



City of North Port

4970 CITY HALL BLVD
NORTH PORT, FL 34286

Meeting Minutes - Draft City Commission Special Meeting

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, Interim City Clerk

Thursday, January 2, 2020

1:00 PM

CITY COMMISSION CHAMBERS

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor McDowell called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: 4 - Mayor Debbie McDowell, Vice Mayor Jill Luke, Commissioner Christopher Hanks and Commissioner Pete Emrich

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Vanessa Carusone

Also Present

Assistant City Manager Cari Branco, City Attorney Amber Slayton, Recording Secretary Susan Hale, Administrative Services Specialist Laura Reed, Police Chief Todd Garrison, Human Resources Director Christine McDade, IT Manager Eric Ryan, Business Systems Analyst Catherine Johnston, Neighborhood Services Director Frank Miles, Administrative Manager Katrina Romano, Public Works Director Julie Bellia, Project Manager Ben Newman.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Susan Hale

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Luke, seconded by Commissioner Hanks, to approve the agenda as presented. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 4 - Mayor McDowell, Vice Mayor Luke, Commissioner Hanks and Commissioner Emrich

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Carusone

2. PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was no public comment.

3. WELCOME OF NEW EMPLOYEES:

A. [20-1655](#) Welcome New Employees

Ms. Branco introduced the item.

Ms. McDade welcomed new employees.

4. CONSENT AGENDA:

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Luke, seconded by Commissioner Emrich, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 4 - Mayor McDowell, Vice Mayor Luke, Commissioner Hanks and Commissioner Emrich

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Carusone

A. [20-1601](#) Appoint Alice White to the Beautification and Tree/Scenic Highway Committee to Serve from January 2, 2020 to January 2, 2022

This item was approved on consent.

B. [20-1602](#) Appoint Barbara Lockhart to the Beautification and Tree/Scenic Highway Committee to Serve from January 2, 2020 to January 2, 2022

This item was approved on consent.

C. [20-1603](#) Appoint Terryl Carl to the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board to Serve from January 2, 2020 to January 2, 2022

This item was approved on consent.

D. [20-1604](#) Appoint David Iannotti to the Beautification and Tree/Scenic Highway Committee to Serve from January 2, 2020 to January 2, 2022

This item was approved on consent.

E. [20-1605](#) Appoint Michelle Bisson to the Beautification and Tree/Scenic Highway Committee to Serve from January 2, 2020 to January 2, 2022

This item was approved on consent.

5. PRESENTATIONS: TIME LIMIT OF 15 MINUTES

A. [19-1591](#) City Manager's Office, Information Technology Division Presentation

Ms. Branco introduced the item.

Mr. Ryan, provided an overview of the Department including goals, services provided, strengths, accomplishments, future plans and updates regarding on-going projects.

Commissioner Luke expressed thanks for the department's dedication and service to the City.

Ms. Johnston spoke to functions and modules of GovQA, provided a review of services to be implemented this year, and clarified the Police Department's separate system.

Mr. Ryan clarified aspects of TrackIT, a monthly update to the Commission will be provided, and explained vendor issues.

Ms. Branco spoke to providing an update within two weeks regarding TrackIT, and affirmed the vendor payment remains encumbered in the City's budget.

6. PUBLIC HEARINGS:

ORDINANCES: Second Reading

- A. [ORD. NO. 2020-05](#) An Ordinance of the City of North Port, Florida, Amending the Code of the City of North Port, Florida, Section 58-103, Related to the Calculation of Impact Fees; Providing for Severability; Providing for Conflicts; Providing for Codification; and Providing an Effective Date

Ms. Reed read the Ordinance by title only.

Ms. Slayton provided an update of the minor modifications requested by Commission.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Richard Suggs: in support of the Ordinance and the upcoming Resolution.

Lou Spurduto: history of permit fee payments and is not in support of the Ordinance.

Discussion ensued regarding consistency in assessing fees, extending permits, consistency in the fee schedule with other municipalities, a contractor's email pertaining to impact fees, adjusting line 44 stating what impact fee schedule will be used at the time of permit, and procedure for permit extensions.

Ms. Romano spoke to assessment of impact fees and issues related thereto, assessing fees at time of permit and collect at certificate of occupancy, and current impact fees locked in at time of permit.

Ms. Slayton clarified the City Code requires fees being paid at issuance of certificate of occupancy and will verify any changes in language.

Ms. Romano explained although language was changed in the Ordinance department practice remained the same.

Ms. Slayton clarified language changes, updates and deletions of outdated material, preliminary and final calculations, updating of practices throughout the City, spoke to the contents of the impact fee ordinances discussed last June, and oversights regarding implementation of the legislation.

Discussion ensued regarding 2017 impact fees, and unknown impacts on outstanding permits if fees are implemented at issuance of the permit.

Ms. Romano spoke to reactivating outstanding/expired permits, and document language

clearly stating any new impact fee schedule.

