



# City of North Port

4970 CITY HALL BLVD  
NORTH PORT, FL 34286

## Meeting Minutes - Final City Commission Special Meeting

### *CITY COMMISSIONERS*

*Christopher B. Hanks, Mayor*  
*Debbie McDowell, Vice-Mayor*  
*Vanessa Carusone, Commissioner*  
*Peter Emrich, Commissioner*  
*Jill Luke, Commissioner*

### *APPOINTED OFFICIALS*

*Peter Lear, City Manager*  
*Amber L. Slayton, City Attorney*  
*Heather Taylor, Acting City Clerk*

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Thursday, October 3, 2019

1:00 PM

CITY COMMISSION CHAMBERS

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### CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Hanks called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m.

### ROLL CALL

**Present:** 5 - Mayor Christopher Hanks, Vice Mayor Debbie McDowell, Commissioner Jill Luke, Commissioner Pete Emrich and Commissioner Vanessa Carusone

### Also Present

City Manager Pete Lear, Assistant City Attorney Michael Golen, Interim City Clerk Heather Taylor, Human Resources Manager Deborah Hope, Public Utilities Director Rick Newkirk, Fire Chief Scott Titus, Police Chief Todd Garrison, and Recording Secretary Ida Goodman.

**The Pledge of Allegiance was led by City Manager Lear.**

### 1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

*A motion was made by Vice Mayor McDowell, seconded by Commissioner Luke, to approve the agenda as presented. The motion carried by the following vote:*

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

### 2. PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was no public comment.

### 3. WELCOME OF NEW EMPLOYEES:

A. [19-1094](#) New Employee Acknowledgement

Ms. Hope introduced the new employees in Fire Rescue, Neighborhood Development Services, Parks & Recreation, North Port Police, and Public Utilities.

### 4. GENERAL BUSINESS:

A. [19-1088](#) Discussion and Possible Action to Direct the City Attorney to Develop a Resolution or Ordinance Addressing the Content of Commission Meeting Minutes

Mr. Lear introduced the item.

Discussion ensued regarding noting when a Commissioner leaves for a short break, noting when a Commissioner actually arrives at the meeting, improvements on current summarized minutes, opportunity for Commission to review the minutes and provide feedback prior to approval, noting when a Commission is absent from a vote, State Statute requirement to capture a motion and the vote, retention of video and minutes, reducing public comments in the minutes, other municipalities minutes, naming a Commissioner in the minutes only when a dissenting vote, and transparency of Commission meetings.

Discussion ensued regarding the language of the Resolution reflecting the minutes as summary minutes, the subject of summary minutes, location in the minutes of arrival time for Commissioners who are late for a meeting, and include a process for Commissioners to review and edit the minutes with any changes they feel necessary prior to approval.

***A motion was made by Vice-Mayor McDowell, seconded by Commissioner Luke for the City Attorney and City Clerk to work together to create a Resolution for policy and procedure for the minutes as they are currently being done removing the time stamp of when Commissioners are not in their seat unless they are not present for the beginning of the meeting. Vice-Mayor withdrew her motion and Commissioner Luke withdrew her second.***

***A motion was made by Vice Mayor McDowell, seconded by Commissioner Luke for the City Attorney and the City Clerk to craft a Resolution to bring back to the Commission on the minutes the policies and procedures using summary minutes including the process for draft minutes Commission review, Commission comments, verification of those comments and final minutes for approval at the next Commission meeting and noting arrival time if a Commissioner is tardy at the top part of the minutes. The motion carried by the following vote:***

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

B. [19-1023](#) Discussion and Possible Action Regarding the Opt-in Program for the Cross-Connection Control Program.

Mr. Newkirk provided a summary of the Public Utilities actions regarding the Opt-In Program for the Cross-Connection Control (backflow) Program.

Discussion ensued regarding the back-flow inspection requirements, failed attempts to

create a pool of outside plumbers for the inspections for the opt-in program, homeowner responsibility to maintain the back-flow and City notice when the inspections are due, current staff performing the back-flow opt-in program and other duties, and clarification regarding the updated North Port City Code and Florida Statute requirements.

***A motion was made by Vice Mayor McDowell, seconded by Commissioner Carusone to direct staff to come back with an ordinance to revise the opt-in program for the backflows to remove the opportunity for citizens to opt into that program. The motion carried by the following vote:***

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

Meeting went into recess from 1:46 p.m. to 4:01 p.m.

