



# City of North Port

4970 CITY HALL BLVD  
NORTH PORT, FL 34286

## Meeting Minutes City Commission Workshop

### **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*

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Wednesday, June 15, 2022

9:00 AM

City Commission Chambers

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### **City Manager Recommended Budget**

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

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

Ms. Taylor notified the Commission that Commissioner White requested to attend the meeting via Communications Media Technology (CMT).

Vice Mayor Langdon provided required notifications regarding conducting a hybrid meeting.

Commissioner White stated she will be attending the hybrid meeting via CMT due to experiencing an illness.

Vice Mayor Langdon requested a motion.

***A motion was made by Commissioner McDowell, seconded by Commissioner Luke, to approve Commissioner White's request to attend the Workshop via Communications Media Technology (CMT). The motion carried on the following vote:***

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

***Abstain: 1 - Commissioner White***

***Absent: 1 - Mayor Emrich***

Ms. Taylor notified the Commission that Mayor Emrich requested to attend the meeting via Communications Media Technology (CMT).

Vice Mayor Langdon provided required notifications regarding conducting a hybrid meeting.

Mayor Emrich stated he will be attending the hybrid meeting via CMT due to experiencing

an illness.

Vice Mayor Langdon requested a motion.

***A motion was made by Commissioner McDowell, seconded by Commissioner Luke, to approve Mayor Emrich's request to attend the Workshop via Communications Media Technology (CMT). The motion carried on the following vote:***

***Yes: 4 - Vice Mayor Langdon, Commissioner Luke, Commissioner McDowell, and Commissioner White***

***Abstain: 1 - Mayor Emrich***

## **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, Fire Chief Scott Titus, Police Chief Todd Garrison, Deputy Fire Chief Nick Herlihy, Police Department Business Manager Jennifer Ayres, Police Captain Paul Harvey, Assistant City Manager Julie Bellia, Assistant City Manager Jason Yarborough, Neighborhood Development Services Director Alaina Ray, Neighborhood Development Services Business Manager Katrina Romano, Public Works Director Chuck Speake (virtually), Fleet Manager Ken Rappuhn, Solid Waste Manager Frank Lama, Public Works Business Manager Garrett Woods, Utilities Director Nancy Gallinaro, Assistant Utilities Director Jennifer Derosiers, Field Operations Manager Mike Vuolo, Economic Development Program Manager Mel Thomas (virtually), Planner II Randy Bowling, and Economic Development Staff Assistant II Kaitlyn Stelzer

## **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Fire Chief Scott Titus.

### **1. PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Valdy Olender: citizen's rights, millage rates, and interest rates increase.

Commissioner McDowell spoke to the budget process, growth benefits, general fund, and inflation.

### **2. GENERAL BUSINESS:**

[22-2971](#)

Discussion and Possible Direction Regarding the Fiscal Year 2023 City Manager's Recommended Budget.

Vice Mayor Langdon announced the item.

Mr. Fletcher introduced the item and expressed gratitude to staff and Commission.

There was no public comment.

22-3072

## Fire Department

Vice Mayor Langdon announced the item.

Mr. Fletcher introduced the item and provided a presentation including organizational chart with proposed new positions, accomplishments, and initiatives.

Chief Titus spoke to the employee satisfaction survey.

Mr. Fletcher continued with the presentation including strategic plan pillars, priorities, performance measures, budget summary, and budget proposals.

Commission questions and discussion took place regarding proposed new positions, general fund contribution to the Renewal and Replacement (R&R) fund for vehicles, funding and attendance for paramedic school, Debrita Road parcel, District accreditation, number of staff for one station, future safety building, first responder mental health wellness, equipment, general fund payment, start date for new personnel, inflation impact, gratitude to staff, Citizens Parkway station, and emergency signals on Price Boulevard and Citizens Parkway.

There was no public comment.

Recess was taken from 10:20 a.m. until 10:30 a.m.

22-3073

## Police Department

Vice Mayor Langdon announced the item.

Mr. Fletcher introduced the item and provided a presentation including organizational chart and proposed new positions, accomplishments, and initiatives.

Chief Garrison spoke to the employee satisfaction survey.

Mr. Fletcher continued the presentation including strategic plan pillars, priorities, performance measures, budget summary, and budget proposals.

Commission questions and discussion took place regarding policing for special events, volunteer services, department morale, additional Officer positions, neighborhood watch program, new vehicles and vehicle replacements, proposed new positions and start dates, covert equipment and software, wireless services, digital lab server software, plans for a motorcycle unit, drop-in metrics for safe community, Telecommunications positions, community outreach, gratitude to staff, creating culture change, and involvement in community programs.

***There was consensus to fully fund Budget Proposal #2215 for a Police Officer position with start date of January 1, 2023.***

***There was consensus to fully fund Budget Proposal #2217 for a Police Officer position with a start date of January 1, 2023.***

Commission discussion continued regarding the start date for the Police Captain position and the department utilizing existing personnel until the position is posted.

***There was consensus to postpone Budget Proposal #2206 for an Accreditation Specialist position to be reviewed next fiscal year.***

Mr. Fletcher spoke about bringing proposed adjustments to offset costs back to Commission.

Commission questions and discussion continued regarding staff balancing the budget, funding the Accreditation Special position and Police Officer positions, and reconsidering the previous consensus.

**There was consensus to approve Budget Proposal #2206 for an Accreditation Specialist position for this fiscal year.**

There was no public comment.

