



City of North Port

4970 CITY HALL BLVD
NORTH PORT, FL 34286

Meeting Minutes City Commission Special Meeting

Monday, July 24, 2017

5:00 PM

CITY COMMISSION CHAMBERS

Update on Price Blvd.

NOTE: This is a draft copy of the minutes of the 07-24-2017 Commission Special Meeting, has not been approved by the Commission and is subject to change.

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

The North Port City Commission Special Meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. in City Chambers by Mayor Yates.

Present: Mayor Yates; Vice-Mayor Carusone; Commissioners Hanks, Luke and McDowell; City Manager Lear; Interim City Attorney Slayton; City Clerk Adkins; Deputy City Clerk Peto and Assistant Police Chief Pelfrey.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – LED BY THE COMMISSION

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA – COMMISSION

A motion was made by Commissioner Hanks, seconded by Commissioner McDowell, to approve the agenda. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

A motion was made by Commissioner McDowell, seconded by Commissioner Luke, to suspend the Commission Meeting Procedure Rules for this meeting. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

2. PUBLIC COMMENT:

PUBLIC COMMENT 5:05 P.M. - 5:11 P.M.

Randall Prater; Nick Trolli: Price Boulevard Widening.

A. [17-1237](#)

Update on the Price Boulevard Phase Widening Project

Public Works Director Bellia and Engineering Consultant Adam Perez from American Consulting Engineers, provided an overview of the agenda item.

Questions and discussion ensued: (1) it was stated that the Traffic Analysis for the

roadway was performed in-house; (2) requirements to re-zone Price Boulevard to Commercial were explained along with different roadway/bike lane/sidewalk options; (3) additional right-of-way would need to be purchased in the areas where roundabouts are installed if the Commission decides to change staff's recommendation and use them; (4) due to the number of accidents on Price Boulevard, it was suggested to lower the current posted speed limit now and not wait until after the road improvements are made; (5) it was suggested that the Commission needs more practical options than what staff presented; (6) concern was expressed regarding public safety if a vehicle is allowed to use bike lanes to make u-turns at intersections; (7) clarification was provided that in 2014, the Commission approved the current design proposal of four lanes with a curb and bike lanes from multiple options, and the decision was made by the Commission at public meetings; (8) the total cost for the Price Boulevard widening is estimated at \$28 million and part of the funding will come from State Infrastructure Bank (SIB) loans which will be repaid with Transportation Impact Fees and part from the City's Capital Improvement Program (CIP) budget; (9) design and construction would take approximately three years, but it depends on the option chosen; (10) subsequent to a question, clarification was provided regarding from whom Impact Fees are collected, to what project(s) they may be applied, and the impact re-zoning one side of Price Boulevard would have; (11) funding and repayment sources were discussed for the Price Boulevard Road Improvements including possible funding by Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) and the parameters for which an advancement on their funding would be accessible; (12) bike lane and curbing requirements were explained; (13) concern was expressed regarding the traffic congestion around the intersection of Price Boulevard and Salford Boulevard; (14) after the possibility was suggested to determine the feasibility of Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Congestion Management Funding to help mitigate congestion/capacity issues at the Salford and Cranberry Boulevard intersections, staff clarified that the City has no current MPO projects that can be swapped to help resolve the turn lane issues on Price Boulevard. However, staff and the consultant will analyze whether the installation of a right-hand turn lane will alleviate traffic movement and capacity issues; (15) it was suggested to hold additional public meetings to discuss right and left turn lanes, sufficient space for u-turns, landscaping, details of the 2009 Study, and an arterial service road off of I-75; (16) following a question, it was stated that a change in plans for a sidewalk on one side of the road and a dedicated bike path on the other side would increase the overall usable space by approximately 14-feet, but would require doing a amendment to the Unified Land Development Code (ULDC); (17) clarification was provided that Phase II of Road Improvements will be between Sumter Boulevard and Biscayne Boulevard.

