



City of North Port

4970 CITY HALL BLVD
NORTH PORT, FL 34286

Meeting Minutes City Commission Workshop

CITY COMMISSIONERS

Phil Stokes, Mayor

Pete Emrich, Vice Mayor

Barbara Langdon, Commissioner

David Duval, Commissioner

Demetrius Petrow, Commissioner

APPOINTED OFFICIALS

Jerome Fletcher, City Manager

Michael Golen, Interim City Attorney

Heather Faust, City Clerk

Wednesday, March 12, 2025

2:00 PM

City Commission Chambers

Budget

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Stokes called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: 5 - Vice Mayor Pete Emrich, Commissioner Barbara Langdon, Commissioner David Duval, Commissioner Demetrius Petrow and Mayor Philip Stokes

ALSO PRESENT

City Manager Fletcher, Interim City Attorney Golen, City Clerk Faust, Board Specialist Lane, Police Chief Garrison, Fire Chief Titus, Development Services Director Ray, Finance Director Williams, and Budget Administrator Herrmann.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by past Commissioner Jill Luke.

1. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Ms. Faust read the following eComments into record:

Mike Adams: Expressed opposition to user fees due to affordability.

Andrea Donza: Expressed opposition to Mullen Center closure.

Jessica Lally: Expressed opposition to Mullen Center and Aquatic Center closure.

In Person:

Jill Luke: Spoke to revenue generation of Aquatic Center, Mullen Center, and Parks and Recreation.

Debbie Mcdowell: Spoke regarding to all departments budgets, Parks and Recreation, community amenities, Morgan and Mullen Centers daycare, Social Servies, Sarasota County.

2. GENERAL BUSINESS:

A. [25-1944](#) Discussion and Possible Direction Regarding the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Budget Assumptions, Projections and Priorities.

Mayor Stokes announced the item.

Mr. Fletcher introduced the item and provided a presentation with Commission question and discussion regarding one of Americas most changed cities, actual changes in fund balance 3 Year Review, Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 balance analysis, general fund ad valorem assumptions, local municipalities & counties, local municipalities, peer municipalities, citizens per employee FY 2025, North Port population budgeted FTEs, all funds, general fund changes 2025-2026, Commissioners' strategic pillars, safe community, quality of life, economic development & growth management, environmental resiliency & sustainability, infrastructure & facilities integrity, good governance, disaster response & recovery management, FY adopted budget by pillar all funds, linear parking on US 41, funding consideration, City Managers' consideration, Unimproved Lot Registration program, industries average, and cost recovery.

Recess was taken from 3:47 p.m. until 3:57 p.m.

Commission questions and discussion took place regarding the FY budget, department cost-cutting options, Mullen Center, Parks and Recreation, Charter responsibilities, Public Safety, quality of life, trash outsourcing, millage rate adjustments, Solid Waste, service quality, recycling program, environmental impacts, saving strategies, Price Boulevard funding, public comments, service revenue, Florida Power and Light increase, pay formula, commission salary, and candy budget.

There was consensus to direct staff to bring back options for a \$3 million decrease in expenses, the annual savings this decrease would have on property owners based on a \$300,000 assessed value, and impact on millage rate.

A consensus was requested to direct staff to move forward with the Unimproved Lot Registration Program.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Ms. Faust read the following eComments into record:

Doris Gallan: Expressed opposition to Parks & Recreation budget cuts, emphasizing the vital role youth programs play in community safety, development, and crime prevention.

Michelle Gore: Expressed opposition to Mullen Center closure, essential, affordable venue for youth and community events; vital for North Port's quality of life.

4. ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Stokes adjourned the meeting at 5:10 p.m.

By: _____
Phil Stokes, Mayor

Attest: _____
Heather Faust, City Clerk