



City of North Port

4970 CITY HALL BLVD
NORTH PORT, FL 34286

Meeting Minutes - Final City Commission Joint Meeting

Tuesday, June 6, 2017

2:00 PM

CITY COMMISSION CHAMBERS

WITH SARASOTA BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

MINUTES APPROVED AT THE 09-19-2017 MEETING.

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL – LINDA M. YATES, MAYOR

The North Port Commission Joint Meeting with the Sarasota County Board of County Commissioners was called to order in the City Chambers at North Port City Hall at 2:00 p.m. by Mayor Yates.

Present: North Port City Commission: Mayor Yates, Vice-Mayor Carusone, Commissioners Hanks, Luke, and McDowell

Sarasota County Commission: Chairman Caragiulo, Vice-Chair Detert, Commissioners Moran, Maio, and Hines

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by the North Port City Commissioners.

1. PUBLIC COMMENT:

2:03 p.m. - 2:03 p.m. Buddy Hughes. Support for projects.

2. JOINT DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. [17-1113](#) Update on the status of trail-related projects throughout Sarasota County

Sarasota County Chair Caragiulo introduced Public Works Director Brownman, Transportation Planning Manager Wiggins, and Bicycle Pedestrian Trails Coordinator Lui who provided an update on the trail related projects throughout Sarasota County.

Discussion ensued: (1) subsequent to a question, it was stated that the gateway into North Port for the Legacy Trail is the Myakkahatchee Creek Bridge; (2) it was noted that Sarasota County is in negotiation with the Carltons to obtain legal access over the easement that currently exists; (3) it was noted that all discussions regarding the Legacy Trail have always included a connector to and through North Port and have been a priority; (4) it was stated that the total project cost for the North and South Connectors was \$75 million and Sarasota County has set aside \$8.6 million toward this project; (5) the options for funding the Legacy Trail were discussed such as private fundraising, legislative avenues, or a 2018 referendum for a property tax increase for funding the Legacy Trail.

PUBLIC COMMENT.

2:23 p.m. - 2:26 p.m. Andrea Seager and John League. Legacy Trail.

Discussion continued: (1) following a question, it was noted that the trails will be both urban and primitive; (2) the primitive trail in North Port is unpaved, hardpacked soil and is already in its finalized state, there will be no modifications needed; (3) the North Port connector would not qualify for Sun Trail funding because the majority of it is not paved; (4) it was stated that Off-Highway Vehicles (OHV) will be discussed as part of the Trails Master Plan update; (5) Federal funding is typically given for shovel ready projects and not for acquisition, (6) The Legacy Trail is intended for non-motorized vehicles; (7) it was suggested to let Southwest Florida Water Management District know both Commissions intention with Prairie Creek.

B. [17-1115](#)**Update on the Three Graces Fountain and sculpture**

Sarasota County Chair Caragiulo introduced Public Works Director Brownman who provided an update on the Three Graces Sculpture and Fountain.

Discussion ensued: (1) it was noted that the sculpture is within the County right of way; (2) the cost for the project is determinate based on the amount of restoration that is desired; (3) it was suggested to leave the sculpture where it is because it's a landmark for the community; (4) the options for grant funding were discussed but the grants require matching funds.

There was a consensus for the Three Graces Fountain and Sculpture to remain at its current location.

PUBLIC COMMENT

3:00 p.m. - 3:02 p.m. Buddy Hughes. Restoration of the sculpture.

Discussion continued: (1) subsequent to a question, it was noted that the estimate time for restoration is unknown but the Public Works portion of the project would not take long; (2) the timelines for grant applications were discussed; (3) there was a suggestion for the Community to start a "Friends of the Three Graces" Society to help raise money; (4) it was noted that Sarasota County Staff was waiting on the restoration work to be completed so that the Public Works portion would not impact the sculpture; (5) it was noted that there is a certification process for restoration that needs to be complete prior to applying for any grants; (6) there was an agreement between both Boards to start community outreach for funding while waiting on grant approval.

PUBLIC COMMENT

3:12 p.m. - 3:17 p.m. Joe Justice and Bill Goetz. Position on renaming of Ortiz Blvd.

