



City of North Port

4970 CITY HALL BLVD
NORTH PORT, FL 34286

Meeting Minutes - Final Fire Rescue District Governing Body

Wednesday, June 6, 2018

6:00 PM

Commission Chambers

Special Meeting - Setting the Non-to-Exceed Rate

MINUTES APPROVED AT THE 11-27-2018 MEETING.

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

The North Port Fire Rescue District Special Meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m. in City Chambers by Mayor Carusone.

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

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

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

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

1. PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was no public comment.

2. PUBLIC HEARINGS:

A. [18-339](#)

Resolution No. 2018-R-12 establishing North Port Fire Rescue District Not-to-Exceed Non-Ad Valorem assessment rates for fiscal year 2018-2019

City Clerk Adkins read Resolution No. 2018-R-12 into the record by title only and City Manager Lear provided an overview of the item.

Discussion ensued: (1) it was suggested to leave the budget at 9% and allow Staff to look for cuts; (2) the 9% increase is approximately \$20 per year for a single family residence; (3) the increase will: [a] maintain the level of service; [b] provide for firefighters to be paid at market rate; [c] expand services to West Villages; [d] provide protective gear and equipment; (4) the proposed budget was submitted by the Fire Department and has not yet been reviewed by the City Manager for possible cuts; (5) it was explained that the proposed budget cannot go higher, but that it may be lowered; (6) Vice-Mayor Yates stated she cannot support a 9% increase because the consultant recommended 0% for now, then 3.5% starting 2019, and continuing with 3.5% annually; (7) it was explained there are some years where the percentage increase is needed for future planning and

development; (8) the decision was made last year to hold off on an increase pending the wage study and development in West Villages; (9) the consultant's report is based on revenue reported by the department and states the 25% reserve is met, and provided for a 3.5% increase over ten years; (10) significant changes were made last year requiring budget amendments and these changes occurred after the consultant's study; (11) the rates remained the same and wages increased, that changes everything moving forward; (12) the consultant has been asked to create a revenue sufficiency report and bring it to the Commission for explanation; (13) even if the City doesn't move on the West Villages project next year, the funding policy set by the Commission may not be met without the rate increase; (14) Vice-Mayor Yates expressed concern that the budget requested is based on a ten-year plan not seen by the Commission, that this is a non-ad valorem assessment, and that the Commission needs to work within means, setting parameters that will maintain the level of service and meet the needs of the community; (15) the budget amount for personnel is \$8,600,000 and that includes staffing for the West Villages; (16) compared to last year's budget the cost of personnel has increased 25% due to increased staffing and the wage study; (17) it was suggested that because it takes time to order and receive the new equipment, the nine personnel requested for West Villages should be postponed a year; (18) the intent was to hire the West Villages ambulance personnel in January, and that the equipment would be available after their training has been completed; (19) the ladder truck personnel for West Villages would be added in the following year because the fire truck has a longer delivery time; (20) ambulance personnel will consist of three lieutenants and six firefighter-paramedics; (21) the property appraiser will provide updated information toward the first of July, the updated information provides more detail to prepare the assessment rolls and the City will also receive state share revenue information and sales tax projections; (22) the Fire Rescue budget is based on home value, and information regarding structure value for the individual parcels will be received in July; (23) the City's growth last year was 12.67% and the Fire Department used 10% in their calculation to be conservative; (24) Emergency Medical Services (EMS) are City employees and people that live in West Villages are our residents and we should serve our citizens; (25) it was suggested that a reduced crew be considered for ambulance personnel in the West Villages; (26) the consultant will be asked to provide an interactive model of changes in personnel to the Commission for better clarification; (27) if the 9% increase is approved today future increases are not known at this time, there are issues pending Commission direction and a possible grant application; (28) the budget was based on a 9% not to exceed rate, and the 10% value increase was included in the 9%; (29) the proposed revenue in the budget with no increase is \$9,181,120 and the change would be \$341,000; (30) the department doesn't have to go up to the 9% and it isn't fiscally conservative to wait another year or two, there is even a larger concern to meet the needs of the residents; (31) there hasn't been a steady rate increase for the department in the last few years; (32) Vice-Mayor Yates stated she cannot support the Resolution and expressed her difference in philosophy that too much is being done at one time, citing Chapter Nine of the Charter regarding general appropriations, that this Resolution for the non-ad valorem assessment is not fairly apportioned to the properties that receive a special benefit, that the 9% increase is excessive, noted that it is logical to look ahead 10 years to avoid a spike but when it comes to taxing we should do what we have to do for this year, and that the budget should be balanced in moderation to avoid spikes; (33) it is anticipated that after the final numbers are reviewed and the consultant has completed their study the increase will be less than 9%, and that it should be spread out over the next few years.

A motion was made by Commissioner Hanks, seconded by Commissioner Luke, to approve Resolution No. 2018-R-12 establishing North Port Fire Rescue District Not-to-Exceed Non-Ad Valorem assessment rates for fiscal year 2018-2019 in the amount of 9% increase. The motion carried by the following vote, with Vice-Mayor Yates dissenting for reasons stated:

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

No: 1 - Vice-Mayor Yates

3. PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was no public comment.

4. COMMISSION COMMUNICATIONS:

There were no Commission Communications.

5. ADMINISTRATIVE AND LEGAL REPORTS:

There were no Administrative and Legal Reports.

6. ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Carusone adjourned the North Port Fire Rescue District Special Meeting at 7:27 p.m.

City of North Port, Florida
As the Governing Body of the North Port Fire Rescue District

By: _____
Christopher B. Hanks, Mayor

Attest: _____
Kathryn Peto, City Clerk

Minutes approved at the Fire Rescue District Regular Meeting this ____ day of _____, 2018.