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
Phil Stokes, Commissioner
David Duval, Commissioner
Demetrius Petrow, Commissioner

APPOINTED OFFICIALS
Jerome Fletcher, City Manager
Michael Fuino, City Attorney
Heather Faust, City Clerk

Tuesday, June 23, 2026	**6:00 PM**	**City Commission Chambers**

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Emrich called the meeting to order at 6:20 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: 5 - Mayor Pete Emrich, Commissioner David Duval, Commissioner Demetrius Petrow, Vice Mayor Barbara Langdon and Commissioner Philip Stokes

ALSO PRESENT

City Manager Fletcher, City Attorney Fuino, City Clerk Faust, Board Specialist Lindner, Police Chief Garrison, Fire Chief Titus, and Deputy City Manager Bellia.

Mayor Emrich read statement regarding rules of decorum.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by the Newkirk Family.

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Emrich requested a motion.

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

Yes: 5 - Mayor Emrich, Commissioner Duval, Commissioner Petrow, Vice Mayor Langdon and Commissioner Stokes

2. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Ms. Faust played the following voicemail into the record:
Pam Tokarz: Spoke to Commissioner duties and compensation.

Ms. Faust read the following eComments into the record:
David Iannotti: Spoke to Warm Mineral Springs renovations.

Lisa Kinzle: Spoke to non-ad valorem assessment increases.
Kelly Varatta: Spoke to Unified Land Development Code (ULDC) rezoning impacts.
Cheryl Cook: Spoke to electronic public comment procedures.

In Person:
Valdy Olender: Spoke to various topics.
Steven Harrison: Spoke to Charter Review Advisory Board (CRAB) recommendations, non-interference clauses, and Charter language.
Robin San Vicente: Spoke to Warm Mineral Springs renovations.
John Bryant: Spoke to Warm Mineral Springs renovations and historic preservation.
Jill Luke: Spoke to Warm Mineral Springs renovations and surtax allocations.
Chuck English: Spoke to various topics.

3. ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. 26-0145 Announcement of Current Advisory Board and Committee Vacancies

Mayor Emrich announced the item and called on the City Clerk to read the announcements.

Ms. Faust read the announcements into the record.

4. CONSENT AGENDA:

Mayor Emrich announced the item and queried the City Manager regarding items pulled from the consent agenda.

Public Comment:

In Person:
Robin San Vicente: Spoke to agenda item attachments and supporting documentation.

Mayor Emrich requested a motion.

A motion was made by Commissioner Duval, seconded by Commissioner Stokes, to approve the consent agenda as presented. The motion carried on the following vote:

Yes: 5 - Mayor Emrich, Commissioner Duval, Commissioner Petrow, Vice Mayor Langdon and Commissioner Stokes

A. 26-0281 Approve and Authorize the City Manager to Execute Contract No. 2025-34 with Playcore Wisconsin, Inc. DBA Gametime, Authorized Representative Dominica Recreation Products for Removal and Replacement of Playground at Hope Park, Located at 8161 Lombra Avenue, North Port, Florida 34287, in the Total Amount of $299,943.30 in Accordance With the Terms and Conditions in the Solicitation.

This item was approved on the consent agenda.

B. 26-0393 Approve Amendment No. 11 with the State of Florida Department of Transportation for the Traffic Signal Maintenance and Compensation Agreement for the Maintenance of Traffic Signals on U.S. 41 for a Total Amount of $79,186.00.

This item was approved on the consent agenda.

C. 26-0487 Approve and Authorize the City Manager to Execute the Tree & Brush Abatement Services Agreements for a Three (3) Year Term and the Option to Renew for Two (2) Additional One (1) Year Terms With Arbobella Tree Service, LLC, Olive Branch Enterprises of Florida, Inc., and Bushman's Landscape Management, LLC for Citywide Tree and Brush Abatement Services in an Amount Not to Exceed $200,000.00 Annually, Subject to Contractual Escalators for the Remaining Term.

This item was approved on the consent agenda.

D. 26-0761 Approve the Application to the Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation in the Amount of $17,000 for Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) for North Port Police Department (NPPD) Patrol Vehicles and Authorize the City Manager or the Mayor, as Applicable Under the City Charter, to Execute all Funding Documents After Legal Review, Should the Grant be Awarded to the City.

This item was approved on the consent agenda.

