this project was an in-kind project related to a consent order issued by FDEP regarding three unauthorized discharges which were due to sewer force-main breaks. 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 Matt Murphy and seconded by Kelly Mothershead. The Motion Passed. 5-0. Ayes: Altman, Butler, Davis, Mothershead, Murphy

c Grand Blvd. Bridge Water and Wastewater Utility Relocation - Engineering Services

City Manager Manns introduced Public Works Director Robert Rivera who then presented the item to Council. He stated that the purpose of this agenda item was to approve a Task Order from from Stroud Engineering, Consultants Inc. in the amount not to exceed \$91,650.00 for the proposed Grand Blvd. Bridge Water and Wastewater Utility Relocation Project. He stated that the task order includes design, permitting, plan preparation and bid documents. 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 Bertell Butler and seconded by Pete Altman. The Motion Passed. 5-0. Ayes: Altman, Butler, Davis, Mothershead, Murphy

d Resolution No. 2024-14: Opioid Settlement Matters

City Attorney Driscoll read the proposed resolution by title only. City Manager Manns introduced the item to Council. She stated that the purpose of this agenda item was twofold. First, it is to establish a claim against The Kroger Co. related to a settlement proposal to pay \$1.2 billion to states and local governments in the states where it does business to resolve the opioid claims against them. City Manager Manns stated that the Florida Attorney General has opted out of the settlement and the execution of a Participation Agreement would preserve the City's right to participate in the Kroger settlement if the Attorney General changes her mind. Secondly, the agenda item is requesting for Council to authorize the City Manager to serve on the City's behalf on all matters requiring a decision on the city's opioid claims and litigation. 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 Pete Altman. The Motion Passed. 5-0. Ayes: Altman, Butler, Davis, Mothershead, Murphy

e Resolution No. 2024-15 Travel Expenses Clarification for City Council Members

City Attorney Driscoll read the proposed resolution by title only. City Manager Manns introduced the item to Council. She stated that the purpose of this agenda item was to extend the definition of travel expenses for members of City Council in the performance of official duties specifically regarding mileage. She stated that a question was raised in respect to mileage reimbursement for attendance at ceremonial functions. She stated that the Per Diem and Travel Expense Policy does not contemplate the attendance of City Council members at events other than business meetings even though attendance at such can be said to be inherent to their responsibilities. The proposed resolution would provide eligibility for travel related expenses for attendance at either an event or function as a city representative. 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 Bertell Butler and seconded by Pete Altman. The Motion Passed. 5-0. Ayes: Altman, Butler, Davis, Mothershead, Murphy

10 Communications

Councilman Butler stated that in regards to the Environmental Committee there is a group forming for finding positive ways to influence the discouragement of polystyrene/styrofoam. Councilman Altman stated the County has voted to add two non-ad valorem assessments for roads and parks & recreation maintenance to tax bills this year. He stated we are servicing a greater group. He stated he spoke to the PA about the assessment but it is too late for the City to do anything this year but the City could negotiate with the County next year. Councilman Altman then spoke about the library issue and stated that we could consider embracing letting another County use their logo next to ours to generate

revenue. He stated he had no knowledge of a class action lawsuit in Dade City. He is looking forward to the Main Street Conference next week. Deputy Mayor Mothershead stated she thought the polystyrene/styrofoam idea was great and it could be suggested to Chasco and the other organizations who hold events. She stated we can't mandate it but can ask. She stated she had her first TDC meeting last week and the focus is on the west side of the county. She stated there was the soft opening for the resource center and they will do great things working with the city and other community organizations. She stated the Hometown Extravaganza was well attended and was a great event. She asked about the Richey Plaza sign being demolished and City Manager Manns stated that was untrue. Councilman Murphy also complimented the Hometown Extravaganza event. He stated he met with MPO staff and the City Manager and went over some target list items and got some good direction. Mayor Davis stated the events offered for the kids for the Hometown Extravaganza were great. City Manager Manns thanked Andre Julien and his staff. City Manager Manns announced that Deputy Mayor Mothershead won Public Servant of the Year at the Chamber Dinner.

11 Adjournment

There being no further business to consider, upon proper motion, the meeting adjourned at 7:03 p.m.

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

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

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