



City of North Port

4970 CITY HALL BLVD
NORTH PORT, FL 34286

Meeting Minutes City Commission Workshop

CITY COMMISSIONERS

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

APPOINTED OFFICIALS

Jonathan R. Lewis, City Manager
Mark Moriarty, City Attorney
Patsy Adkins, City Clerk

Tuesday, December 6, 2016

8:00 AM

CITY HALL ROOM 302

COMMISSION STRATEGIC PLANNING SESSION

**NOTE: This is a draft copy of the minutes of the December 6, 2016
Commission Workshop Meeting, has not been approved by the
Commission and is subject to change.**

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL – LINDA M. YATES, MAYOR

The North Port City Commission Workshop Meeting was called to order at 8:08 a.m. in Room 302 by Mayor Yates.

PRESENT: Mayor Yates; Vice-Mayor Carusone; Commissioners Hanks and McDowell; City Manager Lewis; Assistant City Manager Schult; City Attorney Moriarty; City Clerk Adkins and Recording Secretary Goodman.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by the Commission.

A. STRATEGIC PLANNING

Mayor Yates provided an overview noting that the focus for the meeting will be on the current and future vision for North Port.

Public comment was held from 8:11 a.m. to 8:17 a.m. after which Mayor Yates recognized former Mayor Moore attending the meeting.

Assistant City Manager Schult arrived at 8:17 a.m.

City Manager Lewis introduced Lyle Sumeck of Lyle Sumeck Associates, Inc. who provided an overview of the process for reviewing the North Port Strategic Plan focusing first on the vision for 2032 and then 5 years into the future. The purpose of City Government will also be discussed. Subsequent to the actions taken, Mr. Sumeck will prepare a draft Strategic Plan of the decisions and direction given today. The draft Strategic Plan will then be reviewed by staff to assign the tasks, milestones and specific deliverables to be presented to the Commission for further discussion and direction.

Review, clarification, and discussion of Section 1 "Leadership During Turbulent Times"

was provided regarding "Leadership"; "Realities for Cities in 2017" and "Opportunities for 2017".

Mr. Sumek distributed and reviewed copies of "City Successes for 2016 - Mayor and Commissioner's Perspective" which was developed following interviews with Commissioners and staff.

Subsequent to review, Mr. Sumek agreed to provide the Commission with a revised list of "City Successes for 2016 - Mayor and Commissioner's Perspective" which will include all additions and comments the Commission may provide at today's meeting.

Following a suggestion from the Commission regarding mandatory meetings for sponsors participating in the Poinsettia Parade, City Manager Lewis agreed to contact Community Outreach Manager Bryce to add the information which is provided at the mandatory meetings to the City of North Port Website.

Public comment was held from 10:04 a.m. to 10:13 a.m.

Following public comment, discussion was held regarding: (1) the proposed Economic Development Summit to be presented to the Commission at the December 13, 2016 Commission meeting; (2) availability and methodology for advertising special events/meetings and guest appearances on a variety of public access genera's for North Port.

Recess from 10:17 a.m. to 10:37 a.m.

Upon reconvening, Mr. Sumek provided a review of Section 5 "Looking To North Port's Future" , page 2 "North Port Vision 2032". Commissioners were asked to provide 5 - 6 items that are important for the North Port Vision to be accomplished by the year 2032. Following a discussion on what the Commission would like to see in North Port in 15 years, Mr. Sumek will rank those suggestions and include in the Strategic Plan in order of importance.

Suggestions included: (1) Commissioner McDowell: (a) mindset of everybody comes to plan and unplug, providing for more outdoor activities; (b) additional signature events; (c) additional parks on the east side of North Port; (d) a Convention Center in North Port; (e) more business opportunities; (f) intertwined activities for every generation; (2) Commissioner Hanks: (a) utilizing the canal system and intergrade Warm Mineral Springs into the canal system accessibility; (b) an economic driven waterfront feature; (c) technology innovation; (d) greater infrastructure development; (3) Vice-Mayor Carusone: (a) instant public access to records, meetings and internet; (b) reinstating public trust and community pride; (c) infrastructure for growth and sustainability; (d) the development of economic drivers such as institutes of higher education; (e) expansion of local services such as a hospital, child health care services and other County services that are offered elsewhere such as a full time Department of Motor Vehicles and Sarasota Tax Office location in North Port; (f) tourism drivers focusing on the Blueways and camping such as cabin availability at Warm Mineral Springs; (4) Mayor Yates: (a) County and State Officials outreach to be more involved in North Port; (b) more City parks and facilities east of Toledo Blade Boulevard; (c) satellite offices in North Port for County services; (d) availability of public transportation on the east side of the City; public; (5) it was noted that in the US 41 Cooridor Master Plan, a trolley system was included; (6) Mayor Yates further suggested: (a) promoting light industry in Activity Center 6; (b) more health care accessibility; (c) camping opportunities and environmental and wildlife centers; (d) creating unique park experiences including different themes for parks such as having activities for all ages; (7) it was also suggested to include another entrance to the Environmental Park located at the end of Sumter Boulevard.