E. 26-0812 Approve the City of North Port's Participation in Phase 2 of the DuPont and 3M PFAS Public Water System Settlement and Authorizing the City Manager or Mayor, as Applicable Under the City Charter, to Execute all Documents Required, After Legal Review, Related to the City's Participation, Engagement of Special Counsel, Acceptance of Settlement Funds, and all Other Documents Necessary and Related to the City's Participation in the Settlement.

This item was approved on the consent agenda.

F. 26-0815 Approve Amendment No. 3 to Contract No. 2020-56 With Waterfield Florida Staffing, LLC d/b/a Action Labor of Florida d/b/a Staffing Connection for School Crossing Guard Services for Purposes of Extending Contract Time Until the New Solicitation is Awarded in Accordance With the Hourly Rates.

This item was approved on the consent agenda.

G. 26-0858 Approve the Revised Interlocal Agreement Regarding Distribution Formula for Allocation of Revenue From Local Option Fuel Tax Levied Pursuant to Section 336.025(1)(b), Florida Statutes, Among Sarasota County and Municipalities Within Sarasota County for the 6-Cent Local Option Gas Tax.

This item was approved on the consent agenda.

5. PUBLIC HEARINGS:

ORDINANCE - First Reading:

A. ORD. NO. 2026-19

An Ordinance of the City of North Port, Florida, Amending the Non-District Budget and Capital Improvement Budget for Fiscal Year 2025-2026 to Increase the Warm Mineral Springs Building Rehabilitation Project WM19BR by the Amount of $4,082,133; Providing for Findings; Providing for Posting; Providing for Conflicts; Providing for Severability; and Providing an Effective Date.

Mayor Emrich announced the item and requested a motion to direct the City Clerk to read by title only.

A motion was made by Commissioner Stokes, seconded by Vice Mayor Langdon, to direct the City Clerk to read the Ordinance by title only. The motion carried on the following vote:

Yes: 5 - Mayor Emrich, Commissioner Duval, Commissioner Petrow, Vice Mayor Langdon and Commissioner Stokes

Ms. Faust read the Ordinance by title only.

Mr. Fletcher introduced the item.

Commission questions and discussion took place regarding project costs, funding sources, Environmental Fund allocations, and revenue projections.

Public Comment:

Ms. Faust read the following eComments into the record:
Michele Moore: Expressed support for the item.
David Iannotti: Expressed support for the item.

In Person:
Debbie Blackwell: Expressed support for the item.
Robin San Vicente: Expressed support for the item and Environmental Fund.
Jon Thaxton: Expressed support for the item and spoke to the Gulf Coast Community Foundation.
Erin DiFazio: Expressed support for the item.
Lorrie Muldowney: Expressed support for the item.
Myriam Springuel: Expressed support for the item and spoke to historic preservation.
Regina Melman: Expressed support for the item.
Laura Ansel: Expressed support for the item.
Debbie McDowell: Expressed support for the item.
Chuck English: Expressed support for the item.
Steve Koski: Expressed support for the item.

Mayor Emrich closed the public hearing and requested a motion.

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Langdon, seconded by Commissioner Stokes, to continue Ordinance No. 2026-19 to second reading on July 7, 2026. The motion carried on the following vote:

Yes: 5 - Mayor Emrich, Commissioner Duval, Commissioner Petrow, Vice Mayor Langdon and Commissioner Stokes

Recess was taken from 7:18 p.m. to 7:28 p.m.

ORDINANCE - Second Reading:

A. ORD. NO. 2026-09

An Ordinance of the City of North Port, Florida, Providing That Failure to Appear at a Code Enforcement Hearing Constitutes an Admission and Waiver and Authorizes Imposition of Penalties and Costs; Amending the Code of the City of North Port, Florida, Section 2-508; Providing for Findings; Providing for Conflicts; Providing for Severability; Providing for Codification; and Providing an Effective Date

Mayor Emrich announced the item and called on the City Clerk to read by title only.

Ms. Faust read the Ordinance by title only.

Mr. Fletcher introduced the item.

There were no Commission questions or discussion.

There was no public comment.

Mayor Emrich closed the public hearing and requested a motion.