C. [17-1105](#)**Update on Butler Park Family Aquatic Center concept**

Interim City Manager Lear introduced Interim General Services Director Pfundheller who provided an update on the Butler Park Family Aquatic Center.

Discussion ensued: (1) following a concern, the construction time of 730 calendar days was discussed, but it was stated that this timeline can be shortened; (2) it was stated that Sarasota County does have an agreement with the YMCA until 2020 regarding maintenance of the Dallas White Pool; (3) Parks, Recreation, and Natural Resources Director Brown stated that the contract for the pool is \$180,000 annually and the Al Goll Center is for \$10,000 annually; (4) it was noted that because of the regional draw of the Butler Park pool, the City will be applying for Tourist Development Tax funding; (5) it was noted that the increase in cost for the project was due to inflation in construction costs;

(6) it was suggested to create an analysis of what the impact on the economy will be with this facility to present for funding; (7) it was noted that the State does not allow for a lot of flexibility in what Tourist Development Tax funding can be used for, it is more project driven; (8) it was stated that there was a lot of shifting of funds to allow for the \$20 million in funding for the Atlanta Braves facility; (9) subsequent to a question, it was stated that the City does not pay impact fees to the County for parks; (10) following a concern, it was stated that it is not just the Sarasota County economy that drives tourism but it is also the European and Canadian economies as well; (11) it was stated that Sarasota County has been exhausting all options to look for funding and they have suggested a millage rate increase, applying for Neighborhood Grant money, and also applying for Community Reinvestment Program funds, if the criteria is met; (12) it was suggested to go to referendum and see if the citizens are willing to pay for the pool project because it is a luxury project and not a need for the residents of the City.

PUBLIC COMMENT

3:50 p.m. - 3:52 p.m. Bill Goetz. Support for pool over the Braves Stadium.

Recess 3:53 p.m. - 4:04 p.m.

D. [17-1116](#)

Update on River Road projects and funding opportunities

Sarasota County Chair Caragiulo introduced Public Works Director Brownman who provided an update on the River Road project.

Discussion ensued: (1) it was noted that the reason for only constructing 4 lanes and not 6 lanes was to reduce the cost; (2) subsequent to a question, it was stated that the project is planned for 6 lanes in the future but only constructing 4 lanes at this time; (3) it was stated, when necessary, the extra two lanes would be added on the inside of the median and would still allow for a divided median; (4) a suggestion was made to educate the public about the update on the project with River Road; (5) subsequent to a question, it was stated that FDOT would need to accept River Road and they will not accept it in its current condition; (6) it was noted that this project has become a priority for all counties involved and the State needs to do the same. There was no public comment.

E. [17-1117](#)

Update on the protection of Orange Hammock Ranch

Sarasota County Chair Caragiulo introduced Parks, Recreation, and Natural Resources Director Brown and Parks, Recreation, and Natural Resources staff Robinson who provided an update on the protection of Orange Hammock Ranch.

Discussion ensued: (1) it was noted that water withdrawal permits and property appraisals are being updated and revised; (2) subsequent to a question, it was noted that the Legacy Trail will not run through any of this property.

PUBLIC COMMENT

4:32 p.m. - 4:36 p.m. Peter Bartolotta. Annexation of Orange Hammock was to increase tax base.

Discussion continued: (1) it was stated that preservation of Orange Hammock is the intent but concerns were addressed about losing the whole property as a tax base; (2) it was stated that Orange Hammock is divided into 9 parcels with one owner; (3) it was stated that this issue will be brought up on an upcoming agenda and a progress report

will be issued to the County as soon as possible; (4) there were some concerns brought up about potentially communicating with the owner about dividing the land for sale because of its environmental status; (5) it was noted that there will need to be a clear vision for this property because there are very regimented rules for funding environmental lands; (6) it was explained about why Sarasota County withdrew from the Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council; (a) the Council was voting on items that they were not tasked with addressing; (b) there was no benefit being received; (c) there is no statutory requirement to be involved; (d) Sarasota County is saving money.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was no public comment.

4. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business reported.

5. ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Yates adjourned the North Port City Commission Joint Meeting with the Sarasota County Board of County Commission at 5:00 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.