PUBLIC COMMENT

James Sachtjen: Price Boulevard.

Recess 6:55 p.m. - 7:19 p.m. (computer issues)

PUBLIC COMMENT CONTINUED

Kevin Rouse; Steve Barnhardt; Randall Prater; Roger Rolli; Judy Rolli: Price Boulevard

Discussion continued regarding: (1) the proposed roundabout locations along Price Boulevard was clarified; (2) other east-west routes through neighborhoods; (3) reducing the speed limit on Price Boulevard to 35 miles-per-hour; (4) after a request for clarification, it was stated that the 2009 information can be updated by the current consulting firm and brought back to the Commission in November for review; (5) in answer to a previous inquiry, it was stated that the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) budget for the Price Boulevard widening project was \$4.2 million, but that would be reduced to \$3.7 million if staff's current recommended concept is changed, because the Utility Capacity

Fee portion must be removed; (6) following a question, it was stated that the City has the authority to lower speed limit to 35 on that road; (7) the consideration of short term solutions that will alleviate operational issues such as traffic congestion and signal light timing, and reviewing the 2009 plan for long term solutions, working within the 100-foot right-of-way or expanding it; (8) it was suggested to eliminate the aesthetic median in favor of a five-lane design that includes bike lanes and sidewalks, all within the 100-foot right-of-way; (9) long-term solutions could include an overall concept of traffic in the City with alternate routes and bridges to connect the neighborhoods; (10) staff suggested resurfacing Price Boulevard at a cost of \$450,000, and to update the signal lights with mast arms signals; (11) following a concern, it was stated that the mast arms could be designed to be placed in the correct location for the future final widening of Price Boulevard.

A motion was made by Vice-Mayor Carusone, seconded by Commissioner Luke to direct staff to create an immediate design and implementation to add right turn lanes along Price Boulevard within the space we currently have; go ahead with resurfacing project; improve and/or replace the traffic signals that exist; as well as any other improvements to help the flow of traffic along that Boulevard.

Following a concern that specific intersections should be designated for right turn lanes, it was stated that staff will bring back a design and the Commission can make additional refinements if needed.

After a request for clarification from staff, it was stated that the project length was intended to be from Biscayne Drive to Toledo Blade Boulevard.

A motion was made by Commissioner McDowell, seconded by Commissioner Luke, to amend the motion to include from Biscayne Drive to Toledo Blade Boulevard with a breakout for pricing from Biscayne Drive to Sumter Boulevard, and from Sumter Boulevard to Toledo Blade Boulevard; and to include the three intersections/signals at Cranberry Boulevard, Salford Boulevard and Chamberlain Boulevard. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

A brief discussion ensued regarding the need to place a time frame to receive staff's answer, or to have frequent updates.

A motion was made by Commissioner McDowell, seconded by Commissioner Carusone, to amend the motion to direct staff to provide monthly updates to the Commission. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

There was a vote on the main motion, as amended, to direct staff to create a immediate design and implementation to add right turn lanes along Price Boulevard within the space we currently have; go ahead with resurfacing project; improve and/or replace the traffic signals that exist; as well as any other improvements to help the flow of traffic along that Boulevard; and to include from Biscayne Drive to Toledo Blade Boulevard with a breakout for pricing from Biscayne Drive to Sumter Boulevard, and from Sumter Boulevard to Toledo Blade Boulevard; and to include the three intersections/signals at Cranberry Boulevard, Salford Boulevard and Chamberlain Boulevard; and to direct staff to provide monthly updates to the Commission. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

A motion was made by Vice-Mayor Carusone, seconded by Commissioner Luke, to bring back a plan to address five lanes without medians; expanding the sidewalk, to include bike lanes, and using the 2009 Study for guidance.

