



City of North Port

4970 CITY HALL BLVD
NORTH PORT, FL 34286

Meeting Minutes - Draft City Commission Workshop

CITY COMMISSIONERS

Debbie McDowell, Mayor

Jill Luke, Vice Mayor

Christopher Hanks, Commissioner

Pete Emrich, Commissioner

Vanessa Carusone, Commissioner

APPOINTED OFFICIALS

Peter Lear, City Manager

Amber L. Slayton, City Attorney

Heather Taylor, City Clerk

Thursday, June 18, 2020

9:00 AM

City Commission Chambers

Budget

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor McDowell called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: 4 - Mayor Debbie McDowell, Vice Mayor Jill Luke, Commissioner Vanessa Carusone and Commissioner Pete Emrich

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Christopher Hanks

Also Present:

City Manager Peter Lear, Assistant City Attorney Michael Golen, City Clerk Heather Taylor, Recording Secretary Susan Hale, Fire Chief Scott Titus, Human Resource Director Christine McDade, Risk and Benefits Manager Sandy Knowles, Parks and Recreation Director Sandy Pfundheller, Assistant Director of Parks and Recreation Tricia Wisner, Police Chief Todd Garrison, Deputy Police Chief Chris Morales, Public Works Director Julie Bellia, Engineering Division Manager Gerardo Traverso, Utilities Director Rick Newkirk, and Assistant Utilities Director Jennifer Desrosiers.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Vice Mayor Luke.

Mr. Golen provided a brief introduction relative to the virtual meeting.

Mayor McDowell and Mr. Lear spoke to the GovMax program for the City budget and the expertise of the Finance Department.

1. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Ms. Taylor read the following public comment:

Greg Cully: increases in taxes across the board.

Mr. Lear spoke to budget increases and reduction of core services and employees if budget reduced.

2. GENERAL BUSINESS:

[20-2270](#)

2021 City Manager's Recommended Budget

Mr. Lear introduced Ms. McDade who spoke to health insurance.

Ms. Knowles explained that the changes in insurance coverage mid-year resulted in a savings, the health option scenarios presented to the City for consideration, and employee/employer sharing the increased percentage of costs.

Discussion ensued concerning distribution of insurance increases between the City and employees.

There was a consensus to direct staff to share the 7.5% increased insurance costs between employee and employer.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (CIP) OVERVIEW

Mr. Lear provided a brief overview and spoke to this fiscal year budget compared to last year's budget, planning for a reduction in surtax revenue, programs that are on hold due to Commission direction, and economic recovery from the coronavirus.

Commissioner Carusone arrived at 9:24 a.m.

POLICE CIP

Chief Garrison and Deputy Chief Morales presented an overview including the police building expansion.

Mr. Lear clarified what funds can be used for the expansion project, debt financing required, and no project funding this year.

Presentation continued regarding the public safety driving track contract and track resurfacing costs.

Mr. Lear spoke to sharing costs for the public safety training complex, funding for the track and training tower taken from surtax, and phasing construction of the project.

Deputy Chief Morales addressed building construction not affecting the driving range, and continued the presentation regarding automated license plate readers (LPR), second year inflation costs for equipment, a two-phase implementation approach, and working with Public Works regarding the LPR locations.

Ms. Ferrell clarified program funding being added to the LPR camera project but not to the budget, and cost next year coming from surtax or may be added to this year's budget.

Deputy Chief Morales spoke to maintenance and licensing built into recurring costs, anticipated cost reductions with partnerships, on-going maintenance requirements, placing multiple LPR cameras per site, purchasing 36 cameras in first year with 26 in second year, and cost of two portable cameras being pursued through grants.

Presentation continued regarding property evidence building on Toledo Blade.

Deputy Chief Morales spoke to shell build-out financed with surtax, cost for build-out, potential of vertical space within the building, and building City's own facility vs. renting.