Mr. Sumek provided an overview of the process for the previous Vision section of the Strategic Plan noting that the Commission considered and approved the "Vision" provided as a result of 2 community meetings for public input.

Recess from 11:49 a.m. to 12:24 p.m.

Upon reconvening, Mr. Sumek reviewed Section 6 "North Port Vision 2032", "Vision 2032 Guiding Principles".

Principle 1, "Hometown" was reviewed after which Mr. Sumek requested the Commission provide suggestions to add or subtract from the list of what "Hometown," means to the Commission.

Suggestions include adding: (1) adding town hall meetings and live meetings with #9, "Residents engaged in the City's governance processes"; (2) with "community pride" add Community Hall of Fame; (3) a high level of public trust and confidence in City government; (4) public access to the City Commission and it's engagement in the community; (5) opportunities for intergenerational learning and interaction. It was further suggested to hold all Commission meetings in City Chambers to enable live streaming.

Subsequent to providing suggestions, each Commissioner ranked 8 definitions of what Hometown means in order of importance. Mr. Sumek then tallied the rankings and noted, in order of importance, the top 8.

Principle 2, "Preserved Environment and Natural Resources": was reviewed after which Mr. Sumek requested the Commission provide suggestions to add or subtract from the list of what "Preserved Environment and Natural Resources" means to the Commission.

Suggestions included: (1) change "Preserved" to "Embrace"; (2) change #2 to read "Clean and attractive waterways and canals as collected blueways with trails, recreational experiences and economic element at defined locations"; (3) add a #10 to read "Preserve natural areas for wildlife and with varied levels of public accessibility"; (4) remove the words "green spaces" in #4 and change to "Public accessible parks"; (5) add "trails", "trailheads", "bridges" and "access from Sumter Boulevard" to #5; (6) add the word "Regional" to #6; (7) take out #7; (8) change #8 to read, "Preserve and enhance public access to the State Forest"; (9) add #11 to read "Preserve and enhance other governmentally owned property to provide public access"; (10) examples of governmentally owned properties was provided; (11) addressing #9, Commissioners suggested what they would like to see added regarding at Warm Mineral Springs, economic driver, tourist destination with minimal impact to the environment, nature and historic center, access to waterways, camping and RV pads, open space event area.

Principle 3, "Exceptional Outdoor Experiences Within a Pristine Natural Area" was reviewed after which Mr. Sumek requested the Commission provide suggestions to add or subtract from the list of what "Exceptional Outdoor Experiences Within a Pristine Natural Area" means to the Commission.

Suggestions included: (1) remove Principle 3 and add "Exceptional Outdoor Experiences" with Principle 2.

Principle 4, "Climate for Economic Growth and Community Prosperity" was reviewed after which Mr. Sumek requested the Commission provide suggestions to add or subtract from the list of what "Climate for Economic Growth and Community Prosperity" means to the Commission.

Suggestions include: (1) remove the word "Successful" from #5 and add "linked to local businesses" after "workforce development"; (2) change #8 to read "Innovation Station with a University Center with a variety of degrees and business opportunities"; (3) add #9 to read "City infrastructure and land use to support economic growth"; (4) add #10 to read, "Tourist destination with hospitality businesses including resorts, hotels, variety of restaurants, Convention Center to hold local, regional and national events, and aquatic center"; (5) add #11 to read, "Unique destination retail"; (6) add #12 to read, "High tech hub and Light manufacturing"; (7) add #13 to read, "Distribution businesses/center"; (8) add #14 to read, "Attractive unique Travel Center with a variety of amenities"; (9) add #15 to read, "multi-mobile transportation connectivity throughout the community"; (10) change the title to read "Climate for Diverse Economic Growth and Community Propriety".

Subsequent to providing suggestions, each Commissioner ranked 9 definitions of what "Diverse Economic Growth and Community Propriety" means in order of importance. Mr. Sumek then tallied the rankings and noted, in order of importance, the top 9 and suggested changes.

Recess from 2:07 p.m. to 2:22 p.m.

Upon reconvening, Principle 5, "Quality Local Healthcare" was reviewed after which Mr. Sumek requested the Commission provide suggestions to add or subtract from the list of what "Quality Local Healthcare" means to the Commission.

Suggestions included: (1) change #3 to read, "Specialized medical facilities and services for all"; (2) add #8 to read, "Respite Care services and support"; (3) add #9 to read, "Community awareness of healthcare services".

Principle 6, "Quality of Life Opportunities" was reviewed after which Mr. Sumek requested the Commission provide suggestions to add or subtract from the list of what "Quality of Life Opportunities" means to the Commission.

Suggestions included: (1) change the title to "Unplug and Play Here"; (2) delete #1; (3) delete #6; (4) add #10 to read, "Pool and aquatic center"; (4) add #11 to read "Businesses and community organizations providing leisure and recreation facilities and opportunities"; (5) add #12 to read, "Expand community and neighborhood parks with amenities throughout the community"; (6) add #13 to read, "camping and outdoor activities"; (7) add #14 to read, "Community is aware and involvement in the current culture arts facilities and programs".

