



# City of North Port

4970 CITY HALL BLVD  
NORTH PORT, FL 34286

## Meeting Minutes - Draft City Commission Special 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*  
*Kathryn Wong, City Clerk*  
*Heather Taylor, Deputy City Clerk*

---

Thursday, July 18, 2019

8:30 AM

CITY COMMISSION CHAMBERS

---

### CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Hanks called the meeting to order at 8:34 a.m.

### ROLL CALL

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

### Also Present:

City Manager Peter Lear, City Attorney Amber Slayton, Deputy City Clerk Heather Taylor, Recording Secretary Ida Goodman, Police Chief Todd Garrison, Police Captain Michael Baute, Fire Chief Scott Titus, and Assistant Director of Parks and Recreation Tricia Wisner.

**The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Emrich.**

### 1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

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

### 2. PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was no public comment.

### 3. GENERAL BUSINESS:

- A. [19-0791](#) Discussion and Possible Action to Provide a Letter of Support to the Florida League of Cities in their Efforts for Municipalities to Receive

### Funding Due to the New E911 Law

Mr. Lear introduced the item and informed the Commission of a scrivener's error in the letter provided in the backup.

Captain Baute spoke to the item with emphasis of jurisdictional communication issues, highlighting scrutiny on the E911 statute, discussion with municipalities regarding funding for new requirements, lack of formula for the counties to allocate monies to municipalities, E911 fees not being distributed to municipalities, and responded to Commission questions regarding discussion and feedback from the County.

Chief Garrison spoke to discussion with the Sarasota County regarding needing to request money from the County for them to budget.

Mr. Lear informed the Commission that the Resolution would be on the July 23, 2019 meeting agenda.

Gratitude was expressed to the North Port Police Department for their diligence and past Commissioner Linda Yates for bringing this matter to the City's attention.

***A motion was made by Commissioner Carusone, seconded by Vice-Mayor McDowell, to approve the Letter of Support to the Florida League of Cities in efforts for municipalities to receive fair funding due to the E911 laws. The motion carried by the following vote:***

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

**B. [19-0771](#)**

Discussion Regarding Potential Donation of \$33,500 from the Trust for Public Land and Gulf Coast Community Foundation as a Contribution Toward the Cost of Creating the North Port Connector, a Connection from North Port to the Legacy Trail

Mr. Lear introduced the item.

Doug Hattaway with the Trust for Public Lands, spoke to the purpose of the organization, sale of property to Sarasota County, public outreach, funds set aside to connect the Legacy Trail to the City, partnerships with other organizations, Kimley Horn hired by Sarasota County, possible routes to connect the Legacy Trail to the City, intent for funds to help further connection for construction of bridge, and intention to connect over R 36 canal.

John Thaxton with the Gulf Coast Community Foundation, spoke to commitment to Commission to be diligent in supporting the connection of the Legacy Trail, and Gulf Coast approval to write letter of support for Job Growth grant.

Mr. Hattaway confirmed that there are no time constraints to use funds from either entity.

Mr. Thaxton spoke to the need for both connections.

Thanks were expressed for the donation.

**C. [19-0738](#)**

City Manager's Proposed Budget for FY 19/20

Discussion took place regarding second plaque for pool.

Commissioner Luke stated she wanted to change her vote to no concerning the second plaque due to various Commissions being involved with the budgeting process.

Discussion continued regarding setting precedent to determine who funded projects, ordinance specific with who was responsible for original funding, intent for plaque for those who originated the project and those who completed it, and City Manager request for additional information on the Capital Improvement Project (CIP) sheets.

Vice Mayor stated she would like to delay her approval pending receipt of further documentation.

Mr. Lear spoke to receiving a request for information, 2003 Resolution adopted with criteria for plaque recognition, project not being part of the aquatic referendum, and various names used for the project.

Discussion followed regarding receiving the information prior to a second plaque being ordered, prior Commission directive, including all who worked on the project, unfunding/re-funding the project, and recognizing those who started the pool project.

It was suggested that staff review all information prior to a plaque being installed and who should be included on a second plaque if warranted.

Discussion followed regarding including all involved in the aquatic center on the additional plaque.

***A motion was made by Commissioner Carusone, seconded by Commissioner Emrich, to direct the City Manager to continue to work on a secondary plaque recognizing those Commissioners who originally budgeted for the engineering, planning and design of the City's aquatic center in the Morgan Center/Butler Park area to have a secondary plaque installed; and if there is a problem or other issues are found that go beyond the singular additional plaque, that those are brought before the Commission.***

Vice-Mayor McDowell is not in favor of the motion because it did not state to bring back to the Commission prior to purchasing.

***The motion carried by the following vote:***

**Yes:** 3 - Mayor Hanks, Commissioner Emrich and Commissioner Carusone

**No:** 2 - Vice-Mayor McDowell and Commissioner Luke

#### **4. PUBLIC COMMENT:**

There was no public comment.

#### **5. COMMISSION COMMUNICATIONS:**

Commissioner Carusone left the meeting at 9:15 a.m.

Commissioner Luke spoke to closure of YMCA pool at the Dallas White Park, and utilizing funds from Sarasota County for demolition of pool.

Ms. Slayton spoke to there being no mechanism under the contract for the City to divert funds Sarasota County would pay to the YMCA, and a separate contract would be needed.

Vice Mayor McDowell requested that staff elaborate on the chain of events that brought about closure of the pool.

Mr. Lear stated the City did not close the pool, spoke to meeting with City staff and YMCA representatives, closure of the pool initiated by the YMCA, letter issued by the Building Official, and appeal process to reopen the pool at a cost to the City.

Ms. Wisner spoke to meeting with YMCA staff regarding concerns with filtering of water, safety concerns, and YMCA's decision to close the pool.

Discussion took place regarding security of pool so access is limited to City Officials only.

Ms. Slayton spoke to the security of the pool and premises being the responsibility of the YMCA, the YMCA's control of the property, each party's ability to terminate the contract, and 10 days for YMCA to provide mitigation plan or 21 days to appeal determination.

Discussion continued regarding prior Commission direction not to invest further funds into the pool, review of the contract to determine authority to terminate contract, whether there is need for Commission approval to terminate the contract, placing the item for discussion on the July 23, 2019 amended agenda, taking action within the 10-day period, and taking no action allowing it to go through the 30-day process.

A consensus was requested to direct the City Manager to place the YMCA pool at Dallas White Park on the July 23, 2019 Commission Meeting for discussion and possible action.

Mayor Hanks and Commissioner Emrich favored allowing the issue to go through the 30-day process and then revisit, and the consensus was not obtained.

Mr. Lear spoke to having additional conversation with the YMCA and stated he would provide Commission an update.

**6. ADMINISTRATIVE AND LEGAL REPORTS:**

There were no Administrative or Legal Reports.

**7. ADJOURNMENT:**

Mayor Hanks adjourned the North Port City Commission Special Meeting at 9:32 a.m.

City of North Port, Florida

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Christopher B. Hanks, Mayor

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Heather Taylor, Deputy Clerk

Minutes approved at the City Commission Regular Meeting this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2019.