



# City of North Port

4970 CITY HALL BLVD  
NORTH PORT, FL 34286

## Meeting Minutes - Final City Commission Workshop

### *CITY COMMISSIONERS*

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

### *APPOINTED OFFICIALS*

*Peter Lear, Interim City Manager*  
*Amber L. Slayton, Interim City Attorney*  
*Patsy Adkins, City Clerk*  
*Kathryn Peto, Deputy City Clerk*

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Monday, June 19, 2017

1:00 PM

CITY HALL ROOM 244

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### Commission Budget Workshop

## MINUTES APPROVED AT THE 10-10-2017 MEETING.

### CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

The North Port City Commission Budget Workshop was called to order at 1:00 p.m. in Meeting Room 244 by Chair Yates.

Present: Mayor Yates; Vice-Mayor Carusone; Commissioners Hanks, Luke and McDowell; Interim City Manager Lear; Interim City Attorney Slayton; City Clerk Adkins; Recording Secretary Hale and Police Chief Vespia.

**The Pledge of Allegiance was led by the Commission.**

### 1. PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was no public comment.

**A. [17-1159](#) 2018 Districts and Capital Improvement Program Preliminary Budget.**

#### FIRE RESCUE

Discussion ensued: (1) following a question regarding the negative numbers found on pages 49 and 51 for uniforms, clarification was provided that the Commission directed the uniforms be split between the Fire District Side and the EMS General Fund side; (2) further clarification was provided regarding the 67%/33% split of costs between the Fire Rescue and EMS budgets; (3) confirmation was provided that the \$573,850 in the non ad-valorem rate includes the 3% increase; (4) the interfund transfer of \$860,000 on page 5, to the Capital Acquisition Fund (CAF) is a true-up of the accounts within the CAF so that the entire purchase of the needed equipment may be taken from the CAF; (5) the \$200,000 in SLA 2265 on page 47, is needed to save the amount, incrementally, to

replace a fire truck at the end of its 10-year life span.

#### EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

Discussion continued: (1) following a concern, it was stated that the \$105,000 in Other Professional Services is for the EMS billing contract with a secondary collection agency, including background investigative services; (2) the Charges for Service on page 74 are the EMS transport fees and includes miscellaneous fees depending on several factors; (3) page 75 indicates an anticipated increase of 18 employees and some can be delayed if Commission directs; (4) following a concern, it was stated that SLA 2269, signage for fire stations, could be allocated from the Fire Department's Fund Balance and staff will examine ways to combine the way-finding signs with the "non-monumental" directional signs.

***There was a consensus that the Commission recognizes that better identifiers are needed for municipal buildings, including public safety buildings, and to direct staff to review solutions and bring back funding options to the Commission.***

Concern was expressed regarding the \$418,000 for new recruits and the \$200,000 increase for the Capital Acquisition Fund.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT:

Buddy Hughes: Fire Department washing machines.

#### ROAD AND DRAINAGE

Public Works Director Bellia and Interim Fleet Manager Bramble provided a PowerPoint overview.

Discussion ensued: (1) following a concern regarding the equity of the methodology study in charging vacant properties the same assessment rate as developed properties, and two vacant lots the same as one vacant lot, staff will review the methodology and provide the answer later in the meeting; (2) it was noted that the City Identification Numbers (CID) are missing on many of the SLAs; (3) after it was requested to provide justification for the costs of replacing equipment prior to the end of useful life, clarification was provided that it depends on several factors as to when a piece of equipment no longer functions; (4) clarification was provided that the second pipe crew still has vacancies due to retiring employees, medical leave etc.; (5) following a question, a copy of the 2013 Methodology Study by Burton and Associates will be provided to the Commission, which explains the source and reasoning behind the assessment rates; (6) citing the recommended assessment rate of 4.5%, it was reported that the adopted assessment rate of 3.5% was Commission directed and an explanation of why was provided; (7) it was stated that the 7.5% Assessment Rate has a catch-up provision and the Rate for 2019 will be 4.5% and the latter amount is the base revenue allocated to salaries, operating costs, and District increases. The additional 3% is for capital acquisition purchases; (8) staff will forward the Capital Replacement Spreadsheet to the Commission; (9) the painting and restoration improvements to the Welcome signs on Toledo Blade Boulevard, including landscaping improvements were explained; (10) it was stated that the fountain feature on Sumter Boulevard is currently in the refurbishment process; (11) clarification was provided on page 186, that previously the Director's salary for Public Works was paid from Professional Services. Because of her retirement, she was a contracted employee and she is now a City employee; (12) the SLA for the Director will be made clear as to where the funding is transferred; (13) subsequent to a concern regarding basic and finish mowing services on page 191, it was stated that the F250 trucks are not diesel engines and the costs are taken from the Sheriff's bids on which the City piggy-backed the purchases; (14) following a concern, it was stated that if the City opts not to budget for a mowing contract, it can be cancelled with appropriate notice through the "non-allocation"

