



# City of North Port

4970 CITY HALL BLVD  
NORTH PORT, FL 34286

## Meeting Minutes - Final City Commission Regular Meeting

### **CITY COMMISSIONERS**

*Christopher B. Hanks, Mayor*  
*Debbie McDowell, Vice-Mayor*  
*Vanessa Carusone, Commissioner*  
*Peter Emrich, Commissioner*  
*Jill Luke, Commissioner*

### **APPOINTED OFFICIALS**

*Peter Lear, City Manager*  
*Amber L. Slayton, City Attorney*  
*Kathryn Wong, City Clerk*  
*Heather Taylor, Deputy City Clerk*

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Tuesday, March 5, 2019

10:00 AM

CITY COMMISSION CHAMBERS

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### **MINUTES APPROVED AT THE 04-09-2019 MEETING.**

#### **CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL**

The North Port City Commission Regular Meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m. in City Commission Chambers by Mayor Hanks.

#### **ROLL CALL**

**Present:** 5 - Mayor Christopher Hanks, Vice-Mayor Debbie McDowell, Commissioner Jill Luke, Commissioner Pete Emrich and Commissioner Vanessa Carusone

#### **Also Present:**

City Manager Peter Lear, City Attorney Amber Slayton, City Clerk Katy Peto, Recording Secretary Susan Hale, Police Chief Todd Garrison, Deputy Police Chief Chris Morales, Fire Chief Scott Titus and Neighborhood Development Services Director Frank Miles.

**The invocation was provided by Reverend Andrea Hayden of St. Nathaniel Episcopal Church, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by the Commission.**

#### **1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA – COMMISSION**

*A motion was made by Vice-Mayor McDowell, seconded by Commissioner Luke, to approve the Agenda. The motion carried by the following vote:*

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

#### **2. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- A.** [19-0173](#) Current Vacancies for Boards and Committees and Upcoming Expiration Dates for Boards and Committees.

Ms. Peto read the Current Vacancies and the Upcoming Expiration Dates for Boards and

Committees into the record.

### **3. PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Public comment was held 10:09 a.m. to 10:16 a.m.

Norbert Schneider: appointment to Public Utility Advisory Board

Mark Mousty: appointment to Zoning Board of Appeals

Alicia Phidd: balance between economic development and environment

### **4. PRESENTATIONS: TIME LIMIT OF 15 MINUTES**

#### **A. [19-0118](#)**

#### **Presentation regarding North Port Partnership for Creative Economies**

Barbara Langdon, Market Momentum LLC, gave a presentation outlining today's objective, provided information regarding the Partnership for Creative Economies (PCE) Board of Directors, shared current perceptions of North Port, addressed Commission concerns, identified the next step in the process and asked for Commission support to move forward.

Peter Bartolotta, Principal North Port Economic Development Corp., answered questions from the Commission regarding bylaws, 501(c)(3) intent, compensation, proposed budget and cultivation of existing businesses and proposed partnership.

Discussion ensued regarding possible legal conflicts with the bylaws and board compensation, Commission participation on the board and operating within the Sunshine laws.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Peter Bartolotta: support of proposal

Carmine Miranda: support of joint economic development plan

Ana DeShields: support of PCE

Linda Yates: past City achievements, proposal favoring one group over another

Joan Herron San Lwin: opposition of proposal

Steve Barnhardt: site locators, opposition of proposal

Nancy Ceci: support of PCE

Mr. Bartolotta addressed additional questions from the Commission regarding PCE not being a political organization nor participating in lobbying, and intent of proposal to offer services as a partnership at the City's direction.

Discussion ensued regarding the presenters request for City to enter into a partnership and commit \$30,000, PCE services not defined, and not replacing Economic Development Corporation (EDC) services from the county or City.

Mr. Lear suggested a preference for possible funding next year, and no payment until services are defined and a contract is in place.

Ms. Slayton explained the Commission can give direction to pursue the proposal but cannot pledge money to an entity that does not exist.

Vice-Mayor McDowell and Commissioner Luke stated they would not support any further action on this item. Commissioner Carusone cited deliverables that she considers favorable to the proposal.

Ms. Slayton explained conflict of interest and the circumstances that would necessitate a Commissioner to abstain from voting. Mayor Hanks stated he does not have any partnerships with PCE and will derive no personal gain if it moves forward.

Commissioner Emrich stated he does not support moving forward with the proposal and that the City's new EDC manager should be given a year to develop that department and work on the City's strategic plan.

***There was a consensus to not move forward with this proposal.***

## **5. CONSENT AGENDA:**

After a request by the Mayor, the Commission determined that they would like to pull Consent Agenda item C for discussion.

***A motion was made by Commissioner Carusone, seconded by Vice-Mayor McDowell, to approve Consent Agenda items A, B, D, E and F. The motion carried by the following vote:***

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

**A.** [19-0174](#) Approval of Minutes for the February 7, 2019 Commission Special Meeting; and February 12, 2019 Commission Regular Meeting.

**B.** [19-0135](#) Cash Receipts Summary - January 2019

**C.** [19-0056](#) Purchase One (1) New Ford Transit Van for an Estimated \$29,235.85 from Garber Ford, Inc.

Mr. Lear noted that approval of this item and the items provided in 6.A. and 6.B. are tentative to the approval of the budget amendment to be heard on March 19, 2019.

