



City of North Port

4970 CITY HALL BLVD
NORTH PORT, FL 34286

Meeting Minutes City Commission Workshop

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, January 6, 2026

9:00 AM

City Commission Chambers

Commission Retreat

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Emrich called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

ROLL CALL

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

ALSO PRESENT

City Manager Fletcher, City Attorney Fuino, City Clerk Faust, Board Specialist Lindner, Police Captain Harvey, and Deputy Fire Chief Herlihy.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Vice Mayor Langdon.

1. PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was no public comment.

2. GENERAL BUSINESS:

A. [26-0275](#) City Commission Retreat and Governance Workshop

Mayor Emrich announced the item.

Mr. Fletcher introduced Doug Thomas, Executive Vice President, Recruitment and Leadership Development, Strategic Government Resources (SGR).

Mr. Thomas provided an overview of the agenda and introduced Lynn Tipton, Florida League of Cities (FLC).

Ms. Tipton spoke to her professional background and experience.

Mr. Thomas provided a presentation including effective governance principles, North Port City Charter, Commissioner and employee communication policy, and policy timeline.

Commission questions and discussion took place regarding policy intent, revision history, and consistency, Commissioner and employee communication, and transparency.

Mr. Thomas continued the presentation including GrayRobinson legal opinion and International City/County Management Association (ICMA) Code of Ethics.

Commission questions and discussion continued regarding Charter language interpretation, Commission authority limitations, application of legal opinions, and ICMA Code of Ethics.

Mr. Thomas continued the presentation including governance and recommended strategies.

Commission questions and discussion continued regarding Commissioner and employee communications, operational boundaries, City facilities, governance responsibilities, and public trust.

Recess was taken from 10:30 a.m. to 10:46 a.m.

Ms. Tipton provided a presentation including history of municipal forms of government, characteristics of various governance models, council-manager form of government, non-interference policies, and comparisons to peer cities.

Commission questions and discussion continued regarding council-manager form of government, non-interference standards, governance balance, political pressures, citizen understanding of government structure, and consistency.

Recess was taken from 1:07 p.m. to 1:37 p.m.

Mr. Thomas continued the presentation including path forward and one-on-one meetings.

Commission questions and discussion continued regarding communication practices, agenda briefings, citizen concerns and response time, conflicts of interest, consistency and balance, government trust, organizational structure, political pressures, public confidence, and governance roles.

Mr. Thomas continued the presentation including recommended strategies, Commission workshops, and interactions with employees.

Commission questions and discussion continued regarding Unified Land Development Code (ULDC) considerations, citizen concerns, workshop structure, consensus procedures, employee interactions, and potential policy language revisions.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was no public comment.

4. ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Emrich adjourned the meeting at 12:58 p.m.

City of North Port, Florida

By: _____
Pete Emrich, Mayor

Attest: _____
Heather Faust, City Clerk