Chief Garrison addressed securing property evidence, planning for future growth, and unanticipated costs.

Discussion ensued regarding options to store evidence on City-owned property including locations, steel building options, long-term savings, and uncertainty of Benderson's future plans.

Mr. Lear recommended leaving funding but also considering other options.

There was a consensus to keep funding for the evidence building project, adjust the description of the project, and bring back options for the July meeting.

FIRE CIP

Chief Titus presented an overview including no CIP changes for this fiscal year budget, cited a CIP project for the next fiscal year, spoke to the training tower, potential revenue from training outside agencies, and Station 81 renovation funding source.

Mr. Lear to provide a breakdown of funding sources for CIP budget items.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY CIP

Mr. Ryan provided CIP projects for network replacements.

Ms. Edwards explained moving dark fiber funding from the Pan American project to a City Hall project resulted in a savings.

Presentation continued regarding storage area network replacement cost, and clarification concerning the sequel server component being a software license.

Recess was taken from 10:24 a.m. to 10:40 a.m.

PARKS AND RECREATION CIP

Ms. Pfundheller presented an overview of projects including American Disability Act (ADA) plans for parks including sidewalk connections and parking, and moving the Myakkahatchee Creek linear park funding to next fiscal year.

Mr. Lear spoke to reasoning for moving the linear park project, and reviewing the Heron Creek Contract compliance agreement.

Discussion ensued concerning identifying the City's compliance details in the Heron Creek contract.

There was a consensus to direct the City Manager to provide updated information regarding compliance and contract requirements in July regarding the Heron Creek contract.

Ms. Pfundheller spoke to Myakkahatchee Creek Corridor Land Acquisition information to be provided in July.

Mr. Lear addressed escheated lot funds information on the project sheet, Commission direction to purchase lots along the Myakkahatchee Creek as they become available, correcting the project sheet regarding escheated lots, road widening funding from escheated lots, a land acquisition specialist, and purchasing improved lots with an

existing home.

Presentation continued regarding Blueway/Greenway sidewalk expansion project and ADA access, spoke to transferring under budget savings from the Butler Park field lighting project, and funding source for the ADA park projects.

Ms. Wisner provided a disk golf update, additional requirements if the location is changed, Environmental Park improvements for current year, and land acquisition on Springhaven Drive discussion coming in July.

Mr. Lear spoke to purchasing property in excess of the property value.

Discussion ensued regarding utilizing the Springhaven Drive corridor funding for other projects.

Ms. Branco clarified the June 4, 2020 consensus regarding the Myakkahatchee Creek conservation overlay.

Ms. Pfundheller answered concerns regarding Atwater Park phase 4 funding and will provide clarification in July.

Ms. Wisner spoke to acoustic plans for the Morgan Center and Mullen Center.

Presentation continued regarding the Marina Park restrooms, Butler Park marquee signs, and Dallas White Park concept Master Plan Design and Site Renovations.

Discussion ensued regarding the historical funding for Dallas White Park.

There was a consensus directing the City Manager to provide more information regarding the Dallas White Master Plan funding and a timeline for any carryover funding.

Presentation continued regarding a Field Light Controller wherein Ms. Wisner clarified lighting at parks when City assumes responsibility, renter usage fees for lights, and Kirk Park playground equipment.

Ms. Pfundheller spoke to waiting for input from advisory boards concerning the new Veterans' Park.

Discussion ensued regarding locations and partnerships in connection with the proposed Veterans' Park.

There was a consensus directing the City Manager to create a CIP for the Veterans' Park with \$100,000 for funding.

Presentations continued regarding LeBrea Park restrooms, allocating funds for the Veterans' Park, and Park Amenities Program recycling receptacles.

Discussion ensued concerning park recycling maintenance and restroom cleaning, and Mr. Lear providing information in July with cost analysis details pertaining to park maintenance.

Ms. Bellia addressed cost differences between park contracted services vs. in-house staff costs.