A motion was made by Commissioner Stokes, seconded by Commissioner Duval, to adopt Ordinance No. 2026-09 as presented. The motion carried on the following vote:

Yes: 5 - Mayor Emrich, Commissioner Duval, Commissioner Petrow, Vice Mayor Langdon and Commissioner Stokes

B. ORD. NO. 2026-17

An Ordinance of the City of North Port, Florida, Regarding Street Naming and Property Numbering; Amending the Code of the City of North Port, Florida, Section 70-55 through 70-58; Providing for Findings; Providing for Conflicts; Providing for Severability; Providing for Codification; and Providing an Effective Date.

Mayor Emrich announced the item and called on the City Clerk to read by title only.

Ms. Faust read the Ordinance by title only.

Mr. Fletcher introduced the item.

There were no Commission questions or discussion.

There was no public comment.

Mayor Emrich closed the public hearing and requested a motion.

A motion was made by Commissioner Duval, seconded by Commissioner Stokes, to adopt Ordinance No. 2026-17 as presented. The motion carried on the following vote:

Yes: 5 - Mayor Emrich, Commissioner Duval, Commissioner Petrow, Vice Mayor Langdon and Commissioner Stokes

C. ORD. NO. 2026-18 — An Ordinance of the City of North Port, Florida, Amending the Non-District Budget for Fiscal Year 2025-2026 for Use of State of Florida Contraband Forfeiture Funds In the Amount of $55,000; Providing for Findings; Providing for Posting; Providing for Conflicts; Providing for Severability; and Providing an Effective Date.

Mayor Emrich announced the item and called on the City Clerk to read by title only.

Ms. Faust read the Ordinance by title only.

Mr. Fletcher introduced the item.

There were no Commission questions or discussion.

There was no public comment.

Mayor Emrich closed the public hearing and requested a motion.

A motion was made by Commissioner Stokes, seconded by Vice Mayor Langdon, to adopt Ordinance No. 2026-18 as presented. The motion carried on the following vote:

Yes: 5 - Mayor Emrich, Commissioner Duval, Commissioner Petrow, Vice Mayor Langdon and Commissioner Stokes

RESOLUTION:

A. RES. NO. 2026-R-27 — A Resolution of the City of North Port, Florida, Approving the Expenditure of Forfeiture Funds for Costs Related to the Police Department Crime Prevention, Community Outreach, and Youth Substance-Abuse Prevention Programs; Providing for Incorporation of Recitals; Providing for Conflicts; Providing for Severability; and Providing an Effective Date.

Mayor Emrich announced the item and called on the City Clerk to read by title only.

Ms. Faust read the Resolution by title only.

Mr. Fletcher introduced the item.

There were no Commission questions or discussion.

There was no public comment.

Mayor Emrich closed the public hearing and requested a motion.

A motion was made by Commissioner Stokes, seconded by Commissioner Duval, to adopt Resolution No. 2026-R-27 as presented. The motion carried on the following vote:

Yes: 5 - Mayor Emrich, Commissioner Duval, Commissioner Petrow, Vice Mayor Langdon and Commissioner Stokes

B. RES. NO. 2026-R-37 — A Resolution of the City Commission of the City of North Port, Florida, Naming the New Utilities Administration Building as the “Richard J. Newkirk Utilities Administration Complex;" Providing for Incorporation of

Recitals; Providing for Conflicts; Providing for Severability; and Providing an Effective Date.

Mayor Emrich announced the item and called on the City Clerk to read by title only.

Ms. Faust read the Resolution by title only.

Mr. Fletcher introduced the item.

Commission questions and discussion took place regarding appreciation, pride, and service to the City.

Public Comment:

In Person:
Debbie McDowell: Expressed support for the item.

Mayor Emrich closed the public hearing and requested a motion.

A motion was made by Commissioner Duval, seconded by Vice Mayor Langdon, to adopt Resolution No. 2026-R-37 as presented. The motion carried on the following vote:

Yes: 5 - Mayor Emrich, Commissioner Duval, Commissioner Petrow, Vice Mayor Langdon and Commissioner Stokes

C. RES. NO. 2026-R-44 — A Resolution of the City Commission of the City of North Port, Florida, Adopting City Commission Policy No. 2026-01 Related to the Open Data Policy for What Works Cities Certification; Providing for Incorporation of Recitals; Providing for Conflicts; Providing for Severability; and Providing an Effective Date.

Mayor Emrich announced the item and called on the City Clerk to read by title only.

