



City of North Port

4970 CITY HALL BLVD
NORTH PORT, FL 34286

Meeting Minutes City Commission Regular Meeting

CITY COMMISSIONERS

Barbara Langdon, Mayor
Alice White, Vice Mayor
Pete Emrich, Commissioner
Debbie McDowell, Commissioner
Phil Stokes, Commissioner

APPOINTED OFFICIALS

Jerome Fletcher, City Manager
Amber L. Slayton, City Attorney
Heather Faust, City Clerk

Tuesday, June 13, 2023

10:00 AM

City Commission Chambers

B. [23-0866](#) Discussion and Possible Direction Regarding the Prohibition of Smoking in Public Parks and Recreation Areas.

Mayor Langdon announced the item.

Mr. Fletcher introduced the item.

Commissioner Stokes spoke to the item regarding House Bill 105, smoking ban, policy of other municipalities, secondhand smoke dangers and statistics, cigarettes versus cigars effects on wildlife, enforcement concerns, and providing direction.

Commission questions and discussion took place regarding potential discrimination, designated smoking areas, Parks and Recreation Advisory Board recommendation, cigar exception, effected population, effects on wildlife, state versus municipality role, enforcement concerns, recreational area definition, providing direction, and vaping inclusion.

There was no public comment.

Mayor Langdon requested a motion.

A motion was made by Commissioner Stokes, seconded by Vice Mayor White, to prohibit smoking of cigarettes and vapes on City property including parks and recreational areas, and to direct staff to investigate establishing designated smoking areas.

Mr. Golen spoke to House Bill 105 limitations relating to parks and beaches.

Vice Mayor White withdrew her second.

The motion was restated by Commissioner Stokes, seconded by Vice Mayor White, to prohibit smoking of cigarettes and vapes in public parks and recreational areas.

Commission questions and discussion continued regarding recreational area definition and designated smoking areas.

Mr. Golen spoke to park definition.

Commission questions and discussion continued regarding park definition and intent relating to future discussion.

Vice Mayor White withdrew her second.

The motion was restated by Commissioner Stokes, seconded by Vice Mayor White, to prohibit smoking of cigarettes and vapes in City parks except in designated smoking areas. The motion carried on the following vote:

Yes: 3 - Vice Mayor White, Commissioner Emrich and Commissioner Stokes

No: 2 - Mayor Langdon and Commissioner McDowell

Commissioner McDowell dissented due to the motion being incomplete relating to staff bringing back details for future discussion and concerns regarding enforcement.

Mayor Langdon dissented due to lack of designated smoking areas and desire for future discussion.