



City of North Port

4970 CITY HALL BLVD
NORTH PORT, FL 34286

Meeting Minutes City Commission Special Meeting

CITY COMMISSIONERS

Jill Luke, Mayor

Pete Emrich, Vice Mayor

Barbara Langdon, Commissioner

Debbie McDowell, Commissioner

Alice White, Commissioner

APPOINTED OFFICIALS

Jason Yarborough, Interim City Manager

Amber L. Slayton, City Attorney

Heather Taylor, City Clerk

Tuesday, April 27, 2021

1:00 PM

CITY COMMISSION CHAMBERS

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Luke called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: 5 - Mayor Jill Luke, Vice Mayor Pete Emrich, Commissioner Barbara Langdon, Commissioner Debbie McDowell and Commissioner Alice White

Also Present

Interim City Manager Jason Yarborough, Assistant City Manager Cari Branco, City Attorney Amber Slayton, City Clerk Heather Taylor, Assistant City Clerk Adrian Jianelli, Fire Chief Scott Titus, Planning Division Manager Nicole Galehouse, Assistant Director of Parks and Recreation Tricia Wisner, Police Chief Todd Garrison, and P.E. Stormwater Manager Elizabeth Wong.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Assistant City Clerk Adrian Jianelli.

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Commissioner McDowell, seconded by Vice Mayor Emrich, to approve the agenda as presented. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 5 - Mayor Luke, Vice Mayor Emrich, Commissioner Langdon, Commissioner McDowell and Commissioner White

2. PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was no public comment.

3. GENERAL BUSINESS:

A. [21-0519](#) Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Review and Prioritization of

Parcels Nominated for Sarasota County Land Acquisition Programs

Mayor Luke announced the item.

Mr. Yarborough introduced the item.

Ms. Wisner provided a presentation including Sarasota County program for land nominations, process of nomination submittal, evaluation of nominations, Environmental Sensitive Land Oversight Committee (ESLOC) approvals, North Port Scrub Protection site approval and recommendation to move forward.

Ms. Galehouse responded to questions regarding comprehensive plan amendment regarding adoption of Activity Center names and provided names for the activity center.

Discussion took place regarding not prioritizing parcels identified in the economic development study or in the comprehensive plan for commercial, potential for development at the property on U.S. 41 along creek, and three properties with commercial value.

There was consensus to not prioritize properties that are designated commercial property, within activity centers or neighborhood commercial.

There was consensus to not consider properties that are designated commercial property, within activity centers or neighborhood commercial for future nominations.

Discussion took place regarding providing clarity on the Woodlands DRI properties, DRI entitlement process, focusing on commercial, and not excluding DRI.

There was consensus to not exclude the Woodlands DRI from future nominations.

Discussion continued regarding selecting lots that are crucial for preservation, vulnerability of approximate acres around Nona Springs, Spring Haven Drive, Constitution Drive, Neighborhood Parkland areas including San Mateo Drive, Kamsler Avenue, and North Chamberlain Boulevard, willing sellers, Tier 1 and 2 for Myakkahatchee Creek, Legacy Trail connectivity, funding for Tier 1 and 2 lots, recommendation to prioritize all nominations, and concern with funding environmental park with ESLOC funds.

There was consensus to not use ESLOC funds for environmental park preservation.

Discussion continued regarding prioritizing within each category.

Public Comment:

Lawry Reed: perspective and implied duty to preserve and The Florida Anthropologist articles, and Nona protection needed.

Ms. Taylor read the following public comment into the record:

Lora Ross: expressed support of preservation for natural corridor, negotiations and pricing, and environmental sensitive land protection program.

There was consensus to prioritize the approximate acre solid parcel in Nona Spring to be first on the ESLOC priority list.

There was consensus to prioritize Constitution Drive to be second on the ESLOC priority list.

Discussion took place regarding Tier 1 and Tier 2 lots along Myakkahatchee Creek.

There was consensus for Spring Haven Properties to be third on the ESLOC priority list.

There was consensus for Tier 1 and Tier 2 to be fourth on the ESLOC priority list.

Discussion took place regarding Scrubby Flatwood.

There was consensus for San Mateo to be first on the park's priority list.

There was consensus for Kamsler Avenue to be second on the park's priority list.

There was consensus for North Chamberlain Boulevard to be third on the park's priority list.

Discussion took place regarding the City Manager obtaining clarity on North/South Chamberlain.

There was consensus for Tier 1 and Tier 2 to be fourth on the park's priority list.

Discussion continued regarding Panacea DRI conservation.

Consensus was requested for the Panacea DRI area to be fifth on the ESLOC priority list.

Discussion continued regarding not prioritizing the citizen nomination for Panacea DRI.

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Emrich, seconded by Commissioner White, to approve Panacea Boulevard for consideration as fifth on the ESLOC priority list. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 3 - Mayor Luke, Vice Mayor Emrich and Commissioner White

No: 2 - Commissioner Langdon and Commissioner McDowell

Commissioner McDowell and Commissioner Langdon dissenting due to focusing on what they are confident can happen.

Ms. Branco provided clarification regarding planning review of Chamberlain properties and request to not be nominated due to neighborhood commercial designation.

A motion was made by Commissioner McDowell, seconded by Commissioner Langdon, to approve the ESLOC and Parks nomination lists as provided in consensus. The motion carried by the following vote.