Discussion ensued: (1) after staff brings back the design with realistic information, the Commission can determine a time frame; (2) after City Manager Lear stated he understood the motion to mean that staff would bring back a design that will solve the current traffic issues on Price Boulevard for six to eight years, with the understanding that a longer-term solution is needed to widen the road; (3) it is anticipated that after staff provides a new design plan for a five-lane road, the Commission can determine the financial requirements and logistics to complete the long-term project; (4) the long-term solution should include those things mentioned in the motion, in addition to neighborhood connectivity, an alternative access road for intersections, and to do it correctly, one time; (5) concerns were expressed that the immediate solution of easing traffic congestion at intersections does not address the emergency vehicles needing to make a u-turn, residents needing access to their driveways, or delivery trucks or garbage collection along the road, and there is greater need for an arterial service road near I-75 than there is to widen Price Boulevard.

A motion was made by Commissioner McDowell, seconded by Commissioner Luke, to amend the motion to be the area from Sumter Boulevard to Toledo Blade Boulevard. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

There was a vote on the main motion, as amended, to bring back a plan to address five lanes without medians; expanding the sidewalk, to include bike lanes, and using the 2009 Study for guidance, and to be the area from Sumter Boulevard to Toledo Blade Boulevard. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Following a question, clarification was provided that the last Budget Workshop included Commission direction pertaining to a Long-term City-Wide Transportation Mobility Plan.

A brief discussion ensued regarding adding Pedestrian Safe Haven Design Features along Price Boulevard.

There was a consensus to direct staff to give consideration to pedestrian "Safe Haven" Islands along Price Boulevard.

A motion was made by Commissioner Luke, seconded by Commissioner McDowell, to lower the speed limit on Price Boulevard between Sumter Boulevard and Toledo Blade Boulevard to 35 miles-per-hour and expedite it as quickly as staff can do so. The motion and second were withdrawn.

Discussion ensued: (1) due to the inconsistent speed limits along the Price Boulevard corridor, it was suggested that the reduction in speed begin at Biscayne Drive and end at Toledo Blade Boulevard; (2) concern was expressed that a speed limit of 35 miles-per-hour will cause more accidents; (3) clarification was provided that Florida Statutes provide that municipalities may set speed zones by Ordinance, but first a Speed Study is required to determine that those changes are reasonable and in conformity with certain criteria promulgated by the Florida Department of Transportation; (4) following this clarification, it was stated by staff that since the final widening of Price Boulevard is in the future, it was recommended to do a Speed Warrant Analysis; (5) following a question, the criteria reviewed by the engineer for a speed study would include the road geometry and

the design speed at which the road is currently constructed. If the results of the speed study for an existing road show people drive faster than the speed limit, it becomes an enforcement issue; (6) it was stated that other considerations are factored in when automobile accidents are included in the mix; (7) the Commission could give staff direction to do the Speed Study beginning at the section of Price Boulevard starting from where the speed limit is 45, east to Toledo Blade Boulevard to have one consistent speed on the corridor; (8) clarification was provided that Price Boulevard is scheduled for resurfacing from Sumter Boulevard to Toledo Blade Boulevard; (9) the Speed Study must be out-sourced.

A motion was made by Commissioner McDowell, seconded by Commissioner Luke, to direct staff to hire a Speed Study Consultant to do a Speed Study of Price Boulevard from Biscayne Drive to Orlando Boulevard. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

3. PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was no public comment.

4. COMMISSION COMMUNICATIONS:

A brief discussion ensued regarding the need to schedule a time certain for tomorrow's agenda item regarding the Atlanta Braves.

There was a consensus to amend the July 25, 2017 Commission Agenda, to make the Atlanta Braves issue a time certain item to be heard at 6:00 p.m. or shortly thereafter.

5. ADMINISTRATIVE AND LEGAL REPORTS:

Nothing to report.

6. ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Yates adjourned the North Port City Commission Special Meeting at 9:07 p.m.

City of North Port, Florida

By: _____
Vanessa Carusone, Mayor

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

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