



City of North Port

4970 CITY HALL BLVD
NORTH PORT, FL 34286

Meeting Minutes City Commission Special Meeting

CITY COMMISSIONERS

Pete Emrich, Mayor
Barbara Langdon, Vice Mayor
Jill Luke, Commissioner
Debbie McDowell, Commissioner
Alice White, Commissioner

APPOINTED OFFICIALS

Jerome Fletcher, City Manager
Amber L. Slayton, City Attorney
Heather Taylor, City Clerk

Monday, April 4, 2022

2:00 PM

CITY COMMISSION CHAMBERS

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Emrich called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: 5 - Mayor Pete Emrich, Vice Mayor Barbara Langdon, Commissioner Jill Luke, Commissioner Alice White and Commissioner Debbie McDowell

Also Present

City Manager Jerome Fletcher, City Attorney Amber Slayton, Assistant City Clerk Adrian Jianelli, Recording Secretary Amanda Baker, Fire Chief Scott Titus, Police Chief Todd Garrison, Neighborhood Development Services Director Alaina Ray, and Assistant Neighborhood Development Services Director Derek Applegate

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Vice Mayor Barbara Langdon.

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Langdon, seconded by Commissioner Luke, to approve the Agenda as presented. The motion carried on the following vote:

Yes: 5 - Mayor Emrich, Vice Mayor Langdon, Commissioner Luke, Commissioner White and Commissioner McDowell

2. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Larry Tenbusch: expressed support of delaying the Tree Ordinance effective date and spoke to septic systems.

Nick Bonsky: expressed support of delaying the Tree Ordinance effective date.

Michael Larsen: expressed concern with locating trees without conducting underbrush.

Miriam Schaefer: expressed support of delaying the Tree Ordinance effective date.

3. GENERAL BUSINESS:

- A. [22-2618](#) Discussion and Possible Action to Reconsider the April 8, 2022 Effective Date of Ordinance No. 2021-46, Which Repeals and Replaces Unified Land Development Code Chapter 45 – Tree Protection Regulations; Amends Unified Land Development Code Sections 53-171, 53-182, and 53-216 Relating to Zoning Regulations in RMH Manufactured Home, NC Neighborhood Commercial, and V Village Districts; Amends Unified Land Development Code Section 61-3 – Definitions; Amends Section 2-511 Relating to Code Enforcement Fines; and Amends Appendix A – City Fee Structure.

Mayor Emrich announced the item.

Mr. Fletcher introduced the item.

Commissioner McDowell spoke to changing the effective date, staff's primary and secondary focuses, building process, outreach seminars, effects on building permits, stakeholder meeting, benefits of delaying the effective date, and recommended the staff-requested effective date.

Discussion took place regarding developers having infrastructure benefit, staff's recommendation to extend the effective date, future amendments to the Ordinance, concerns with delaying the Ordinance, current tree survey, focusing on Oak, Pine, and Palm trees, current mitigation, concerns about clear-cutting, and providing additional education about the tree survey.

Ms. Ray and Mr. Applegate answered questions regarding already-submitted surveys falling under the new Tree Ordinance, submitting a survey without a permit, providing methods for builders to easily recognize types of trees, City arborists, staff readiness, and whether the form will require the specificity of the tree.

Discussion continued regarding staff diligence and special circumstances surrounding the Ordinance.

Nick Bonsky answered questions regarding benefits of extending the effective date.

Discussion continued regarding homeowners' and builders' needs and the legal process of implementing a 45-day extension.

Ms. Slayton explained the Emergency Ordinance process.

Ms. Jianelli read the following e-Comment into the record:

Kathryn Hopkinson: supports delaying the implementation of the Tree Ordinance effective date.

Mayor Emrich requested a motion.

A motion was made by Commissioner McDowell, seconded by Commissioner Luke, to direct the City Manager, City Attorney, and staff to prepare an Emergency Ordinance changing the effective date of Ordinance No. 2021-46 to be 90 days from

adoption and to be heard at an Emergency Special Meeting on April 7, 2022.

Ms. Slayton suggested placing the effective date in the motion.

Commissioner McDowell restated her motion to read, "to direct the City Manager, City Attorney, and staff to prepare an Emergency Ordinance changing the effective date of Ordinance No. 2021-46 to May 23, 2022, and to have a Special Meeting for the Emergency Ordinance on April 7, 2022.

Discussion took place regarding possible consequences once the Ordinance is implemented, scheduling the Emergency Meeting on April 7, 2022, and the required number of votes for an Emergency Ordinance.

The motion carried on the following vote:

Yes: 4 - Mayor Emrich, Vice Mayor Langdon, Commissioner Luke and Commissioner McDowell

No: 1 - Commissioner White

Commissioner White dissented due to her belief that extending the Tree Ordinance effective date will not be beneficial.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was no public comment.

5. ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Emrich adjourned the meeting at 3:09 p.m.

City of North Port, Florida

By: _____
Pete Emrich, Mayor

Attest: _____
Heather Taylor, City Clerk

These minutes were approved on the ____ day of _____, 20__.