



City of North Port

4970 CITY HALL BLVD
NORTH PORT, FL 34286

Meeting Minutes City Commission Special Meeting

CITY COMMISSIONERS

Pete Emrich, Mayor
Barbara Langdon, Vice Mayor
Jill Luke, Commissioner
Debbie McDowell, Commissioner
Alice White, Commissioner

APPOINTED OFFICIALS

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

Thursday, April 7, 2022

3:00 PM

CITY COMMISSION CHAMBERS

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Emrich called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: 5 - Mayor Pete Emrich, Vice Mayor Barbara Langdon, Commissioner Jill Luke, Commissioner Alice White and Commissioner Debbie McDowell

Also Present

City Manager Jerome Fletcher, City Attorney Amber Slayton, City Clerk Heather Taylor, Recording Secretary Amanda Baker, Deputy Fire Chief Nick Herlihy, Police Chief Todd Garrison, and Neighborhood Development Services Director Alaina Ray

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Alice White.

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Commissioner McDowell, seconded by Commissioner Luke, to approve the Agenda as presented. The motion carried on the following vote:

Yes: 5 - Mayor Emrich, Vice Mayor Langdon, Commissioner Luke, Commissioner White and Commissioner McDowell

2. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Ms. Taylor read the following e-Comments into the record:

David Ianotti: expressed opposition in delaying the Tree Ordinance effective date.

Amanda Helstowsky: expressed opposition in delaying the Tree Ordinance effective date.

Erin Hall: expressed opposition in delaying the Tree Ordinance effective date.

Debra Mays: expressed opposition in delaying the Tree Ordinance effective date.

Patrice Matz: expressed opposition in delaying the Tree Ordinance effective date.

Barbara Lockhart: expressed opposition in delaying the Tree Ordinance effective date.

Matt Ackerson: expressed concern with Village District Pattern Plan (VDPP) construction.

Victor Dobin: expressed opposition in delaying the Tree Ordinance effective date.

3. PUBLIC HEARINGS:

ORDINANCE:

[ORD NO.
2022-11](#)

An Emergency Ordinance of the City of North Port, Florida, Amending the Effective Date of Ordinance No. 2021-46, Regarding Tree Protection Regulations; Providing for Findings; Providing for Conflicts; Providing for Severability; and Providing an Effective Date.

Mayor Emrich announced the item and directed the City Clerk to read the Ordinance in its entirety.

Ms. Taylor read the Ordinance in its entirety.

Mr. Fletcher introduced the item.

Ms. Slayton explained the voting process and the effects of the vote.

Discussion took place regarding concerns with delaying the effective date, stipulations for emergency Ordinances, concerns on time constraints, clear cutting being an unsustainable practice, contracts signed prior to Ordinance approval, fiscal responsibility, building permit process misconceptions, current permit application review, septic tank permit impacts, applications submitted prior to April 8, 2022, preparedness of staff, legality of the meeting, Special Meeting vs. Emergency Meeting, staff diligence, complexities of implementing the Ordinance, building permit process, and impact of delay on homeowners and private home builders.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Ms. Taylor read the following e-Comment into the record:

Bill Gobin: expressed opposition in delaying the Tree Ordinance effective date.

Mildred Hubbard: expressed opposition in delaying the Tree Ordinance effective date.

Sharon Donovan: expressed opposition in delaying the Tree Ordinance effective date.

Sean Kirkpatrick: expressed opposition in delaying the Tree Ordinance effective date.

Tricia Murray: expressed support in delaying the Tree Ordinance effective date.

L Sears: expressed opposition in delaying the Tree Ordinance effective date.

Carla Sykes: expressed support of delaying the Tree Ordinance effective date.

Ms. Ray answered questions regarding already-submitted applications falling under the previous Tree Code.

Miriam Schaefer: permitting process and specificity of the upcoming tree survey.

Harry Taylor: willingness to pay fines and fees for removing protected and heritage trees.

Victor Dobrin: Ukrainian residents and expressed opposition in delaying the Tree Ordinance effective date.

Mayor Emrich closed the public hearing and requested a motion.

A motion was made by Commissioner McDowell, seconded by Commissioner Luke, to approve Ordinance No. 2022-11 as presented. The motion failed on the following vote:

Yes: 3 - Vice Mayor Langdon, Commissioner Luke and Commissioner McDowell

No: 2 - Mayor Emrich and Commissioner White

Commissioner White dissented due to the need to start with implementing the Ordinance and staff input regarding working out concerns.

Mayor Emrich dissented due to staff completion of the Ordinance, their ability to move forward and in the interest of tree protection, and citizen input.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was no public comment.

5. ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Emrich adjourned the meeting at 3:47 p.m.

City of North Port, Florida

By: _____
Pete Emrich, Mayor

Attest: _____
Heather Taylor, City Clerk

These minutes were approved on the ____ day of _____, 20__.