CITY COMMISSIONERS
Phil Stokes, Mayor
Pete Emrich, Vice Mayor
Barbara Langdon, Commissioner
David Duval, Commissioner
Demetrius Petrow, Commissioner

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

Tuesday, January 28, 2025 **6:00 PM** **City Commission Chambers**

F. ORD. NO. 2024-48

An Ordinance of the City of North Port, Florida, Calling for a Referendum Question to be Placed before the Qualified Electors of the City of North Port, Florida at the May 13, 2025 Special Election; Providing a Referendum Question Determining Whether to Amend the City Charter to Authorize the City Commission to Issue Debt to Respond to a Declared Emergency or Disaster without Prior Voter Approval; Providing for the Full Text of the Proposed Charter Amendment; Providing Findings; Providing for an Effective Date for the New Charter Language if the Proposed Charter Amendment is Approved; Providing for the Filing of the Ordinance with the Sarasota County Supervisor of Elections; Providing for Publication of the Text of the Proposed Charter Amendment; Providing for Filing with the Florida Department of State if the Proposed Charter Amendment is Approved; Providing for Conflicts; Providing for Severability; and Providing an Effective Date.

Mayor Stokes 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.

Commission questions and discussion took place regarding including language from Section 2.02(c) in the referendum question.

Public Comment:
Robin San Vicente: Expressed support of including additional language in the referendum questions.

Mayor Stokes closed the public hearing and requested a motion.

A motion was made by Commissioner Langdon, seconded by Vice Mayor Emrich, to adopt Ordinance No. 2024-48 as amended for the referendum question to read "Florida law allows local governments to issue certain debt for various

governmental purposes. The City Charter requires voter approval before the City issues any debt. Should the Charter be amended, allowing the City to issue debt payable from funds other than property taxes without voter approval if the debt is used to remove debris from, repair, or reconstruct, any public infrastructure or capital facilities damaged as a direct result of a declared emergency or disaster." The motion carried on the following vote:

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