There was a consensus to get an analysis regarding outsourcing restroom trash removal maintenance at local parks, how the contract is executed with the new

recycling bin, a cost comparison between current practices and what would be proposed with the additional recycling pickups, outsourcing recycling garbage and maintenance vs. doing it in-house, the number of times this contract is being done, the savings, and the impact if the City assumes the contract.

Mr. Lear spoke to Deer Prairie Creek Connector Bridge donation from Gulfcoast Community Foundation not being in the funding source.

Ms. Pfundheller addressed public input regarding the Boca Chica passive park.

There was a consensus to re-evaluate Boca Chica neighborhood public input within this fiscal year.

Discussion ensued concerning the Garden of the Five Senses Nature Center.

There was a consensus to eliminate the Garden of the Five Senses Nature Center with Pavilion and Parking.

Discussion ensued pertaining to playground equipment replacement at Pine Park.

Ms. Pfundheller spoke to Pine Park usage, annual playground evaluations, and clarified water control structures being portages for kayaks.

Discussion ensued regarding Langlais Park Development.

There was a consensus to move Langlais Park Development to 2025.

Following a brief discussion, it was determined to keep West Villages South River Road Park in the CIP for 2025, update the page and rename it.

There was a consensus to direct the City Manager to update CIP page 66 regarding South River Road Park.

Ms. Pfundheller spoke to two Warm Mineral Springs Building Rehabilitation projects being combined into one, and the Warm Mineral Springs Park Master Plan Implementation being a separate CIP project.

Discussion ensued regarding holding a North Port resident day at Warm Mineral Springs in fiscal year (FY) 2021.

There was a consensus to direct the Parks and Recreation Department to create a North Port resident appreciation event at the aquatic center and bring back to the Commission for final approval for FY 2021.

Recess was taken from 12:17 p.m. to 1:01 p.m.

PUBLIC WORKS CIP

Ms. Bellia provided a brief review of projects including Price Boulevard Widening Phase I, and spoke to issues causing construction delays.

Mr. Lear stated he will provide an update regarding the property acquisition progress, spoke to the eminent domain process, and will provide information regarding discrepancy in funding.

Discussion ensued regarding requesting private businesses contributing to the parking on U.S. 41.

Ms. Bellia addressed outdated parking regulations, benefits of extra parking to businesses, and moving funding to the Tropicaire Boulevard repaving project.

Mr. Lear spoke to estimated costs for the north and south side of U.S. 41, and insufficient funds to complete either side.

Ms. Bellia spoke to components of the Tropicaire Boulevard improvements, surtax funds for road rehabilitation, unanticipated base and drainage costs, and estimated completion of the project.

Discussion ensued regarding funding for the pedestrian and bicycle shared path, parking on U.S. 41 benefiting businesses, and other options to help U.S. 41 corridor parking.

Ms. Bellia spoke to working on a phasing plan for Tropicaire Boulevard improvements.

Mr. Lear spoke to changing projects increases costs, and deciding on project funding.

Mr. Traverso clarified the design of path from Van Camp Street to Sumter Boulevard.

Discussion continued regarding phasing needs of Tropicaire Boulevard.

Mr. Traverso clarified path construction plans from Ponce de Leon Boulevard to Toledo Blade Boulevard.

There was a consensus to direct the City Manager to amend the Road and Drainage District meeting for June 23, 2020 to include the Tropicaire Boulevard multi-use path conversation, including the cost for phasing the project.

There was a consensus to leave \$25,000 in the CIP for the U.S. 41 north parking and \$25,000 for the U.S. 41 south parking.

Mr. Lear clarified funding sources for Tropicaire Boulevard road rehabilitation

Ms. Bellia confirmed the funding is from Van Camp Street to Toledo Blade Boulevard.

There was a consensus to move \$48,000 from U.S. 41 parking to the Tropicaire Boulevard sidewalk path.

