



City of North Port

4970 CITY HALL BLVD
NORTH PORT, FL 34286

Meeting Minutes City Commission Workshop

CITY COMMISSIONERS

Phil Stokes, Mayor

Pete Emrich, Vice Mayor

Barbara Langdon, Commissioner

David Duval, Commissioner

Demetrius Petrow, Commissioner

APPOINTED OFFICIALS

Jerome Fletcher, City Manager

Michael Golen, Interim City Attorney

Heather Faust, City Clerk

Tuesday, June 17, 2025

9:00 AM

City Commission Chambers

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Stokes called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: 5 - Vice Mayor Pete Emrich, Commissioner Barbara Langdon, Commissioner David Duval, Commissioner Demetrius Petrow and Mayor Philip Stokes

ALSO PRESENT

City Manager Fletcher, Police Legal Advisor Rubino, Interim City Attorney Golen, Assistant City Clerk Powell, Board Specialist Lane, Police Captain King, Fire Chief Titus, Assistant Parks and Recreation Director Sturgess, Interim Utilities Director Wisner, and Parks & Recreation Director Pfundheller.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Assistant Parks and Recreation Director Trish Sturgess.

1. PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was no public comment.

2. GENERAL BUSINESS:

- A.** [25-2392](#) Discussion and Possible Direction Regarding the Fiscal Year 2026 City Manager's Recommended Budget.

Mayor Stokes announced the item.

Mr. Fletcher introduced the item.

There were no Commission questions or discussion.

There was no public comment.

B. [25-2380](#)

Discussion and Possible Direction Regarding the Fiscal Year 2026 Fire Department Recommended Budget.

Mayor Stokes announced the item.

Mr. Fletcher introduced the item and provided a presentation including organizational chart, performance measure, budget summary, impact of Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 funded proposal, and recommended FY26 unfunded proposal.

Peter Napoli, Stantec, provided a presentation including rate study, background, 2025 study recap, billing units update, budget updates, updated financial plan, and customer impacts single-family.

Commission questions and discussion took place regarding decrease with grants, residential population, growth, national average response time, defibrillator funding, mannequin funding, partnership, property value and assessment decrease, format of increase of rates, recovery rate, accounts receivable, impact fee usage, and future fire station.

There was no public comment.

C. [25-2381](#)

Discussion and Possible Direction Regarding the Fiscal Year 2026 Utilities Department Recommended Budget.

Mayor Stokes announced the item.

Mr. Fletcher introduced the item and provided a presentation including organizational chart, performance measure, budget summary, impact of Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 funded proposal, and recommended FY26 unfunded proposal.

Commission questions and discussion took place regarding Information Technology improvement, security, commercial growth plan, sewer plant, Peace River, rate structure, Orange Hammock Wildlife Management Area, utilities rate increase, maintenance funding, service desk tech funding, revenue, and well and sewer usage.

There was no public comment.

Recess was taken from 10:30 a.m. to 10:40 a.m.

D. [25-2382](#)

Discussion and Possible Direction Regarding the Fiscal Year 2026 Public Works Department Recommended Budget.

Mayor Stokes announced the item.

Mr. Fletcher introduced the item and provided a presentation including organizational chart, performance measure, budget summary, impact of Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 funded proposal, and recommended FY26 unfunded proposal.

Commission questions and discussion took place regarding deferring maintenance, drainage work, transfer station funding, Solid Waste and Road and Drainage increase, Solid Waste revenue, road rehabilitation, allocation, impact fee, tax revenue, efficiency, utility tax, franchise tax, cutting cost, service reduction, recycling, illegal dumping, and trash pickup schedule.

There was a consensus to direct the City Manager to increase the proposed budget for the Public Works department by \$500,000 to address the backlog of deferred maintenance and necessary repair and replacement (R&R) funds.

Commission questions and discussion continued regarding ratification of budget increase.

There was no public comment.

E. [25-2383](#) Discussion and Possible Direction Regarding the Fiscal Year 2026 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Public Works Department Recommended Budget

Mayor Stokes announced the item.

Mr. Fletcher introduced the item and provided a presentation including 10-year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) by fund, 20-year comprehensive CIP, CIP overview, CIP projects by fund, CIP surtax proposals, CIP by department, and CIP for Public Works Department.

Commission questions and discussion took place regarding funding parking along U.S.41, and surtax funding.

There was consensus to fund Phase I of the parking project extending from North Port Boulevard to Espanola Avenue in the Fiscal Year 2026 budget, in the amount of \$650,000.

Commission questions and discussion continued regarding impact fees, and split funding.

There was no public comment.

F. [25-2384](#) Discussion and Possible Direction Regarding the Fiscal Year 2026 CIP Parks and Recreation Department Recommended Budget.

Mayor Stokes announced the item.

Mr. Fletcher introduced the item and provided a presentation including Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) for Parks and Recreation Department.

Commission questions and discussion took place regarding maintaining current system, commercial development, CIP overview, investments, impact fees, current projects, and dog park planning.

There was consensus to not fund the dog park east of Toledo Blade Boulevard in the Fiscal Year 2026 budget, in the amount of \$400,000.

There was no public comment.

Recess was taken from 11:56 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.

G. [25-2385](#) Discussion and Possible Direction Regarding the Fiscal Year 2026 CIP Utilities Department Recommended Budget.

Mayor Stokes announced the item.

Mr. Fletcher introduced the item and provided a presentation including Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) for Utilities Department.

Commission questions and discussion took place regarding wastewater expansion.

There was no public comment.

H. [25-2386](#) Discussion and Possible Direction Regarding the Fiscal Year 2026 CIP Fire Department Recommended Budget.

Mayor Stokes announced the item.

Mr. Fletcher introduced the item and provided a presentation including Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) for Fire Rescue Department.

Commission questions and discussion took place regarding high-water vehicle (HWV) ownership, grants, and Police HWV.

There was no public comment.

I. [25-2387](#) Discussion and Possible Direction Regarding the Fiscal Year 2026 CIP Police Department Recommended Budget.

Mayor Stokes announced the item.

Mr. Fletcher introduced the item.

There were no Commission questions or discussion.

There was no public comment.

J. [25-2388](#) Discussion and Possible Direction Regarding the Fiscal Year 2026 CIP All Others Recommended Budget.

Mayor Stokes announced the item.

Mr. Fletcher introduced the item and provided a presentation including Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) for Information Technology Department.

Commission questions and discussion took place regarding office phone usage, Mitel Phone System, extending CIP project, training, outdated technology, software implication, and system refresh.

There was no public comment.

Mr. Fletcher continued his presentation including CIP for Development Services Department.

Commission questions and discussion continued regarding environmentally sensitive property acquisition, proposed funding, scrub jay habitat, conservation area, additional conversation land, and tree fund.

There was no public comment

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Commission questions and discussion continued regarding funding priorities, increasing revenue, millage rate increase, additional budget cuts, user fee adjustments, and Sarasota County housing market.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was no public comment.

4. ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Stokes adjourned the meeting at 2:09 p.m.

By: _____
Phil Stokes, Mayor

Attest: _____
Heather Faust, City Clerk