



City of North Port

4970 CITY HALL BLVD
NORTH PORT, FL 34286

Meeting Minutes City Commission Regular Meeting

CITY COMMISSIONERS

Christopher B. Hanks, Mayor
Debbie McDowell, Vice-Mayor
Vanessa Carusone, Commissioner
Peter Emrich, Commissioner
Jill Luke, Commissioner

APPOINTED OFFICIALS

Peter Lear, City Manager
Amber L. Slayton, City Attorney
Heather Taylor, Interim City Clerk

Tuesday, September 24, 2019

6:00 PM

CITY COMMISSION CHAMBERS

C. [19-1014](#) Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Establishing Policy for Keys to the City

Mr. Lear introduced the item.

Discussion ensued concerning written policy for recognitions.

Mr. Lear spoke to ceremonial items.

Discussion continued regarding key to the City historical discussions, setting parameters, letters requested, importance of Key to City, Commission approval, and types of recognitions.

Mr. Lear spoke to 2002 minutes and 2008 minutes.

Ms. Slayton spoke to voting issues, and modifying Commission past actions.

It was noted that the past Commission wanted fluidity, no policy enacted, but Commission approval needed, and 2017 approval by consensus.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Stephanie Gibson: Commission should make City decisions as a Board.

A motion was made by Commissioner Carusone, seconded by Commissioner Luke, to direct Staff to come back with Resolution to include the criteria for the Key to the City noting that it is of great importance and that it should be the largest accolade to the City that can be given to any individual, that it should have a Commission majority for distribution and that it should be given to a person who has done something spectacular, historical or equivalent, for the City and something that is long-lasting.

Discussion ensued to broaden the verbiage and leaving details for Commission discussion.

Thereafter, the motion was restated to withdraw and criteria regarding how the recognition is given will be removed and replacing with general language and the seconder agreed.

A motion was made by Commissioner Carusone, seconded by Commissioner Luke, to direct Staff to come back with Resolution to include the criteria for the Key to the City, that it should be considered reverent, important and the largest accolade the City can give, and must be approved by a majority of the Commission. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 5 - Mayor Hanks, Vice Mayor McDowell, Commissioner Luke, Commissioner Emrich and Commissioner Carusone

It was requested to do a Proclamation in connection with the Key to the City given on August 28, 2019, and to engrave the recipient's name on the board in City Hall.

A motion was made by Vice-Mayor McDowell, seconded by Commissioner Luke, to direct Staff to prepare a Proclamation, update the wall in City Hall with the individual's name. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 5 - Mayor Hanks, Vice Mayor McDowell, Commissioner Luke, Commissioner Emrich and Commissioner Carusone

Mr. Lear spoke to providing examples for the Challenge Coin for Commission approval.

A motion was made by Commissioner Carusone, seconded by Commissioner Luke, to direct Staff to bring back Challenge Coin design ideas with the City Seal on one side and appropriate verbiage on the back, to be handed out at-will without Commission's requested approval.

It was suggested to provide pricing, an example and the purchase to be paid from Commission budget.

Chief Garrison spoke to different dye casts affecting the total cost.

The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 5 - Mayor Hanks, Vice Mayor McDowell, Commissioner Luke, Commissioner Emrich and Commissioner Carusone

Discussion ensued regarding community calendar events vs. City events.

A motion was made by Commissioner Luke, Vice Mayor McDowell, to direct Staff to bring back information or a Resolution giving procedures and policy of requests for a letter from the City, Proclamations, promotional advertising material and the use of the City Seal. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 5 - Mayor Hanks, Vice Mayor McDowell, Commissioner Luke, Commissioner Emrich and Commissioner Carusone