#### 22-3074

#### Neighborhood Development Services

Vice Mayor Langdon announced the item.

Mr. Fletcher introduced the item and provided a presentation including organizational chart and proposed new positions, accomplishments, and initiatives.

Ms. Ray spoke to the employment satisfaction survey and the changes that have occurred within the department.

Mr. Fletcher continued the presentation including strategic plan pillars, priorities, performance measures, budget summary, budget proposals, and funding for three-year proactive Code Enforcement positions.

Commission questions and discussion took place regarding Code Enforcement collection of funds, proposed new positions, Activity Center 6 Master Plan, additional staffing and recruiting issues, vehicle requirement, gratitude to staff, office space, and extending Code Enforcement Inspector hours.

Recess was taken from 12:30 p.m. until 1:15 p.m.

Commission questions and discussion continued regarding Arborist positions, percentage of tree fund usage, tree planting projects and programs, tree canopy tracking software, use of Building fund for portion of Arborist salary, anticipated revenue for tree mitigation, top three complaints received from residents to Code Enforcement, Impact Fee Administrator position, additional Arborist vehicle, staff bringing back more information regarding customer care service training, tree assessment, consulting services for Activity Center 6, permitting software implementation, building metrics, growth impact, and professional development.

There was no public comment.

#### 22-3075

#### Public Works Department

Vice Mayor Langdon announced the item.

Mr. Fletcher introduced the item and provided a presentation including organizational charts and proposed new positions, accomplishments, and initiatives.

Mr. Speake spoke to the employee satisfaction survey.

Mr. Fletcher continued the presentation including strategic plan pillars, priorities, performance measures, budget summary, and budget proposals.

Commission questions and discussion took place regarding tree planting line item and project locations, purpose of new positions, budgeted funds for remodeling offices, vehicle request, modular unit rental and update for the Children's Clothing Closet, security assessments for City buildings, enhancing security at City Hall and the Morgan Center, unfunded Project Manager position, recommended budget proposals within Solid Waste, 3% District fee increase, Commission discussion for Public Works methodology, gas tax moratorium, walking excavator, Solid Waste rate studies, transport operator, gratitude to staff, and proactive Police Department involvement.

There was no public comment.

### 22-3076

#### Utilities Department

Vice Mayor Langdon announced the item.

Mr. Fletcher introduced the item and provided a presentation including organizational chart and proposed new positions, accomplishments, and initiatives.

Ms. Gallinaro spoke to the employment satisfaction survey.

Mr. Fletcher continued the presentation including strategic plan pillars, priorities, performance measures, budget summary, budget proposals, and Sustainability Officer position not currently funded.

Recess was taken from 3:13 p.m. until 3:25 p.m.

Commission questions and discussion took place regarding vacant positions, Utilities payroll, water conservation, water and sewer increase, proposed new positions, continuous improvement program planning, vehicle replacements, switchgear replacement, gratitude to staff, Meter Operator Supervisor position, collection and distribution tax, operation complex initiative, funding for vehicles and building, cost of postage, biosolids disposal funding, increase in rentals and leases, Shop Assistant budget proposal and increase in communications services under Fleet Management, backflow copies, utilities repairs, and water treatment plant chemicals.

Consensus was requested to remove Budget Proposal #2160 for the part-time Customer Service Representative position.

Commission questions and discussion continued regarding empowering employees, department managers' feedback regarding the employee satisfaction survey, encouraging adequate security for systems and physical plants, and community engagement in neighborhood expansion and water conservation.

There was no public comment.

Ms. Derosiers spoke to mechanical integrity testing of biosolids.

Ms. Gallinaro spoke to water sources.

### 22-3077

#### Economic Development Division

Vice Mayor Langdon announced the item.

Mr. Fletcher introduced the item and provided a presentation including organizational

chart and proposed new positions, accomplishments, employment satisfaction survey, and initiatives, strategic plan pillars, priorities, performance measures, budget summary, and budget proposals, and read a statement submitted by Ms. Thomas.

Commission questions and discussion took place regarding Cranberry Boulevard and Hillsborough Boulevard project and the value of the proposed property for the Wellen Park government building.

Ms. Thomas spoke to the number of zoned and appropriate use land being limited, working with Planning and Zoning and Public Works to locate 10-acre property for the Wellen Park government building, American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) fund allocations, and answered questions regarding rezoning property.

Commission questions and discussion continued regarding \$250,000 in the shovel-ready site proposal and economic incentives.

Ms. Slayton spoke to charging and collecting impact fees.

Commission questions and discussion continued regarding the going rate for an acre of property, whether shovel-ready site would be sold and recouped by a developer or used as an investment to entice developers, internship program, commercial recreational opportunities, retail attraction and development, interlocal agreement with Sarasota County, new positions, gratitude to staff, implementing internships City-wide, surtax concerns, space renovations, outreach to retail outlets and entrepreneurs, staff identifying tactical programs, companies looking to relocate their business, implementing a consultant/project manager to assist with the Wellen Park government building project, level of process, employee satisfaction survey feedback, increase of workers' compensation, one-on-one with a budget advisor, Utility tax, ad valorem tax, and uploading the presentation to backup material.

There was no public comment.

**3. PUBLIC COMMENT:**

There was no public comment.

**4. ADJOURNMENT:**

Vice Mayor Langdon adjourned the meeting at 5:20 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\_\_.