## **5. PROCLAMATIONS AND RECOGNITIONS: TIME CERTAIN AT 4:00 P.M.**

- A.** [19-1011](#) Proclaim October 2019 as Domestic Violence Awareness Month; Presented to Cherie Heasley, Communications Manager, SPARCC  
*The Commission presented this Proclamation.*
- B.** [19-1039](#) Proclaim October 16, 2019 as White Cane Safety Day, Presented to Mr. Hanson and Marco  
*The Commission presented this Proclamation.*
- C.** [19-1047](#) Proclaim October 7, 2019 as World Habitat Day; Presented to Habitat for Humanity, South Sarasota County Representatives  
*The Commission presented this Proclamation.*
- D.** [19-1068](#) Proclaim October 6 through 12, 2019 as Fire Prevention Week; Presented to Fire Marshal Peter Marietti and Fire Inspectors Rob Needy, Josh Durham, Todd Green and Brian Cooke  
*The Commission presented this Proclamation.*
- E.** [19-1087](#) Proclaim October 2019 as Cyber Security Awareness Month, Presented to Police Captain Michael Baute and Acting IT Division Manager Aaron Bourquin  
*The Commission presented this Proclamation.*
- F.** [19-1108](#) Proclaim October 4, 2019 as Manufacturing Day, Presented to Economic Development Division and Manufacturing Partners.  
*The Commission presented this Proclamation.*
- G.** [19-1109](#) Proclaim October 6 through 13, 2019 as National Home-Based Business Week, presented to Economic Development Division and Home-Based Business Partners.  
*The Commission presented this Proclamation.*

- H. [19-1053](#) Present Certificate of Appreciation to Bill Diekman for his Service on the Community Economic Development Advisory Board
- The Commission recognized Bill Diekman for his service on the Community Economic Development Advisory Board.*
- I. [19-1073](#) Recognize the City of North Port Parks & Recreation Department for Receipt of Two (2) Florida Festival & Events SUNsational Awards
- The Commission recognized the City of North Port Parks & Recreation Department for receipt of two (2) Florida Festival & Events SUNsational Awards.*

## **6. PRESENTATIONS: TIME LIMIT OF 15 MINUTES TIME CERTAIN AT 4:00 P.M.**

- A. [19-1090](#) Presentation with Possible Action to Approve the Public Art Five-Year Plan as Presented by the Art Advisory Board

Mr. Lear introduced the item and Laura Pucci, Art Advisory Board, provided a presentation regarding North Port Art Advisory Board recommendations.

Discussion ensued regarding methodology to initiate the recommendations from the Board, concerns were expressed regarding art at Police Department, recommended schedule for art displays in City Hall, the Art Board collaborating with the Historic and Cultural Advisory Board for a tribute wall at the Aquatic Center, City wide art theme and tribute wall funding opportunities, the 5 year Art Advisory Board plan, gopher tortoise sculpture recommendations for a City wide theme, murals on historic buildings along U.S. 41, North Port Art Fund and outside funding for art, City art on private buildings, Commission approval of recommended art, and suggested timelines for 2019 - 2023.

***A motion was made by Vice Mayor McDowell, seconded by Commissioner Carusone, to approve the suggested timelines from 2019 through 2023 as presented with more information regarding each project coming back to Commission with greater detail for final approval. The motion carried by the following vote:***

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

## **7. PUBLIC COMMENT:**

There was no public comment.

## **8. COMMISSION COMMUNICATIONS:**

Commissioner Luke reported she attended a Tourism Development Council meeting, Economic Development Corporation Annual Luncheon, Joint Meeting with Sarasota County, Emanne Beasha, Americas Got Talent Semi-Finalist, performed for the 50th Anniversary for the Cultural Arts under the Florida Secretary of State, attended the Sarasota County Commission meeting regarding re-distracting, noted Sarasota County Commissioner Hines for his recognition of North Port for their anti-smoking and vaping efforts.

Discussion ensued regarding the Stormwater Rule Resolution passed in December 2018, the Florida Legislators decision in 2010 to stop the completion of the Stormwater Rule Manual, and letter sent to Legislators to abolish the taxation for a hospital in North Port.

*There was a consensus to send Resolution No. 2018-R-34 to the State Blue Green Algae Taskforce which requested the Governor reinitiate the public hearing and adoption process for the Statewide Stormwater Treatment Rule.*

*There was a consensus to send a letter to Legislators to enforce the North Port legislative priority to abolish the taxation for a hospital in North Port.*

**COMMISSION COMMUNICATIONS:**

Vice-Mayor McDowell reported she attended the Women in Business function at the Chamber event, National Night Out, Community Economic Development Advisory Board meeting, and noted that the Board is focusing on recruitment efforts.

Commissioner Carusone reported that historic records were requested from the City Manager to be distributed to the Commission and suggested sending the "Out of the Wilderness" book to legislators to enable the legislators to gain background information on North Port, and attended the Women in Business function at the Chamber event.

*There was a consensus for the City Manager to research information to enable the book "Out of the Wilderness" to be sent to all legislators along with the letter regarding abolishing the hospital tax.*

**9. ADMINISTRATIVE AND LEGAL REPORTS:**

Mr. Lear noted that he had sent a memorandum from the County Administrator regarding the vaping issue.

**10. ADJOURNMENT:**

Mayor Hanks adjourned the meeting at 5:47 p.m.

City of North Port, Florida

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Christopher B. Hanks, Mayor

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Heather Taylor, Interim City Clerk

Minutes approved at the Commission Regular Meeting this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2019.