



City of North Port

4970 CITY HALL BLVD
NORTH PORT, FL 34286

Meeting Minutes City Commission Special Meeting

CITY COMMISSIONERS

Linda M. Yates, Mayor
Vanessa Carusone, Vice-Mayor
Christopher B. Hanks, Commissioner
Debbie McDowell, Commissioner

APPOINTED OFFICIALS

Jonathan R. Lewis, City Manager
Mark Moriarty, City Attorney
Patsy Adkins, City Clerk

Thursday, December 1, 2016

4:00 PM

CITY COMMISSION CHAMBERS

Recognition Meeting

NOTE: This is a draft copy of the minutes of the 12-01-16 Commission Special Recognition Meeting, has not been approved by the Commission and is subject to change.

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

The North Port City Commission Special Recognition Meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. in City Chambers by Mayor Yates.

Present: Mayor Yates; Vice-Mayor Carusone; Commissioners Hanks and McDowell; City Manager Lewis; City Attorney Moriarty; City Clerk Adkins; Recording Secretary Hale; and Police Chief Vespia.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by the Commission.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA – COMMISSION

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

Yes: 4 - Mayor Yates, Commissioner Carusone, Commissioner Hanks and Commissioner McDowell

A. [16-0672](#) Welcome New Employees

Human Resources Director McDade introduced the City's newest employee in the Information Technology Department.

B. [16-0666](#) Certificate of Achievement presentation to the 2016 Goblin Committee

Mayor Yates and the Commission introduced General Services Director Carmichael who presented members of the 2016 Goblin Committee with Certificates of Achievement for their work and service, making the City's Annual Trick-or-Treat event

on October 31st a success.

C. [16-0590](#) Certificate of Achievements to Nokido Ju-Jitsu, Judo, and Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu students who placed in a national championship

Mayor Yates provided a brief background of the Ju-Jitsu America United States Coalition of Sport Ju-Jitsu Organization National Championships and introduced Sensei DelValle who explained the work and efforts the students put throughout the year and won many medals at the National Championships in Orlando, Florida for the Nokido Ju-Jitsu, Judo, and Brazilian Ju-Jitsu 2016 Competition. Certificates were presented to all participants.

D. [16-0676](#) Fire Rescue Departmental Presentation

City Manager Lewis introduced Fire Chief Taaffe, who provided a PowerPoint overview of the North Port Fire Rescue District and Emergency Medical Services, responsibilities, service and achievements for the Fiscal year 2016.

Subsequent to a question, Chief Taaffe clarified that the Sarasota County Communications Center operates on a calendar-year basis therefore the computer-aided dispatch system functions on the same annual basis. Although the City runs on a fiscal-year, the statistical data for both is similar.

Chief Taaffe explained the benefits to the ISO Class 1 Rating achieved by the North Port Fire Department and the benchmark of expectations set by the national standards.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was no public comment.

Mayor Yates distributed a "If I Were Elected Mayor" flyer and stated that the Florida League of Cities and the Florida League of Mayors are sponsoring a contest designed for Seventh Graders, and explained the event in conjunction with Government Week.

Vice-Mayor Carusone articulated concern regarding a four-person Commission until the Special Election is held in May, 2017 and requested a Resolution at the next Commission Regular Meeting to appoint former Commissioner Moore to fill the Seat until the election.

Discussion ensued: (1) concern was expressed that the City Charter does not address appointing someone once a Special Election has been called; (2) salary, insurance etc., must also be considered; (3) a general discussion should precede a recommendation of names; (4) a Special Meeting could be called; (5) City Attorney Moriarty stated: [a] the Commission may perform any legislative act unless it is preempted by State law and there is no preemption to this issue; [b] the City Charter is specific concerning how a vacancy is filled 90-days prior to a general election and because it is silent regarding the current situation, there is nothing to prevent the Commission from filling the Seat; (6) City Manager Lewis recommended providing the normal rate of pay and benefits for a commissioner, but the Florida Retirement System piece will need further review; (7) a Commissioner read portions of Section 7.02 of the City Charter into the record and stated that the City Charter does not address appointing someone in the interim when a Special Election has been called; (8) confidence was voiced that the four Commissioners could work together for the common good until the May election; (9) City Attorney Moriarty affirmed that a draft Resolution could be presented leaving a blank for the name, and any potential applicants must qualify in order to fill the position; (10) an applicant should not be a present candidate running for Seat 4; (11) Section 6.04 of the City Charter states that a Resolution needs the affirmative vote of the entire

City Commissioner for the enactment of Ordinances, Resolutions and Contractual commitments; (12) after considering the item during the next meeting, the Commission is not obligated to appoint anyone to fill Seat 4; (13) concern was expressed that citizen input is needed prior to a final Commission decision; (14) concern was expressed regarding unexpected emergencies that would prohibit a full quorum of Commissioners from attending a meeting; (15) decide on the criteria, a list of possible candidates, and make a decision on December 13, 2016; (16) some misgivings were expressed that a decision will be made too quickly without a full disclosure of what the public wants; (17) a meeting can be scheduled for a time certain of 6:00 p.m. so a good representation of the residents may attend.

Mayor Yates reminded the public that the Tree Lighting and Poinsettia Parade and Festival at City Hall, starting at 6:00 p.m. The Commission's Strategic Planning Session is scheduled for Tuesday, December 6, 2016 at 8:00 a.m. The deadline for pre-ordering Recycling Totes is December 5, 2016.

There was a consensus to direct City Attorney Moriarty to review the City Code, to determine whether someone who has been elected twice, qualifies under the current Charter, to be eligible to serve an appointment for the five months.

There was a consensus to direct the City Attorney to draft a Resolution for appointing a person to fill the vacant Seat 4 and to schedule that item as a time certain meeting at 6:00p.m. on December 13, 2016. Interested parties shall meet with the City Clerk to ensure the qualifications are met for the Charter position. The City Clerk will post on the City's website, the names of those who qualified, and to set the deadline for submitting applications for December 9, 2016 at 5:00 p.m. The Resolution shall state that the individual will take office on January 5, 2017.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Yates adjourned the North Port City Commission Special Recognition Meeting at 6:40 p.m.

City of North Port, Florida

By: _____
Linda M. Yates, Mayor

Attest: _____
Patsy C. Adkins, MMC, City Clerk

Minutes approved at the City Commission Regular Meeting this ____ day of _____, 2017.