City of North Port

4970 CITY HALL BLVD
NORTH PORT, FL 34286

Meeting Minutes

City Commission Workshop

CITY COMMISSIONERS
Alice White, Mayor
Phil Stokes, Vice Mayor
Pete Emrich, Commissioner
Barbara Langdon, Commissioner
Debbie McDowell, Commissioner

APPOINTED OFFICIALS
Jerome Fletcher, City Manager
Amber L. Slayton, City Attorney
Heather Faust, City Clerk

Monday, September 9, 2024 | **9:00 AM** | **City Commission Chambers**

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor White called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

ROLL CALL

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

Also Present:

City Manager Fletcher, Deputy City Attorney Golen, Assistant City Clerk Powell, Board Specialist Bodmer, Fire Chief Titus, Police Captain Fussell, Legislative Analyst Miles, Finance Director Williams, and Grants Division Manager Malingowski

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Finance Director Kimberly Williams.

1. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Robin San Vicente: Spoke to debt management policy.
Chuck English: Spoke to debt management policy.

2. GENERAL BUSINESS:

A. 24-1340 Discussion and Possible Direction Regarding the City of North Port 2025 State and Federal Legislative Priorities.

Mayor White announced the item.

Mr. Fletcher introduced the item.

Mr. Miles spoke to legislators meeting, funding, state fiscal projections, and evacuation procedures.

Commission questions and discussion took place regarding removal of mandatory evacuations, resident safety, requesting specific items rather than general items, potential to postpone discussion, appropriation usage, wetlands impact, stormwater management, meeting with legislators, and timeline.

In person public comment:
Robin San Vicente: Spoke to Florida Outstanding Springs designation.

B. 24-1166 Discussion and Possible Direction Regarding Proposed Projects for 2025 State and Federal Legislative Funding Requests.

Mayor White announced the item.

Mr. Fletcher introduced the item.

Ms. Malingowski spoke to funding requests and provided an overview.

Commission questions and discussion took place regarding trash transfer station, environmental sensitive land, and timeline.

In person public comment:
Josh Smith: Spoke to Yorkshire update.

Recess was taken from 9:59 a.m. to 10:10 a.m.

C. 24-0985 Discussion and Possible Direction Regarding a City of North Port Debt Management Policy and Debt Finance Committee.

Mayor White announced the item.

Mr. Fletcher introduced the item.

Jeremy Niedfeldt, PFM Advisors, provided a presentation including outline, City Charter, comparable debt limits, policy objectives, policy defined, components, affordability measures, historical trend, scorecard approach, ratings criteria, peer analysis, debt per capita, debt to taxable assessed value, debt service as a percentage of operating revenues, debt finance committee, debt structuring, considerations, issuance and management, potential financing team members, primary bond sales method, compliance requirements, overview of financing process, and use of derivatives.

Commission questions and discussion took place regarding credit rating factors, debt affordability measures, revenue fund cap applied to debt services, interfund borrowing, management policy usage, target debt per capita target, surtax, revenue usage, metric usage, fiduciary responsibility, city metrics comparison, default examples, company history, current debt, credit debt verses debt allowance, long term financing, taxable value, individual district's debt, payment calculation, guidelines, annual reporting, citizen input, potential lenders, amending debt management policy, debt service payments, deal approval process, direction requested, and timeline.

Recess was taken from 12:32 p.m. to 1:15 p.m.

Commission questions and discussion continued regarding backloading utilization, frontloading versus backloading, fixed interest versus variable interest debt, variable interest debt utilization, revenue debt use of general fund, loan comparison, advisory board intent and membership criteria, debt management policy guidelines and process, removing designated Commissioner for advisory board, citizen involvement, debt payment process and consequences, default process, and risk assessment.

In person public comment:
Robin San Vicente: Expressed support and spoke to defining other funding sources, debt structuring, revenue debt, interfund borrowing, debt issuance process, and citizen input.
Josh Smith: Expressed support and spoke to adding strict guidelines and citizen input.

Commission questions and discussion continued regarding community workshops.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Robin San Vicente: Spoke to services provided to citizens.

4. ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor White adjourned the meeting at 2:02 p.m.

City of North Port, Florida

By: _____
Alice White, Mayor

Attest: _____
Heather Faust, City Clerk