



City of North Port

4970 CITY HALL BLVD
NORTH PORT, FL 34286

Meeting Minutes - Draft City Commission Special Meeting

CITY COMMISSIONERS
Debbie McDowell, Mayor
Jill Luke, Vice Mayor
Pete Emrich, Commissioner
Vanessa Carusone, Commissioner

APPOINTED OFFICIALS
Julie Bellia, Acting City Manager
Amber L. Slayton, City Attorney
Heather Taylor, City Clerk

Saturday, November 14, 2020

9:30 AM

CITY COMMISSION CHAMBERS

Canvas of Elections

CALL TO ORDER

Vice Mayor Luke called the meeting to order at 9:32 a.m.

Present: Mayor McDowell, Vice Mayor Luke, and Commissioners Carusone and Emrich.

Vice Mayor Luke noted Mayor McDowell was attending the meeting virtually.

Also Present:

Acting City Manager Julie Bellia, City Attorney Amber Slayton, City Clerk Heather Taylor, Police Chief Todd Garrison and Recording Secretary Ida Goodman.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioners Elect Barbara Langdon and David Iannotti led the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was no public comment.

There was a consensus to move Item No. 20-2920 prior to Item No. 20-2919.

3. RECOGNITION OF OUTGOING COMMISSIONERS:

[20-2920](#)

Presentation of Plaques and Commissioner Statements

Mayor McDowell spoke to her service with Commissioners Carusone and Hanks and presented plaques commemorating their service.

Vice Mayor Luke presented a plaque to Mayor McDowell for her service as Mayor.

Vice Mayor Luke, Commissioners Carusone, Commissioner Emrich, and Former Commissioner Hanks expressed gratitude to Mayor McDowell for her service.

Mayor McDowell presented a Key to the City to Commissioner Carusone.

Vice Mayor Luke and Commissioners Emrich and Former Commissioner Hanks spoke to the dedication and accomplishments of Commissioner Carusone while serving on the Commission.

Commissioner Carusone spoke to her service to the City and gratitude to fellow Commissioners, employees of North Port and her family for their support.

Public Comment:

Justin Willis - Service of Commissioner Carusone.

Karen Arlington - Service of Commissioners Carusone and Hanks and the new Commission.

2. ANNOUNCEMENT OF ELECTION RESULTS:

[20-2919](#)

Announcement of the November 3, 2020 General Election Results

Ms. Taylor read the results of the North Port general election held on November 3, 2020 into the record as follows:

North Port seat 1 - the whole number of votes cast was 35,769

David Iannotti received 20,034 votes

Richard Suggs received 15,735 votes

North Port seat 2 - the whole number of votes cast was 35,241

Barbara Langdon received 19,511 votes

Jacqueline Moore received 15,730 votes

North Port seat 3 - the whole number of votes cast was 35,029

Debbie McDowell received 23,684 votes

Jerry Nicaastro received 11,345 votes

North Port Referendum Question 1 regarding removing the designation of the Deputy City Clerk as a Charter Officer:

Yes - received 22,160 votes

No - received 14,281 votes

North Port Referendum Question 2 regarding economic development ad valorem (property tax exemptions):

Yes - received 25,781 votes

No - received 12,020

A motion was made by Commissioner Carusone, seconded by Commissioner Emrich, to accept the election results as presented. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 4 - Mayor McDowell, Vice Mayor Luke, Commissioner Carusone and Commissioner Emrich

4. OATH OF OFFICE

[20-2921](#)

Oath of Office for Newly Elected Commissioners and Commissioner

Statements

Ms. Taylor administered the Oath of Office to Mayor McDowell, Commissioner Iannotti and Commissioner Langdon.

Mayor McDowell, Commissioner Iannotti and Commissioner Langdon expressed gratitude for being elected and stated they look forward to serving the community.

Public Comment:

Justin Willis - Welcome to new Commissioners.

Chris Hanks - Congratulations to newly elected Commissioners.

Karen Arlington - Congratulations to newly elected Commissioners.

Connie Brunni - ABCD Organization.

5. ELECTION OF MAYOR AND VICE MAYOR:

[20-2922](#)

Election of Mayor and Vice Mayor

Mayor McDowell nominated Vice Mayor Luke as Mayor and with no other nominations the nominations were closed.

A motion was made by Mayor McDowell, seconded by Commissioner Emrich, to appoint Vice Mayor Luke as Mayor. The motion carried on the following vote:

Yes: 5 - Mayor McDowell, Vice Mayor Luke, Commissioner Emrich, Commissioner Iannotti and Commissioner Langdon.

Commissioner Langdon nominated Commissioner Emrich as Vice Mayor, Mayor Luke nominated Commissioner McDowell as Vice Mayor, and with no other nominations, the nominations were closed.

A motion was made by Mayor Luke, seconded by Commissioner Iannotti, to appoint Commissioner McDowell as Vice Mayor. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 3 - Mayor Luke, Commissioner Iannotti and Commissioner McDowell

No: 2 - Commissioner Emrich and Commissioner Langdon

6. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Justin Willis - Election of Mayor and Vice Mayor.

Ms. Taylor read the following public comment into the record:

Jon - COVID-19 and following Center for Disease Control guidelines.

Mayor Luke read a passage from "Leading Your Commission" published by the International City Manager Association and National League of Cities.

7. ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Luke adjourned the meeting at 10:46 a.m.

City of North Port, Florida

By: _____

Gisele "Jill" E. Luke, Mayor

Attest: _____
Heather Taylor, City Clerk

Minutes approved at the Commission Regular Meeting this ____ day of _____,
2021.