***A motion was made by Vice-Mayor McDowell, seconded by Commissioner Luke, to approve the new Ford Transit Van contingent upon the passing of the budget amendment at the March 19, 2019 Commission meeting. The motion carried by the following vote:***

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

**D.** [19-0100](#) Approval to apply for and accept the Walmart Foundation Grant, in an amount up to \$5,000 to provide school supplies for the Back to School Resource Fair and gifts for Home for the Holidays program.

**E.** [19-0089](#) Appointments of Norbert Schneider and Paul R. Orsino as Regular Members to the Public Utility Advisory Board.

**F.** [19-0140](#) Appointment of Mark D. Mousty as a Regular Member to the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Recess was taken from 12:04 p.m. - 12:19 p.m.

## **6. GENERAL BUSINESS:**

- A. [19-0109](#) Master Services and Purchasing Agreement between Axon Enterprise, Inc. and the City of North Port for body worn cameras.

Mr. Lear gave an overview of the item.

Mr. Morales and Jeremy Deegan of Axon Enterprise, Inc. answered Commission questions regarding prior experience.

***A motion was made by Commissioner Luke, seconded by Vice-Mayor McDowell, to approve Master Services and Purchasing Agreement between Axon Enterprise, Inc. and the City of North Port pending budget approval on March 19, 2019. The motion carried by the following vote:***

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

- B. [19-0093](#) Appointment of one North Port Resident as the City of North Port Representative to the Sarasota County Citizens Advisory Committee for School Facility Planning.

Ms. Peto provided an overview of the item noting there are two applicants for one appointment opening.

Discussion ensued as to the nature of the appointment to the advisory board.

***A motion was made by Commissioner Carusone, seconded by Vice-Mayor McDowell, to approve Frederick Koenig as the representative for the City of North Port for the Sarasota County Citizen Advisory Committee for School Facility Planning. The motion carried by the following vote:***

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

## **7. PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Public comment was held from 12:29 p.m. - 12:37 p.m.

Hector Munoz: suggested a proclamation in May for Motorcycle Awareness Month, commercial gardens status

***There was a unanimous consensus to present a Proclamation for Motorcycle Awareness Month in May.***

***There was a unanimous consensus for a memo update on commercial gardens.***

Mr. Miles provided an update on the ordinance regarding commercial gardens.

Steve Barnhardt: suggested Commission attend the International Shopping Convention in Atlanta, modifications needed to Unified Land Development Code (ULDC)

There was discussion regarding the community conversation to be held on March 25, 2019 in regard to the ULDC, public participation, and Staff providing Mr. Barnhardt with specific information.

**8. COMMISSION COMMUNICATIONS:**

Discussion took place regarding a hostile encounter involving a Teen Court parent toward an employee, staff's safety at City Hall after-hours, locking doors after-hours, and Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to Teen Court communicating the City's expectations.

Vice-Mayor McDowell reported on attending the Institute for Elected Municipal Officials (IEMO) III class, the Employee Appreciation Day luncheon, the Charlotte and Sarasota County joint meeting, the Unified Land Development (ULDC) public meeting, suggested spacing out informational material for the next meeting, reminded Commission of the Sarasota County School Board meeting and suggested the letter to Sarasota County regarding River Road to be sent to Charlotte County.

Mr. Lear clarified that a Request for Proposal (RFP) will be issued for the Economic Development Strategic Plan.

Commissioner Luke reported on attending the Charlotte and Sarasota County joint meeting, the Employee Appreciation Day luncheon and the presentation of the Proclamation for the Braves at the San Pedro Festival.

Discussion ensued regarding advisory board terms of service and review of language in the ULDC.

***There was a unanimous consensus for the City Attorney to report on application of the Code related to term limits for advisory board members.***

***There was a unanimous consensus to have the City Manager send to Charlotte County a copy of the letter sent to Sarasota County regarding River Road.***

Commissioner Carusone had nothing to report.

Commissioner Emrich reported on attending the opening ceremonies at the San Pedro Festival.

Mayor Hanks reported on attending the Institute for Elected Municipal Officials (IEMO) class.

**9. ADMINISTRATIVE AND LEGAL REPORTS:**

Mr. Lear advised of a letter received from the school board in regard to changes to staffing of School Resource Officers (SRO) regarding whether the City will continue providing two SROs at the high school for an additional year at a reduced amount of reimbursement.

Mr. Garrison recommended that the school board provide SROs for all three schools when the agreement expires.

Discussion ensued regarding reciprocal services, SROs remaining at Imagine School, termination of the agreement on June 30, joint training between agencies, and reassignment of two SROs currently at the high school.

***There was a unanimous consensus that the school board be notified that they will be responsible to provide SROs for the high school for the upcoming year.***

Mayor Hanks suggested that a Certificate of Recognition be presented to Shaun Slapp of Teen Court.

There were no Administrative and Legal Reports from the City Attorney or the City Clerk.

***There was a unanimous consensus to present a Certificate of Recognition to Shaun Slapp at the March 7, 2019 Commission Meeting.***

**10. ADJOURNMENT:**

Mayor Hanks adjourned the North Port City Commission Regular Meeting at 1:13 p.m.

City of North Port, Florida

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Christopher B. Hanks, Mayor

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Kathryn Wong, City Clerk

Minutes approved at the City Commission Regular Meeting this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2019.