Mr. Lear spoke to funding for Biscayne Drive sidewalk project from Elyton Drive to Glenallen Boulevard.

Mr. Traverso stated he will research cost of sidewalk width vs. path width.

Ms. Bellia spoke to the 6-foot wide requirement for arterial sidewalks.

Discussion ensued regarding San Mateo Drive sidewalks.

Mr. Newkirk addressed utility line challenges with the sidewalk project and anticipated completion in 2021.

Ms. Bellia will correct and update the CIP description sheet for San Mateo Drive.

Mr. Traverso spoke to completing the Road Rehabilitation CIP contract and paving North Port Boulevard.

Ms. Bellia addressed completed roads in the project, punch list items remaining, other roads being scheduled next year, providing a list of 2021 projects, Tropicaire Boulevard not included in the bond money nor the rehab schedule, and police request for a sidewalk

on Price Boulevard.

There was a consensus to have a discussion in July regarding bus stops on Price Boulevard.

Ms. Bellia spoke to sharing Hillsborough Boulevard improvements costs with Charlotte County, and future funding requirements for a multi-modal path design from Ortiz Boulevard to Tuscola Boulevard.

Mr. Traverso will research whether the engineering design portion of CIP can be cancelled, and spoke to different funding sources offered by the Sarasota Manatee Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO).

There was a consensus to direct staff to determine whether the City is able to cancel the design/engineering project and design for the U.S.41 multimodal path amenities, shift the funding to the Tropicaire Boulevard multimodal path, keep the project unfunded, determine if it can be funded through the Sarasota Manatee Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) or other means, and if design has been started, to pay for work completed and cancel the rest.

There was a consensus if the project is cancelled, to shift the \$115,200 funding to the Tropicaire Boulevard pathway and keep the CIP project for future funding of \$1,050,000 for the path amenities.

Ms. Bellia spoke to the Public Works Facility Phase II design, and moving funding for the Welcome Sign.

There was a consensus to remove \$117,000 surtax funding from the Welcome Sign on East U.S. 41 monument sign and apply it to the Tropicaire path.

Discussion ensued regarding the Woodhaven Drive sidewalk and pedestrian bridge.

Recess was taken from 2:33 p.m. to 2:48 p.m.

Mr. Lear spoke to a correction on CIP page 73.

UTILITIES CIP

Mr. Newkirk reviewed CIP projects for the 2020-2021 FY including expected completion of Myakkahatchee Creek Waterline project.

Commissioner Carusone returned at 2:51 p.m.

Mr. Newkirk continued regarding status of neighborhood water and wastewater line extension future discussion with Commission, combining watermain projects on San Mateo Drive and Price Boulevard, monies designated to oversize transmission lines, design for water pipeline replacements on bridges for Haberland, Woodhaven and Toledo Blade Boulevards, water distribution improvements on Hartsdale Street, Aldovin and Totem Avenues, and responded to Commission questions regarding timeline for notification of residents.

Ms. Desrosiers spoke to financial impact notice to residents concerning the water looping project.

Mr. Newkirk continued regarding Ortiz Boulevard watermain oversizing and relocation, Warm Mineral Springs watermain installation, Myakkahatchee Creek Water Treatment Plant improvements, Wastewater Treatment Plant improvements, water treatment pipe oversizing, responded to Commission questions regarding update on administration

building to include three property locations, future workshop to obtain direction, funding allocated, and potential property locations for Utilities building expansion.

Discussion followed regarding reimbursement from insurance for fleet vehicle accidents, charge for copies, use of contingency fund for community fund for youth sport/activities, and prioritizing projects.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was no public comment

4. ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor McDowell adjourned the meeting at 3:27 p.m.

City of North Port, Florida

By: _____
Debbie McDowell, Mayor

Attest: _____
Heather Taylor, City Clerk

Minutes approved at the Commission Regular Meeting this ____ day of _____, 2020.