clause; (15) it was stated that the outsourced finish mowing contract is \$481,080 and the outsourced basic mowing contract is \$312,360, compared to the Commission-directed comparison SLA for in-house finish mowing at \$728,400 and the SLA for in-house basic mowing at \$938,310; (16) it was opined that it is the responsibility of the Department Directors and supervisors to make sure the outsourced contractors are held accountable to fulfill the duties; (17) following a question, it was stated that the 7.5% Assessment Rate would mean a tax increase of \$8.94 per year, per household; (18) Mayor Yates does not support a 7.5% Assessment increase because it is charging today for services not received today, but rather for equipment needed in the future; (19) it was suggested to find a way to put the sidewalks on Tropicaire Boulevard; (20) it was stated the Florida Power & Light (FPL) rents lights for \$9 a month and is the type of lighting the City is considering for school bus stops; (21) clarification was provided that the proposed 7.5% Assessment Rate does not include funding for SLA 2031 or SLA 5030 but staff will examine ways to tighten the budget to accommodate the projects.

***There was a consensus to direct staff to review alternative lighting for the bus stops.***

***There was a consensus to direct staff to put SLA 5031 regarding the sidewalks on Tropicaire Boulevard into the CIP, in a phased-in approach.***

Citing page 205, it was suggested to approve and add funding for SLA 5033, the City-wide Transportation Corridor Study, in the budget.

***There was a consensus to direct staff to include SLA 5033, the City-wide Transportation Corridor Study in the budget.***

#### SOLID WASTE

Discussion ensued: (1) after a concern, clarification was provided that the \$411,380 puts the Fund Balance over the required 25%; (2) it was suggested that future budgets be presented to the Commission in fewer meetings.

***There was a consensus that the Solid Waste District Reserve Fund Balance shall not exceed 25%.***

#### FLEET

Discussion ensued: (1) subsequent to a question, it was stated that SLA 3500 for the Emergency Vehicle Technician will be adjusted when the Evergreen Salary Study is known; (2) clarification was provided that Public Works pays for schooling for additional certifications under the American Federation of State County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) Contract, but the individual must pay to take the test.

Vice-Mayor Carusone left the meeting at 4:03 p.m.

Recess 4:03 p.m. - 4:18 p.m.

#### SOLID WASTE continued.

Discussion ensued: (1) subsequent to a concern, clarification was provided that recyclables include cardboard, paper, co-mingled articles (plastic, aluminum, bottles) for both residential and commercial; (2) it was stated that up to three trips of garbage trucks on one street may be observed by residents: one for garbage, one for recyclables, and the third for bulk pickups.

#### FLEET MAINTENANCE continued.

Discussion ensued: (1) the turn-around time was explained for in-house repairs and outsourced repairs; (2) the Emergency Vehicle Technician in SLA 3500 on page 263 is for a mobile mechanic traveling to the site for minor repairs and will reduce down-time for the vehicle; (3) it was stated that the City has a contract with a private company for Fleet replacement parts and there is also a company who outsources repairs for City vehicles,

located in Bradenton; (4) after a suggestion, it was stated that double shifts are not cost-efficient to repair vehicles due to insufficient staff; (5) it was reported that staff will meet with Commissioner McDowell to discuss her concern regarding the 7.5% across the board Road and Drainage District Assessment Rate increase for residential and commercial, and will provide the information to the Commission as well.

**2. PUBLIC COMMENT:**

There was no public comment.

**3. ADJOURNMENT:**

Mayor Yates adjourned the North Port City Commission Budget Workshop at 4:41 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.