



City of North Port

4970 CITY HALL BLVD
NORTH PORT, FL 34286

Meeting Minutes City Commission Workshop

CITY COMMISSIONERS

Alice White, Mayor

Phil Stokes, Vice Mayor

Pete Emrich, Commissioner

Barbara Langdon, Commissioner

Debbie McDowell, Commissioner

APPOINTED OFFICIALS

Jerome Fletcher, City Manager

Amber L. Slayton, City Attorney

Heather Faust, City Clerk

Tuesday, June 25, 2024

9:00 AM

City Commission Chambers

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor White called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and provided required notifications regarding conducting a hybrid meeting.

Commissioner Emrich stated he will be attending the hybrid meeting via Communications Media Technology (CMT) due to experiencing a medical condition.

A motion was made by Commissioner Langdon, seconded by Vice Mayor Stokes, to accept the use of CMT for a hybrid meeting. The motion carried on the following vote:

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

No: 1 - Commissioner McDowell

ROLL CALL

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

Also Present:

City Manager Fletcher, City Attorney Ryan, City Clerk Faust, Board Specialist Bodmer, Police Chief Garrison, Deputy City Manager Yarborough, Development Services Director Ray, and Fire Chief Titus

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Fire Chief Titus.

1. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Ms. Faust read the following eComments into the record:

Robin San Vicente: Expressed concern with use of the Tree Fund.

2. GENERAL BUSINESS:

- A. [24-0811](#) Discussion and Possible Direction Regarding the Fiscal Year 2025 City Manager's Recommended Budget.

Major White announced the item.

Mr. Fletcher introduced the item and spoke to City Clerk department resources, and American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) projects

Commission questions and discussion took place regarding unbudgeted items.

There was no public comment.

- B. [24-0867](#) Fire Department

Mayor White announced the item.

Mr. Fletcher introduced the item and provided a presentation including organizational chart, pillars and priorities, performance measures, budget summary, and budget proposals recommended.

Chief Titus spoke to different types of fundings.

Commission questions and discussion took place regarding cascade trailer, Bayflight funding, Bayflight temporary location, radio replacement equipment, strategic cuts, additional instructors training, 10% increase impact, and opioid settlements.

There was consensus to instruct the City Manager to fund Budget Proposal 2821 for replacement radio system equipment.

Commission questions and discussion continued regarding funding.

Peter Napoli, Stantec, provided a presentation including agenda, background, 2024 study recap, billing units update, budget updates, updated financial plan, and customer impacts.

Commission questions and discussion continued regarding new fire station, impact studies, financing of new stations, concurrency study, road network, sharing a fire station, fair market value, and property value.

Chief Titus provided clarification on expected changes on the revenue numbers.

There was no public comment.

- C. [24-0868](#) Utilities Department

Mayor White announced the item.

Mr. Fletcher introduced the item and provided a presentation including organizational chart, pillars and priorities, performance measures, budget summary, and budget proposals.

Commission questions and discussion took place regarding 5 year growth needs.

Mr. Yarborough spoke to grants.

Commission questions and discussion continued regarding reclaimed water, 15 year water plan, flooding issues, storing flood waters, Peace River, Orange Hammock, firewall protection, reclassification salary, increase in water and sewage rates, ebill fee increase, lab conference room upgrade, employee pay, and aging systems.

Recess was taken from 10:47 a.m. until 11:00 am.

There was no public comment.

D. [24-0869](#) Development Services Department

Mayor White announced the item.

Mr. Fletcher introduced the item and provided a presentation including organizational chart, pillars and priorities, performance measures, budget summary, and budget proposals.

Ms. Ray spoke to reforestation fund, tree canopy study, additional proposals for consideration, new playgrounds, potential shade solutions, microforest, environmental issues, tree planting, contracting work, and environmental protection fund.

Commission questions and discussion took place regarding arborist activities, shade, Tree Fund, gopher checks, tree plantings, voucher program, K9 club, use of funds for planting, environmental restoration, land conservation, Tree Fund balance, property acquisition, mowing instead of natural look, Spring Haven, policy amendments, tree growth, Florida Statute, property owners, non residential taxes, Activity Center 6 Master Plan, budget proposals, and floodplain administrator.

There was consensus to direct the City Manager to remove Budget Proposal 2913, to create a CIP for Activity Center 6 & 10 Master Plan, and to keep the \$200,000 budgeted in the program.

Commission questions and discussion continued regarding expenses, fiscal model, tax payer dollars, inspector vacancies, police conservation officer, police officer equipment, building fund balance, general fund, operating budget, permitting vacancies, funding of the Economic Development Corporation (EDC), business tax revenue, and County support.

There was no public comment.

Recess was taken from 1:14 p.m. until 1:45 p.m.

E. [24-0870](#) Public Works Department

Mayor White announced the item.

Mr. Fletcher introduced the item and provided a presentation including organizational chart, pillars and priorities, performance measures, budget summary, and budget proposals.

Commission questions and discussion took place regarding increases, traffic control technician, salary/benefit inconsistencies, gazebo replacements, trash truck replacements, in house versus contracted security, hours of operation, Morgan Center lights, solid waste, millage increase, lot fee registration, Solid Waste assessment

revenue increase, pavilions, loitering, overhang maintenance, community averages, Road and Drainage fund balance, light duty lifts, and additional personnel.

F. [24-0872](#) Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Public Works Department

Mayor White announced the item.

Mr. Fletcher introduced the item and provided a presentation including overview, projects by funds, surtax proposal, projects by strategic pillars, proposals by department, Development Services, Parks & Recreation, Fire Rescue, Public Works, and Utilities.

Commission questions and discussion took place regarding Spring Haven, Road and Drainage fees, project allocation, expenditures, replenishment plans, Price Boulevard, permanent signals and temporary signals, accidents, mobility plan, neighborhood expansion, water and sewage expansion, U.S. 41 parking, tree planting, internal equipment, and road rehabilitation.

There was no public comment.

G. [24-0873](#) CIP Parks and Recreation Department

Mayor White announced the item.

Mr. Fletcher introduced the item.

Commission questions and discussion took place regarding Legacy Trail connection, parking lot improvements, staff recommendations, drainage ditch, Warm Mineral Springs, potential collaborative meeting, park impact fees, and parking enhancements.

There was no public comment.

There was consensus to direct the City Manager to create a new CIP titled Legacy Trail Connection to Warm Mineral Springs and allocating \$125,000 from Park Impact fees that are currently in Legacy Trail Parking Extension Enhancement.

A motion was made by Commissioner McDowell, seconded by Commissioner Langdon, to continue this meeting to Thursday June 27, 2024 at 3:00 p.m. in Chambers. The motion carried on the following vote:

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

H. [24-0874](#) CIP Utilities Department

This Item was continued to Thursday June 27, 2024 Commission Workshop Meeting.

I. [24-0875](#) CIP Fire Department

This Item was continued to Thursday June 27, 2024 Commission Workshop Meeting.

J. [24-0876](#) CIP Police Department

This Item was continued to Thursday June 27, 2024 Commission Workshop Meeting.

K. [24-0877](#) CIP All Others

This Item was continued to Thursday June 27, 2024 Commission Workshop Meeting.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was no public comment.

4. ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor White adjourned the meeting at 3:46 p.m.

City of North Port, Florida

By: _____
Alice White, Mayor

Attest: _____
Heather Faust, City Clerk