



City of North Port

4970 CITY HALL BLVD
NORTH PORT, FL 34286

Meeting Minutes City Commission Special Meeting

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

Thursday, January 4, 2024

2:30 PM

City Commission Chambers

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor White called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m.

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 Slayton, City Clerk Faust, Police Chief Garrison, and Fire Chief Titus

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Joan Morgan.

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor White requested a motion to approve the agenda.

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

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

2. PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was no public comment.

3. GENERAL BUSINESS:

[23-1582](#)

Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Input and Feedback From Former Historic and Cultural Advisory Board Members on Current Duties Outlined and Accepting Applications at a Future Date.

Mayor White announced the item.

Ms. Faust introduced the item.

Commission questions and discussion with prior board members, Chris Sterner and Joan Morgan, took place including lack of board member participation, meeting time, advisory board versus citizen group, creation of the Board, membership requirements, City funding and support of historic preservation, creating a staff position, city growth, historical society, term limits, Board roles and responsibilities, documenting history, and updating Article X of the City Code.

Consensus was requested to direct the City Clerk to work with the City Attorney to amend Section 4-191 to remove Items 1-10 and to modify the board membership to a maximum of seven members, with five at-large members and preferably two non-resident members.

Discussion took place regarding lack of public interest and term limits.

A motion was made by Commissioner McDowell, seconded by Commissioner Emrich, to direct the City Clerk to work with the City Attorney to amend Section 4-191 to remove Items 1-10 and modify the board membership to a maximum of seven members, with five at-large members and preferably, but no more than, two non-resident members. The motion carried on the following vote with Vice Mayor Stokes dissenting due to spending resources when the board has been suspended due to lack of membership.

Yes: 4 - Commissioner Emrich, Commissioner McDowell, Mayor White and Commissioner Langdon

No: 1 - Vice Mayor Stokes

A motion was made by Commissioner McDowell, seconded by Commissioner Emrich, to amend the term limit for the Historic and Cultural Advisory Board to five years.

A motion to amend was made by Commissioner Emrich, seconded by Commissioner McDowell, to include language that allows for prior board members terms and limits to start over at the adoption of this update. The motion to amend carried on the following vote with Vice Mayor Stokes dissenting due to spending resources when the board has been suspended due to lack of membership.

Yes: 4 - Commissioner Emrich, Commissioner McDowell, Mayor White and Commissioner Langdon

No: 1 - Vice Mayor Stokes

The main motion as amended carried on the following vote with Vice Mayor Stokes dissenting for reasons stated.

Yes: 4 - Commissioner Emrich, Commissioner McDowell, Mayor White and Commissioner Langdon

No: 1 - Vice Mayor Stokes

A motion was made by Commissioner McDowell, seconded by Vice Mayor Stokes, to direct the City Manager to create a potential position for a Research Archivist to include a job description for budgetary considerations for Fiscal Year 24/25.

Mr. Fletcher spoke to the possibilities of the position to be in the City Clerk's Department.

Commissioner McDowell restated her motion, seconded by Vice Mayor Stokes, to direct the Charter Officers to work together to create a potential position for a Research Archivist to include a job description for budgetary considerations for Fiscal Year 24/25 and to determine which department the position would be better suited in. The motion as restated carried on the following vote:

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

4. PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was no public comment.

5. ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor White adjourned the meeting at 3:53 p.m.

City of North Port, Florida

By: _____
Alice White, Mayor

Attest: _____
Heather Faust, City Clerk