Yes: 5 - Mayor Luke, Vice Mayor Emrich, Commissioner Langdon, Commissioner McDowell and Commissioner White

B. [21-0516](#)

Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Giving City Manager Discretion to Allow Acceptance of Special Events Applications up to 30 Days Prior to the Event

Mayor Luke announced and spoke to the item.

Discussion took place regarding language for up to 30 days versus at least 30 days prior to event, time frame for Commission approval, and grant allocations.

Ms. Slayton spoke to approval by ordinance.

Discussion took place regarding process for approving by resolution pending Unified Land Development Code update.

There was no public comment.

A motion was made by Commissioner McDowell, seconded by Commissioner White, to direct the City Manager to work with the City Attorney to draft a resolution giving the City Manager the ability to approve special event permit applications that are received at least 30 days prior to events. The motion carried on the following vote:

Yes: 5 - Mayor Luke, Vice Mayor Emrich, Commissioner Langdon, Commissioner McDowell and Commissioner White

C. [21-0359](#)

Discussion and Possible Action Regarding the Myakka River Management Coordinating Council's Request for the City Commission to Adopt a Resolution Identifying Warm Mineral Springs and Little Salt Springs as a High Priority for North Port's Local Legislative Delegation.

Mayor Luke announced and spoke to the item.

Ms. Wong spoke to benefits of being a high priority, water flow, and quality from the springs.

Discussion took place regarding possible development restrictions for surrounding areas, protection of the springs, history of flow over time, measured discharge from springs, review of USGS report, corrective actions, water quality, and nitrate and ammonia levels.

Public Comment:

Jan Herron: expressed support of resolution.

Juliette Jones: spoke to environmental articles, protection of Warm Mineral Springs, red tide, green algae, pollution, wildlife, cost and resources, restoration, funding, P3 partnerships, and improving conditions.

Ms. Taylor read the following public comment into the record:

Lora Ross: expressed support of the resolution.

A motion was made by Commissioner White, seconded by Commissioner McDowell, to direct staff to draft a resolution to identify Warm Mineral Springs and Little Salt Springs as a high priority for North Port local legislative delegation. The motion carried on the following vote:

Yes: 5 - Mayor Luke, Vice Mayor Emrich, Commissioner Langdon, Commissioner McDowell and Commissioner White

D. [21-0453](#)

Discussion and Possible Action Regarding the Purchase of Upgrades to the City's Existing AVI Audio Visual System to Accommodate Hybrid Meetings in Room 244

Mayor Luke announced the item.

Ms. Taylor introduced the item.

Discussion took place regarding funding from Commission budget or contingency fund.

A motion was made by Commissioner Langdon, seconded by Commissioner McDowell, to direct the City Manager to draft a budget amendment to fund the necessary equipment for hybrid meetings in Room 244. The motion carried on the

following vote:

Yes: 5 - Mayor Luke, Vice Mayor Emrich, Commissioner Langdon, Commissioner McDowell and Commissioner White

4. PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was no public comment.

Discussion took place regarding hearing Commission and Charter reports at this time.

Ms. Slayton noted no issues with discussing non-action items at this time.

There was consensus to hear Commission and Charter reports at this time.

Commissioner Langdon reported on Fire and Rescue Award Ceremony, tree planting at St. Andrews, Chamber of Commerce Networking Breakfast and the Bunny Squad participation.

Vice Mayor Emrich reported on Chamber of Commerce Networking Breakfast and communications with Citizens.

Commissioner White reported on Tree Fair, Public Works assistance for removal of invasive species, ATV riding along the creek banks, and recycling in parks.

Commissioner McDowell reported on Do The Right Thing Ceremony, Bunny Squad participation, Pack 257 Pinewood Derby, Ribbon Cutting for Atwater Church Food Pantry, Retirement Ceremony for Eric T, League of Women's webinar, Fire Department Awards Ceremony, Rededication of Blue Star Memorial, and Chamber Event guest speaker.

Mayor Luke spoke to public service announcement on invasive species vine and reported on Mayor's Feed the Hungry freezer donations, gift certificates donations to pantries, Atwater school students moving to Florida for the school systems, attended TAP meeting, COVID vaccinations, Tree Fair, People for Trees, Alamanda Garden Buddha, Leadership North Port Breakfast, Bunny Squad participation, Fishing Tournament, Police Department event for Autism, Mural review Legacy Trail, Retirement Ceremony, Awaken Pantry kick off, 100 Celebration for Sarasota County, Do The Right Thing Ceremony, EDC Brave Stadium, Pack 257 Pinewood Derby, League of Women's webinar, and Child Protection Center request for a support letter from Commission to build a center in North Port.

There was consensus to direct staff to draft a letter of support for Child Protective Center's New Initiative for State of the Art Child Advocacy Center in North Port, sending a copy to Commission.

Mr. Yarborough did not have a report.

Ms. Slayton did not have a report.

Ms. Taylor did not have a report.

5. ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Luke adjourned the meeting at 3:11 p.m.

City of North Port, Florida

By: _____
Gisele "Jill" E. Luke, Mayor

Attest: _____
Heather Taylor, City Clerk

Minutes approved at the Commission Regular Meeting this ____ day of _____,
2021.