



City of North Port

4970 CITY HALL BLVD
NORTH PORT, FL 34286

Meeting Minutes City Commission Special Meeting

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

Thursday, September 18, 2025

5:01 PM

City Commission Chambers

Budget Special Meeting

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Stokes called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m.

ROLL CALL

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

Also Present:

City Manager Fletcher, Interim City Attorney Golen, City Clerk Faust, Deputy Police Chief Morales, Deputy Fire Chief Herlihy

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Solid Waste Manager Frank Lama.

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Stokes requested a motion to approve the agenda.

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

Yes: 5 - Vice Mayor Emrich, Commissioner Duval, Commissioner Petrow, Commissioner Langdon and Mayor Stokes

2. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Ms. Faust read the following eComment into the record:

Debbie McDowell: Spoke to funding of Police Department positions.

Hannah Rose: Spoke to sexual offender and predator residency and activity restriction.

In Person:

Valdy Olender: Spoke to concerns with corruption and budget.

3. PUBLIC HEARINGS:

ORDINANCE - Second Reading:

- A. [ORD. NO. 2025-26](#) An Ordinance of the City of North Port, Florida, Activating a Communications Department; Providing for Findings; Providing for Conflicts; Providing for Severability; and Providing an Effective Date.

Mayor Stokes announced the item and called on the City Clerk to read by title only.

Ms. Faust read the Ordinance by title only.

Mr. Fletcher introduced the item.

There were no Commission questions or discussion.

There was no public comment.

Mayor Stokes closed the public hearing and requested a motion.

A motion was made by Commissioner Langdon, seconded by Vice Mayor Emrich, to adopt Ordinance No. 2025-26 as presented. The motion failed on the following vote:

Yes: 3 - Vice Mayor Emrich, Commissioner Langdon and Mayor Stokes

No: 2 - Commissioner Duval and Commissioner Petrow

- B. [ORD. NO. 2025-27](#) An Ordinance of the City of North Port, Florida, Activating an Information Technology Department; Providing for Findings; Providing for Conflicts; Providing for Severability; and Providing an Effective Date.

Mayor Stokes announced the item and called on the City Clerk to read by title only.

Ms. Faust read the Ordinance by title only.

Mr. Fletcher introduced the item.

There were no Commission questions or discussion.

There was no public comment.

Mayor Stokes closed the public hearing and requested a motion.

A motion was made by Commissioner Langdon, seconded by Vice Mayor Emrich, to adopt Ordinance No 2025-27 as presented. The motion failed on the following vote:

Yes: 3 - Vice Mayor Emrich, Commissioner Langdon and Mayor Stokes

No: 2 - Commissioner Duval and Commissioner Petrow

- C. [ORD. NO. 2025-24](#) An Ordinance of the City of North Port, Florida, Adopting the Ad Valorem Millage Rate and Rolled-Back Rate for the Fiscal Year Beginning October 1, 2025, and Ending September 30, 2026; Providing for Findings; Providing for Conflicts; Providing for Severability; and Providing an Effective Date.

Mayor Stokes announced the item and called on the City Clerk to read by title and required sections.

Ms. Faust read the Ordinance title and Sections 2.01 and 2.02.

Mr. Fletcher introduced the item and read reason as to why the ad valorem tax revenues are increasing into the record.

There were no Commission questions or discussion.

There was no public comment.

Mayor Stokes closed the public hearing and requested a motion.

A motion was made by Commissioner Duval, seconded by Commissioner Langdon, to adopt Ordinance No 2025-24 as presented. The motion carried on the following vote: all yes

Yes: 5 - Vice Mayor Emrich, Commissioner Duval, Commissioner Petrow, Commissioner Langdon and Mayor Stokes

- D. [ORD. NO. 2025-25](#) An Ordinance of the City of North Port, Florida, Adopting the Non-District Budget for the Fiscal Year Beginning October 1, 2025, and Ending September 30, 2026; Adopting the Capital Improvement Budget and Program; Prescribing the Terms, Conditions, and Provisions with Respect to the Items of Appropriations and Their Payment; Providing for Supplemental Appropriations and Reappropriations; Providing for Findings; Providing for Posting of the Budgets; Providing for Conflicts: Providing for Severability; and Providing an Effective Date.

Mayor Stokes announced the item and called on the City Clerk to read by title only.

Ms. Faust read the Ordinance by title only.

Mr. Fletcher introduced the item.

There were no Commission questions or discussion.

There was no public comment.

Mayor Stokes closed the public hearing and requested a motion.

A motion was made by Commissioner Langdon, seconded by Vice Mayor Emrich, to adopt Ordinance No 2025-25 as amended to exclude budget proposals for the Information Technology and Communications Divisions elevation to Departments. The motion carried on the following vote with Commissioner Petrow dissenting due to there not being \$3 million in cuts as requested by Commission.

Yes: 4 - Vice Mayor Emrich, Commissioner Duval, Commissioner Langdon and Mayor Stokes

No: 1 - Commissioner Petrow

4. PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was no public comment.

5. ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Stokes adjourned the meeting at 5:18 p.m.

City of North Port, Florida

By: _____
Phil Stokes, Mayor

Attest: _____
Heather Faust, City Clerk