Ms. Faust read the Resolution by title only.

Mr. Fletcher introduced the item.

There were no Commission questions or discussion.

There was no public comment.

Mayor Emrich closed the public hearing and requested a motion.

A motion was made by Commissioner Stokes, seconded by Commissioner Petrow, to adopt Resolution No. 2026-R-44 as presented. The motion carried on the following vote:

Yes: 5 - Mayor Emrich, Commissioner Duval, Commissioner Petrow, Vice Mayor Langdon and Commissioner Stokes

6. GENERAL BUSINESS:

A. 26-0847 — Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Commissioner Appointments to the Florida League of Cities Legislative Policy Committees and the

Legislative Advocacy Committee.

Mayor Emrich announced the item.

Ms. Faust introduced the item.

Commission questions and discussion took place regarding current appointments.

There was no public comment.

Mayor Emrich requested a motion.

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Langdon, seconded by Commissioner Petrow, to maintain all current appointments for the Florida League of Cities Legislative Policy Committees and the Legislative Advocacy Committee. The motion carried on the following vote:

Yes: 5 - Mayor Emrich, Commissioner Duval, Commissioner Petrow, Vice Mayor Langdon and Commissioner Stokes

B. 26-0875 Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Whether Serving as a City Commissioner is a Full-Time or Part-Time Job.

Mayor Emrich announced the item.

Ms. Faust introduced the item.

Commission questions and discussion took place regarding public meetings, agenda preparation, community engagement, City events, and time commitment.

Public Comment:

Ms. Faust read the following eComment into the record:
Jane Woolston: Spoke to salaries and compensation.

In Person:
Robin San Vicente: Spoke to responsibilities.
Mark Frandsen: Spoke to various topics regarding the item.
Debbie McDowell: Spoke to responsibilities and accountability.

No action was taken on this item.

C. 26-0876 Discussion and Possible Action Regarding City Commission Budget Items.

Mayor Emrich announced the item.

Ms. Faust introduced and spoke to the item.

Commission questions and discussion took place regarding health benefit costs, raises, equitability, 2027 Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA), travel budgets, Florida League of Cities (FLC) attendance, legislative action days, training and education costs, and Affordable Care Act (ACA) clarifications.

Public Comment:

In Person:
Mark Frandsen: Spoke to various topics regarding the item.
Debbie McDowell: Spoke to various topics regarding the item.
Robin San Vicente: Spoke to various topics regarding the item.

No action was taken on this item.

D. 26-0765 Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Amending City Commission Policy No. 2020-02 Ceremonial Items.

Mayor Emrich announced the item.

Ms. Faust introduced the item.

Commissioner Stokes spoke to the item.

Commission questions and discussion took place regarding Keys to the City including community involvement, recommendation criteria, and language clarifications.

There was no public comment.

Mayor Emrich requested a motion.

A motion was made by Commissioner Stokes, seconded by Commissioner Duval, to direct the City Clerk to draft a Resolution amending Policy No. 2020-02 as presented. The motion carried on the following vote:

Yes: 5 - Mayor Emrich, Commissioner Duval, Commissioner Petrow, Vice Mayor Langdon and Commissioner Stokes

7. PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was no public comment.

8. COMMISSION COMMUNICATIONS:

Mayor Emrich called on Commissioners for communications.

A. 26-0071 Commissioner Duval's Communications

Commissioner Duval reported on events attended.

B. 26-0072 Commissioner Stokes' Communications

Commissioner Stokes had no report.

C. 26-0073 Mayor Emrich's Communications

Mayor Emrich had no report.

D. 26-0074 Vice Mayor Langdon's Communications

Vice Mayor Langdon had no report.

E. 26-0075 Commissioner Petrow's Communications

Commissioner Petrow had no report.

9. ADMINISTRATIVE AND LEGAL REPORTS:

Mayor Emrich called on Charter Officers for reports.

A. 26-0162 City Clerk's Monthly Report

Ms. Faust had no report.

B. 26-0841 City Attorney’s Monthly Report

Mr. Fuino had no report.

C. 26-0870 City Manager's Monthly Report

Mr. Fletcher had no report.

10. ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Emrich adjourned the meeting at 8:56 p.m.

City of North Port, Florida

By: ___________________________________
Pete Emrich, Mayor

Attest: _________________________________
Heather Faust, City Clerk