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Luke, seconded by Mayor McDowell, to bring Ordinance No. 2020-05 back for a third reading, changing the wording of Section 58-103(2), with the City Attorney working with staff, in verbiage it to facilitate past practices, utilizing the impact fee schedule at the time of permit. It can still be collected at Certificate of Occupancy but they will be utilizing the fee schedule at the time of permit. When the permit lapses and it needs to be extended, this new form can be used to state that for 180 days the new impact fee schedule that is current at that point would be utilized for the renewal of the permit. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 4 - Mayor McDowell, Vice Mayor Luke, Commissioner Hanks and Commissioner Emrich

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Carusone

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Lou Sperduto: when use of development changes City is entitled to change fees.

Bill Gunnin: input from Chamber of Commerce members regarding implementation of impact fees and working with the City.

RESOLUTIONS

B. [RES. NO. 2020-R-02](#)

A Resolution of the City of North Port, Florida, Strongly Encouraging the State Legislature to Approve Senate Bill 182 and Any Companion House Bills Relating to the Preemption of Recyclable and Polystyrene Materials by Amending Florida Statutes Sections 403.7033 and 500.90, Repealing the Preemption of Local Laws Regarding the Use or Sale of Single-Use Plastic Bags and Polystyrene Materials; Providing for Transmittal; Providing for Conflicts; Providing for Severability; and Providing an Effective Date

Ms. Reed read the Resolution by title only.

Ms. Slayton introduced the item and clarified aspects of the proposed legislation.

Discussion ensued regarding importance of home rule, adding other governmental entities to the transmittal, and sharing the Resolution with the Council of Governments.

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Luke, seconded by Commissioner Hanks, to approve Resolution No. 2020-R-02. Thereafter, the motion and second were withdrawn.

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Luke, seconded by Commissioner Hanks, to approve Resolution No. 2020-R-02 including Florida League of Cities and the Sarasota County Commissioners in the transmittal.

Commissioner Hanks and Mayor McDowell supported the legislation because local jurisdictions should govern their own areas and the State should not dictate aspects of everyday life.

The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 4 - Mayor McDowell, Vice Mayor Luke, Commissioner Hanks and Commissioner Emrich

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Carusone

There was a consensus to direct the City Manager to email a copy of the transmittals to the Commission.

7. GENERAL BUSINESS:

A. [20-1651](#) Discussion and Possible Action for Potential Purchase of Property for Eldron Sidewalk Project Connection to Sumter Boulevard Sidewalk

Ms. Branco introduced the item.

Mayor McDowell provided information concerning purchasing additional property and initiating a conversation with the other two owners.

Ms. Bellia provided an overview of attempts to purchase the properties, budgeting for purchase, design, construction, bid the project, and suggested placing it as a Fiscal Year 2020-2021 project.

Mr. Newman confirmed the City's intent to purchase one of the three lots.

Ms. Branco spoke to previous Commission direction of swapping properties to be included in a March report, and explained swapping procedure details..

Discussion ensued pertaining to swapping land of equal or greater value vs. purchasing property outright.

Ms. Bellia spoke to property appraiser's current valuation of the property, and confirmed one lot would satisfy the sidewalk requirement.

Discussion continued regarding using budgeted funds from the tree fund to purchase the lot, asking price unknown, City-owned property, and waiting to start a project.

Mayor McDowell passed the gavel to Vice Mayor Luke.

A motion was made by Mayor McDowell, seconded by Commissioner Emrich, to direct City Manager to work toward speaking with the owners of the three lots to complete the Sumter Boulevard sidewalk project, requesting the information be brought back in one month.

Christopher Hanks clarified the contents of the "report."

The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 4 - Mayor McDowell, Vice Mayor Luke, Commissioner Hanks and Commissioner Emrich

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Carusone

Vice Mayor Luke passed gavel back to Mayor McDowell.

10. COMMISSION COMMUNICATIONS:

Commissioner Emrich: nothing to report.

Vice Mayor Luke: accuracy of report from Finance Department regarding impact fees.

Commissioner Hanks: nothing to report.

Mayor McDowell: letter from Florida State's Attorney General regarding aluminum phosphate settlement.

Ms. Branco will provide a memo to the Commission with information where the funds will be deposited.

11. ADMINISTRATIVE AND LEGAL REPORTS:

There were no Administrative or Legal Reports.

Recess was taken from 2:28 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

8. PROCLAMATIONS AND RECOGNITIONS: TIME CERTAIN AT 4:00 P.M.

- A. [20-1600](#) Proclaim January 26 -February 1, 2020 as School Choice Week

The Commission presented this Proclamation.

- B. [20-1669](#) Proclamation in Recognition of the 2020 Census

The Commission presented this Proclamation.

- C. [20-1606](#) Present Advisory Board Certificates of Appreciation to Alice White for Serving on the Citizens' Tax Oversight Committee, Joseph Hafner for serving on the Community Economic Development Advisory Board, and Gail Miller for serving on the Beautification & Tree/Scenic Highway Committee

The Commission presented the Certificates of Appreciation.

9. PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was no public comment.

Commissioner Luke provided information regarding Warm Mineral Spring and Salt Creek being part of Sarasota County.

12. ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor McDowell adjourned the meeting at 4:11 p.m.

City of North Port, Florida

By: _____
Debbie McDowell, Mayor

Attest: _____
Heather Taylor, Interim City Clerk

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