



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, January 5, 2017

4:00 PM

CITY COMMISSION CHAMBERS

**NOTE: This is a draft copy of the minutes of the January 5, 2017
Commission Special Meeting, has not been approved by the Commission
and is subject to change.**

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

The North Port Commission Special Meeting was called to order in the City Chambers at 4:05 p.m. 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 Vice-Mayor 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. [16-0727](#) Welcome New Employees

Human Resources Director McDade introduced the City's newest employees in North Port Police Department; Public Works; Human Resources; and General Services.

B. [16-0732](#) Proclamation "Arbor Day" January 20, 2017

Commissioner McDowell read the Proclamation recognizing Arbor Day, January 20, 2017 and presented it to City Arborist Pieper and Neighborhood Services Director Williams. Director Williams expressed appreciation for the work of the City Arborist who thanked the Commission and citizens of North Port for their continued support.

- C. [16-0741](#) Presentation of Certificates of Appreciation to Miranda Henderson, Patricia Tantum and Fred E. Tower III in appreciation of their service to the City of North Port.

Vice-Mayor Carusone presented Certificates of Appreciation recognizing Patricia Tantum and Fred E. Tower, III for their service on the Planning and Zoning Advisory Board and Miranda Henderson for her service on the Community Economic Development Advisory Board. Mr. Tower and Ms. Henderson were not present to accept their Certificates which will be mailed to them.

- D. [16-0720](#) Presentation on Animal Services

Subsequent to City Manager Lewis providing background information, Police Chief Vespia provided a Powerpoint presentation regarding the history of North Port Animal Services; the financial responsibility of the North Port Police Department; identifying the level of service desired; and recommendations.

Discussion ensued regarding: (1) hours of operations for North Port Animal Services prior to 2015 and current number of animal service calls in FY 2015-2016 which required North Port Police response; (2) Certification, policy, job description and cost allocation requirements for a full time North Port Animal Service Officer; (3) the process, availability and maintenance responsibilities of animal traps; (4) the responsibilities of the Community Service Officer; (5) number of calls in which North Port Police Officers currently respond to animal service calls; (6) the considerations of the North Port Commission in re-classifying the Animal Services Officer to a Community Service Officer; (7) proposed allocation for the hiring of 2 new Community Service Officers; (8) current level of service from Sarasota County Animal Control; (9) clarification for the development of the Community Service Officer positions; (10) options for maintaining a desired level of service for animal control; (11) dispatch time versus arrival time for North Port and Sarasota County responding to animal control calls; (12) methodology of reporting number of calls for Animal Services and types of animal service calls; (13) the recommendation of prioritizing Animal Services in the North Port Strategic Plan; (14) staff and Commission receiving detailed and consistent data regarding animal services; (15) North Port Police responding to life safety animal control calls; (16) Statutory requirements for Animal Control level of service; (17) utilizing volunteers to assist in animal control; (18) Sarasota County approving the hiring of an Animal Control Officer specifically for North Port and surrounding areas in FY 2015-2016 and the possibility of an additional officer in FY 2016-2017; (19) the number of required personnel for 24/7 service for Animal Services; (20) realistic allocation of \$90,000.00 for one Animal Services Officer including equipment, uniforms, Certifications and vehicle.

City Clerk Adkins left the meeting at 5:20 p.m. to attend the Community Meeting relating to the Unified Land Development Code Update Project being held at the Morgan Family Community Center.

Discussion continued regarding: (1) the level of service for an Animal Control Officer 8 hour shift in North Port, versus supplementing the calls being routed to Sarasota County; (2) informing the public of North Port animal service calls supplementing Sarasota County Animal Control and the possibility of a staffing issue to the call center as the population grows; (3) types and number of complaints Animal Control received regarding level of service; (4) determining the level of service for North Port versus Sarasota County providing Animal Services; (5) data provided regarding the difference between North Port and Sarasota County response time; (6) providing data consistent with a time frame.

Subsequent to clarifying that the data used in the PowerPoint only reflected the data for FY 2015-2016, Police Chief Vespia agreed to provide the Commission with copies of the spread sheet to ascertain the data.

Public comment was held from 5:47 p.m. to 5:55 p.m.

Discussion continued regarding: (1) Florida Fish and Wildlife responding to a report of a rabid animal; (2) it was suggested that if the level of service is a concern, considering the required allocation to establish an Animal Control Officer and Animal Control Department in North Port. it would not be justified and Sarasota County should be contacted to bring that level of service up to where the citizens of North Port are comfortable with the service they are receiving; (3) meeting with Sarasota County to discuss the Animal Control issues; (4) scheduling an Agenda item for discussion and possible action regarding Animal Control Services and to coordinate with the Sarasota County Sheriff to be present during the discussion.

Mayor Yates summarized by noting that the data will be provided to the Commission and there would be an opportunity for the possibility of further conversations regarding Animal Control in the future.

Consensus to give staff direction to coordinate with the Sarasota County Sheriff Department to include an Agenda item for direction and possible action within the next 90 days, to review options to keep Animal Control Service either individually or as a unit in North Port or to supplement Animal Control Services with Sarasota County; to get information on data related to Animal Control calls as well as services that are currently being provided by Sarasota County and services that were provided in the past by Sarasota County; Level of Service from North Port and the Sarasota County for Animal Control; and possible action to either create a new Animal Control Unit in North Port; add an Animal Control Officer in North Port; or develop a partnership plan with Sarasota County for Animal Control.

E. [16-0729](#)

General Services, Information Technology Division presentation

Subsequent to the City Manager Lewis providing an overview, Information Technology Manager Kasson provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding the Information Technology Division services, responsibilities, accomplishments and projects in progress.

Discussion ensued regarding: (1) safety features to prevent computer hacking; (2) developing high speed Internet throughout the City; (3) other Cities that offer high speed Internet through Utilities; (4) Statutory language which prohibits a City setting a rate for high speed Internet access; (5) resolving issues with Live Streaming and Internet from City Hall and Live Streaming on You Tube; (6) camera improvements proposed for City Chambers. Thereafter, public comment was held.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

A. [16-0717](#)

Ordinance No. 2016-43, second reading, repealing Ordinance No. 2016-11, Campaign Contribution Limitations, Chapter 2, Article II, Division 1, Section 2-25 Code of the City of North Port, Florida.

Recording Secretary Hale read Ordinance No. 2016-43 into the record by title only.

Subsequent to Commissioner McDowell providing an overview, City Attorney Moriarty addressed a concern noting that Ordinance No. 2016-43 is reverting to the old language connecting to Florida State Statutes. Thereafter, public comment was held.

Discussion ensued regarding enabling citizens wishing to run for office an opportunity to campaign with reasonable and fair contribution limitations.

A motion was made by Commissioner McDowell, seconded by Vice-Mayor Carusone, to approve Ordinance No. 2016-43. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

City Manager Lewis noted that on Saturday, January 7, 2017 the Groundbreaking Ceremony for the Butler Park Multi-field Improvements and the Neighborhood Celebration for the Expansion of Neighborhood Water Connectivity are scheduled.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was no public comment.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Yates adjourned the North Port City Commission Special Meeting at 7:00 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