Principle 9, "Great Neighborhoods" was reviewed after which Mr. Sumek requested the Commission provide suggestions to add or subtract from the list of what "Great Neighborhoods" means to the Commission.

Suggestions included: (1) add #11 to read, "High Speed reliable internet service throughout the City"; (2) change #3 to read "A variety of housing options"; (3) change #6 to read, "Street lights throughout the City"; (3) change #7 to read "Sidewalks throughout the City"; (4) change #8 to read "Codes protecting the neighborhood character and property values"; (5) change #9 to read "Affordable housing options for all"; (6) items added include; (a) High speed rail; (b) Internet service; (c) Community gardens; (d) neighborhood connectivity for mobility and City services.

Subsequent to providing suggestions, each Commissioner ranked 9 definitions of what "Great Neighborhoods" means in order of importance. Mr. Sumek then tallied the rankings and noted, in order of importance, the top 9.

Principle 7, "Alive Activity Centers" was reviewed after which Mr. Sumek requested the

Commission provide suggestions to add or subtract from the list of what "Alive Activity Centers" means to the Commission.

Subsequent to discussion regarding the Economic Development Strategic Plan and infrastructure permitting for Activity Center 6, it was noted that the "Means" in Principal 7 are covered under tools for implementing what has already been discussed and should be removed in its entirety,

Mr. Sumek reviewed Section 7 "North Port City Government Mission".

Principle 1, "Financially Responsible", Principle 2, "Quality Municipal Services" and Principle 3, "engaged Residents" was reviewed after which Mr. Sumek requested the Commission provide suggestions to add or subtract from the Principles reviewed.

Discussion ensued regarding the "The Mission Statement of North Port City Government" and "North Port City Government Municipal Services" as listed on page 3 and 4 of Section 7. Mr. Sumek further reviewed the original Mission Statement which reads:

"The City of North Port will provide the health, safety and welfare services to our residents which would not be provided or could not be provided efficiently or equally without the Intervention of government at the local level. The City will provide said services in a professional and cost-effective manner, and only by listening to those who have put us in the position to serve them, our residents."

Suggestions on what the health, safety and welfare services mean included; (1) safe water and wastewater; (2) sewer services; (3) Police service; (4) Fire/EMS service; (5) Solid Waste; (6) protecting the public from health crisis; (7) safe roads and bridges; (8) Parks & Recreation; (9) service accessibility; (10) safe buildings and homes.

It was agreed to remove "cost-effective manner" and add "financially responsible" in the second paragraph and remove the word "only" and changing to "listening, engaging and serving our residents"

Commissioners provided suggestion on what "listening, engaging and serving our residents" means to them including: (1) information and services availability; (2) public participation in the decision making process; (3) diversified access; (4) public involvement in Advisory Boards and Committees; (5) engaging all residents; (6) televising all Commission meetings including Workshop Meetings.

Commissioners were requested to review Principle 3, "Engaged Residents" page 7, which will be changed to "Listening, Engaging and Serving Residents" and provide suggestions and ideas on what this means to them.

Commissioners agreed that #'s 3, 4,5,6,and 7 should be incorporated with the: (a) diverse access to information; (b) public participation in decision making; (c) openness to ideas and seeking feedback from our community; (d) acting in a transparent manner; (e) having active involvement of Boards and Commission in our governance process; (f) listening to all of our residents; (g) having information easily available using multiple methods for communicating; (h) being visible in the community as a Commission.

Principle 1 will be changed to read, "Services in a Professional Financially Responsible Manner".

Commissioners provided suggestion on what Professional means to them including: (1) timely response time; (2) courteous and respectful customer service; (3) well trained staff; (4) knowledgeable staff; (5) problem solving capabilities; (6) critical thinking; (7)

honest and trustworthy staff; (8) taking responsibility for your actions and community outcomes.

Financially responsible includes the "means" in Principle 1 as listed on page 5. Suggestions from the Commission include: (1) remove the words "Spending dollars to" in #5; (2) add "invest in our employees"; (3) discussion ensued regarding balancing affordable, cost recover and community benefit for the fee schedules.

Mr. Sumek reviewed Section 8 "City of North Port Plan 2017 - 2022".

Discussion and suggestions ensued regarding Goals 2022 on page 2 of Section 8 including: (1) change "Preservation of Environment and Natural Resources" to "Embrace Environment and Natural Resources"; (2) change "Financially Responsible City Providing Quality Municipal Services" to "Enhancing public trust through responsible City government"; (3) add "Facilities" to "Maintained/Upgraded/Expanded City Infrastructure"; (4) add to Goals 2022, "A diversified local economy"; (5) add to Goals 2022, "A City of greatness with a hometown feel".

Mr. Sumek noted that the "actions" portion of the Strategic Plan will be reviewed at the next meeting for Commission input and direction.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was no public comment.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Yates adjourned the North Port City Commission Workshop Meeting at 4:49 p.m.

City of North Port, Florida

By: _____
Linda M. Yates, Mayor

Attest: _____
Patsy C. Adkins, MMC, City Clerk

Minutes approved at the City Commission Regular Meeting this ____ day of _____, 2017