



City of North Port

4970 CITY HALL BLVD
NORTH PORT, FL 34286

Meeting Minutes City Commission Special Meeting

CITY COMMISSIONERS

Vanessa Carusone, Mayor
Linda M. Yates, Vice-Mayor
Christopher B. Hanks, Commissioner
Jill Luke, Commissioner
Debbie McDowell, Commissioner

APPOINTED OFFICIALS

Peter Lear, City Manager
Amber L. Slayton, City Attorney
Patsy Adkins, City Clerk
Kathryn Peto, Deputy City Clerk

Wednesday, July 18, 2018

6:00 PM

CITY COMMISSION CHAMBERS

NOTE: This is a draft copy of the minutes of the 07-18-2018 City Commission Special Meeting, has not been approved by the Commission and is subject to change.

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

The North Port City Commission Regular Meeting was called to order at 6:18 p.m. in City Chambers by Mayor Carusone.

Present: Mayor Carusone; Vice-Mayor Yates; Commissioners, Hanks, Luke and McDowell, City Manager Lear; City Attorney Slayton; City Clerk Adkins; Police Chief Garrison and Interim Police Chief Morales.

The invocation was provided by Pastor Eddie DeJesus, Chaplain of the North Port Police Department, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by the Commission.

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA – COMMISSION

A motion was made by Commissioner McDowell, seconded by Vice-Mayor Yates, to approve the Agenda. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 5 - Mayor Carusone, Vice-Mayor Yates, Commissioner Hanks, Commissioner McDowell and Commissioner Luke

2. SWEARING IN:

A. [18-487](#) Swearing in of the new Chief of Police, Todd Garrison

With his family in attendance, Todd Garrison was sworn in as the North Port Chief of Police by City Clerk Adkins. After the ceremony it was announced that the public was invited to a reception for the new Police Chief in Room 244.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was no public comment.

A. [18-483](#)

Consideration of 2018 Certification of Taxable Value; Proposed Millage; scheduled dates for public hearings.

City Manager Lear provided an overview of the item.

Discussion ensued: (1) a suggestion was made to leave the rate as is and work from there; (2) Commissioner McDowell expressed concern that she is looking for a rate similar to last year or the roll-back rate, and that she will not approve the not-to-exceed rate in September.

A motion was made by Vice-Mayor Yates to authorize the City Manager to submit the 2018 Certificate of Taxable Value with a proposed millage rate of 3.6827. The motion failed for a lack of a second.

Discussion continued: (1) Vice-Mayor Yates expressed concerns that the employee compensation plans and union contracts are approximately \$2,300,000, that the Aquatic Center was approved due to funding from additional improved properties, increase in property values and increased revenues, and that by leaving the millage the same would be \$1,500,000 coming in, and that an additional \$1,000,000, or .2757 millage rate difference will be needed to fill the gap, and that the rate of 3.6827 was proposed to keep within the framework and not go beyond, that there has been too much in one year using surplus monies and that reserve funds are lower than they should be, that the budget should be scaled back, and that she cannot support the 3.9981 rate because the Commission should set the not-to-exceed rate and have the City Manager work within that framework; (2) a larger conversation will be held regarding the fund balance requirements which will help with budgeting; (3) concern was shared that the fund balance is under the proposed 20/10/5 limits as previously discussed; (4) the current fund balance is 25/10 and 20/10/5 will be discussed at another meeting; (5) it was noted that the proposed budget is accessible to the public on line, and that a millage rate was tied to the pool specifically with everything else being generalized, that the public should be made aware that the increase in the millage rate is attributed to growth in the community and service level adjustments and not just the pool; (6) it was explained that the proposed millage rate change of .4921 is still less than the actual increase of .568 from the change in wages; (7) revenues from other funding sources, such as gas tax, will also increase and go into the general fund which will offset expenses paid by ad valorem taxes. There was no public comment.

A motion was made by Commissioner McDowell, seconded by Commissioner Luke, to accept the 2018 Certificate of Taxable Value with a proposed millage rate of a not to exceed 3.8991. The motion carried by the following vote, with Vice-Mayor Yates dissenting for reasons stated:

Yes: 4 - Mayor Carusone, Commissioner Hanks, Commissioner McDowell and Commissioner Luke

No: 1 - Vice-Mayor Yates

5. PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was no public comment.

6. COMMISSION COMMUNICATIONS:

There were no Commission Communications.

7. ADMINISTRATIVE AND LEGAL REPORTS:

There were no Administrative and Legal Reports.

8. ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Carusone adjourned the North Port City Commission Special Meeting at 6:48 p.m.

City of North Port, Florida

By: _____
Vanessa Carusone, Mayor

Attest: _____
Kathryn Peto, Interim City Clerk

Minutes approved at the City Commission Regular Meeting this ____ day of _____, 2018.