



City of North Port

4970 CITY HALL BLVD
NORTH PORT, FL 34286

Meeting Minutes City Commission Regular Meeting

CITY COMMISSIONERS

Pete Emrich, Mayor

Barbara Langdon, Vice Mayor

Jill Luke, Commissioner

Debbie McDowell, Commissioner

Alice White, Commissioner

APPOINTED OFFICIALS

Jerome Fletcher, City Manager

Amber L. Slayton, City Attorney

Heather Faust, City Clerk

Tuesday, September 13, 2022

10:00 AM

City Commission Chambers

I. [22-3264](#) Discussion and Possible Direction Regarding the Prohibition of Smoking in Public Parks.

Mayor Emrich announced the item.

Mr. Fletcher introduced the item.

Commissioner Luke and staff spoke to the item to include research of surrounding municipalities, designated smoking areas, Parks and Recreation and Environmental Advisory Board (EAB) recommendations, prohibiting at all parks and beaches, and evaluating educational signage.

Commission questions and discussion took place regarding enforcement, Ordinance violations, fines, festival areas, citizen consideration, cigars, smoking filters, support of Teens Against Tobacco, designating smoking areas, self policing, vaping, dog parks, state enforcement, and environmental aspect.

Ms. Faust read the following public eComment into the record:

Charles Dunault: expressed support of prohibiting and banning smoking in parks.

Mayor Emrich requested a motion.

A motion was made by Commissioner Luke, seconded by Commissioner White, to direct staff to draft an Ordinance prohibiting smoking in public parks. The motion carried on the following vote:

Yes: 2 - Luke and Vice Mayor White

No: 3 - Commissioner Emrich, Vice Mayor Langdon and Commissioner McDowell

Commissioner McDowell dissented due to concern may not exist, State Statutes allowing cigars, City enforcement, and creating exceptions.

Mayor Emrich dissented due to deterrent of parks and enforcement.

Vice Mayor Langdon dissented due to exceptions and prejudicial aspects.