



City of North Port

4970 CITY HALL BLVD
NORTH PORT, FL 34286

Meeting Minutes City Commission Workshop

CITY COMMISSIONERS

Pete Emrich, Mayor
Barbara Langdon, Vice Mayor
Phil Stokes, Commissioner
David Duval, Commissioner
Demetrius Petrow, Commissioner

APPOINTED OFFICIALS

Jerome Fletcher, City Manager
Michael Fuino, City Attorney
Heather Faust, City Clerk

Monday, April 6, 2026

10:00 AM

City Commission Chambers

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Emrich called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

ROLL CALL

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

ALSO PRESENT

City Manager Fletcher, City Attorney Fuino, Deputy City Clerk Powell, Board Specialist Lindner, Police Chief Garrison, Deputy Fire Chief Herlihy, Economic Development Program Manager Meerman, and Utilities Director Wisner.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Deputy Fire Chief Nicholas Herlihy.

1. PUBLIC COMMENT:

In Person:

Tim Doyle: Expressed concerns regarding military spending, safety systems, and underground shelters.

2. PRESENTATIONS: TIME LIMIT OF 15 MINUTES

- A. [26-0471](#) Presentation by the Economic Development Division Providing a Quarterly Economic Development Update to the City Commission.

Mayor Emrich announced the item.

Mr. Fletcher introduced the item.

Mr. Meerman provided a presentation including business retention and attraction, workforce development, healthcare workforce alliance, and quantum technology workforce alliance.

Commission questions and discussion took place regarding Suncoast Technical College (STC), Galen College of Nursing, and Florida Gulf Coast University (FGCU) programs and on-the-job training, Sarasota County Advisory Boards, National Science Foundation (NSF) funding, artificial intelligence (AI), business retention and attraction, flex space needs, Economic Development Corporation (EDC) and North Port Area Chamber of Commerce resources, North Port Next, utility and roadway infrastructure and Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) access, brokerage and business collaboration, non-residential needs and lifecycle projects, solar power, tax revenue projections, budget and incentives, impact fee deferrals, marketing and follow-up, business tax revenue and lifecycle metrics, data center needs, and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) values and collaboration.

Ms. Barnes continued the presentation including Advent Health North Port, Price Crossings Outparcel One, Heron Creek Veterans Affairs (VA), Wellen Park Downtown Hotel, and Tuscola Retail.

Commission questions continued regarding hotel versus commercial revenue classifications.

Public Comment:

In Person:

Tim Doyle: Spoke to housing, zoning, healthcare industry, hospital subsidizing, and workforce.

Recess was taken from 11:25 a.m. to 11:35 a.m.

B. [26-0614](#) Presentation of Proposed Utilities Level of Service Adjustments for Fiscal Year 2027 Budget

Mayor Emrich announced the item.

Mr. Fletcher introduced the item.

Ms. Wisner provided a presentation including strategy, enterprise fund operations, chemical treatment and water pressure reduction, and level of service options.

Commission questions and discussion took place regarding chemical treatment reduction benefits, water pressure safety and evaluation, homeowner costs, capital improvement plan (CIP), deferred maintenance, well versus septic comparisons and cost differences, regulatory requirements, capacity fees, multi-family water suppression unit costs, fire rescue impacts and liabilities, Insurance Services Office (ISO) ratings and classifications, homeowners insurance savings versus cost factors, and water retention strategies.

Public Comment:

In Person:

Tim Doyle: Expressed concerns regarding water pressure, chemicals, taxpayer costs, and solar panels.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT:

In Person:

Tim Doyle: Expressed concerns regarding conduct at prior meetings.

4. ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Emrich adjourned the meeting at 12:18 p.m.

By: _____

Pete Emrich, Mayor

Attest: _____

Heather Faust, City Clerk