



# City of North Port

4970 CITY HALL BLVD  
NORTH PORT, FL 34286

## Meeting Minutes - Draft City Commission Workshop

### *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*

---

Tuesday, February 25, 2020

9:00 AM

City Commission Chambers

---

### Strategic Planning Workshop

#### CALL TO ORDER

Mayor McDowell called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

#### ROLL CALL

**Present:** 5 - Mayor Debbie McDowell, Vice Mayor Jill Luke, Commissioner Christopher Hanks, Commissioner Vanessa Carusone and Commissioner Pete Emrich

#### Also Present:

City Manager Peter Lear, City Attorney Amber Slayton, Interim City Clerk Heather Taylor, Fire Chief Scott Titus, Neighborhood Development Services Director Frank Miles, Police Chief Todd Garrison, Public Utilities Director Rick Newkirk, Public Works Director Julie Bellia

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by David Duval.

#### 1. PUBLIC COMMENT:

David Duval: infrastructure and fiber optic connectivity

Commissioner Carusone arrived at 9:05 a.m.

Discussion took place regarding Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) initiative on traffic lights.

Mr. Lear spoke to action taken to assist providers in running fiber optics, running conduit during repaving of Tropicare Boulevard, provider running fiber optics, ROI requirements, intent to lease conduit to internet provider, and extending term of cell tower leases with the exchange of space on the tower to run a wireless version of the internet.

**2. GENERAL BUSINESS:**[20-1973](#)**Strategic Planning**

Mr. Lear introduced the item.

Christine Nolan, consultant, reviewed the draft strategic plan summary stating there were no changes to the values and health and public safety.

Chief Titus replied to Commission questions regarding Fire Strategic Plan including the fixed study components, future growth, and stated he will resend the plan to Commission.

Chief Garrison replied to Commission questions regarding Police Strategic Plan including retention, future growth, and length of plan, and stated he will send the plan to Commission once complete.

Discussion took place regarding social service concerns including the city working in partnership with outside entities to address social service concerns, how to address social services within the community, and securing P3 for Dallas White area.

Ms. Nolan continued to review the draft plan regarding Parks and Recreation with discussion regarding the order of bulleted items, adding expansion of services to east side and 63-acre park in West Villages, and east and west end community centers.

***There was consensus to add giving resources to expand the east end and west end, to the strategic plan.***

Discussion continued regarding supporting the Social Services Department, and affordable workforce housing.

Ms. Nolan reviewed the minor changes to infrastructure including goals and objectives.

Mr. Lear replied to Commission questions regarding bullet structure.

Discussion took place regarding all bullet points being a priority, multi-modal plan, planning for autonomous vehicles, planning for future change in transportation, whether the first bullet should be one or two, and water and sewer being included in the Master Plan.

Mr. Lear noted the vendor pulled out from the Master Plan and that the City is pursuing other options.

Discussion continued regarding the third bullet including signals being included although signals are already being worked on, coordination with utility companies regarding internet services, high speed service, and planning for future mobility.

Ms. Bellia replied to Commission questions regarding installation of conduit for dark fiber for Price Boulevard.

Discussion continued regarding Hillsborough and Cranberry intersection not being included on the list, partnership with outlining government entities, and focus being Hillsborough Boulevard.

***There was consensus to add collaboration with Charlotte County regarding***

***Hillsborough Boulevard.***

***There was consensus to add partnership with bordering counties for transportation needs.***

Ms. Nolan continued to review the plan including economic development and job creation.

Mr. Lear responded to Commission questions regarding the bullets being vague.

Discussion continued regarding infill and redevelopment, growth in town centers, high tech jobs, and direction for types of industries.

Ms. Nolan reviewed the draft plan for historical, cultural, and environmental preservation.

Discussion followed regarding removing the bullet to support preservation of Orange Hammock Ranch, the bullet to Support Preservation of Watershed at Orange Hammock Ranch, protecting surplus land, adding "acquire" to the third bullet, preserving watershed and protecting future water capacity.

Mr. Newkirk spoke to watershed, water rights owned by state, North Port's consumptive use permit, water received from the Snover Waterway, and wells not effecting watershed.

***There was consensus to reword bullet four to state "Support Preservation of the City's Watershed at Orange Hammock Ranch."***

Discussion took place regarding land banks placement on the strategic plan, not restricting the City to be obligated to purchase all environmentally protected land, and conserve versus preserve.

***There was a consensus to reword bullet three to state "Protect, conservation and preservation of environmentally sensitive lands and resources including prudent acquisition".***

Public Comment:

David Duval: tax break incentives and sustaining growth

Recess was taken from 10:50 a.m. until 11:06 a.m.

Ms. Nolan continued to review the draft plan on affordable, growth and development.

Discussion followed regarding adding language for a land bank, using the language from the current plan, and adding the word continue.

***There was a consensus to add a bullet that states "Continue to development land bank for future that reflects the community's priorities when prudent".***

Ms. Nolan reviewed Neighborhood Enhancement and Commission had no questions or changes, and Efficient and Effective Government.

Discussion followed regarding the last bullet in reference to Trakkit, and city life being reworded to city government in bullet one.

***There was consensus to reword bullet one to state "Continue to enhance citizen education and engagement in government."***

Discussion continued regarding adding language about the process for small businesses.

Mr. Miles spoke to Florida Statutes sections related to state requirements for change of occupancy, the need to educate the public, and goal to streamline procedures.

Discussion followed regarding notifying the public of the process in the beginning, point of entry into the system, technology increasing frustration of customers, memorandum regarding property along Eldron Avenue, sustainability fund language, shared use path on Tropicare Boulevard, and prior discussion regarding bike lanes/multi-modal path on Tropicare Boulevard.

Ms. Bellia spoke to the Tropicare Boulevard reconstruction project and cohesiveness with the multi-use path and replied to questions regarding conduit connectivity.

Ms. Nolan responded to Commission questions regarding the cohesiveness of staff and Commission during the strategic planning process and reviewed next steps including incorporating changes into plan, provide Commission final plan by the end of March.

**3. PUBLIC COMMENT:**

There was no public comment.

**4. ADJOURNMENT:**

Mayor McDowell adjourned the meeting at 11:52 a.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.