



# City of North Port

4970 CITY HALL BLVD  
NORTH PORT, FL 34286

## Meeting Minutes City Commission Special Meeting

### **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*

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Thursday, September 4, 2025

5:01 PM

City Commission Chambers

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### **Budget Special Meeting**

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Stokes called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m.

#### **ROLL CALL**

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

#### **ALSO PRESENT**

City Manager Fletcher, Interim City Attorney Golen, City Clerk Faust, Board Specialist Lindner, Police Chief Garrison, Fire Chief Titus, and Budget and Performance Administrator Herrmann.

#### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Carmine Miranda.

#### **1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Mayor Stokes requested a motion to approve the agenda.

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

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

#### **2. PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Ms. Faust read the following eComments into the record:

Jill Luke: Expressed support of Ordinance Nos 2025-26 and 2025-27.

Maria Leslie: Expressed opposition to Ordinance Nos 2025-26 and 2025-27.

Community Member: Expressed support of the Parks and Recreation Department and

budget.

In Person:

Valdy Olender: Spoke to police presence and concerns with budget.

Robin Vaccai: Expressed concern with budget increases.

Carmine Miranda: Expressed support of Ordinance No. 2025-26.

Lance Broat: Expressed support of Ordinance No. 2025-26.

### **3. PUBLIC HEARINGS:**

**A. [ORD. NO. 2025-26](#)**

An Ordinance of the City of North Port, Florida, Activating a Communications Department; Providing for Findings; Providing for Conflicts; Providing for Severability; and Providing an Effective Date.

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

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

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

Ms. Faust read the Ordinance by title only.

Mr. Fletcher introduced the item.

Commission questions and discussion took place regarding importance of good communication, budget increases, financial impacts, impact on functionality, commercial and residential tax base, public education, and unanimous vote requirement.

Public Comment:

Ms. Faust read the following eComments into the record:

Susan Kostbar: Expressed support of the item.

Michelle Moore: Expressed support of the item.

In Person:

Kathy Garrity: Expressed support of the item.

Mayor Stokes closed the public hearing and requested a motion.

***A motion was made by Vice Mayor Emrich, seconded by Commissioner Langdon, to continue Ordinance No. 2025-26 to second reading on September 18, 2025. The motion carried on the following vote:***

**Yes:** 3 - Vice Mayor Emrich, Commissioner Langdon and Mayor Stokes

**No:** 2 - Commissioner Duval and Commissioner Petrow

**B. [ORD. NO. 2025-27](#)**

An Ordinance of the City of North Port, Florida, Activating an Information Technology Department; Providing for Findings; Providing for Conflicts; Providing for Severability; and Providing an Effective Date.

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

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

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

Ms. Faust read the Ordinance by title only.

Mr. Fletcher introduced the item.

Commission questions and discussion took place regarding leadership and work of the department, impact on all departments, and importance of security.

There was no public comment.

Mayor Stokes closed the public hearing and requested a motion.

***A motion was made by Commissioner Langdon, seconded by Vice Mayor Emrich, to continue Ordinance No. 2025-27 to second reading on September 18, 2025. The motion carried on the following vote:***

**Yes:** 3 - Vice Mayor Emrich, Commissioner Langdon and Mayor Stokes

**No:** 2 - Commissioner Duval and Commissioner Petrow

**C.** [ORD. NO.  
2025-24](#)

An Ordinance of the City of North Port, Florida, Adopting the Ad Valorem Millage Rate and Rolled-Back Rate for the Fiscal Year Beginning October 1, 2025, and Ending September 30, 2026; Providing for Findings; Providing for Conflicts; Providing for Severability; and Providing an Effective Date.

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

***A motion was made by Vice Mayor Emrich, seconded by Commissioner Langdon, to direct the City Clerk to read the Ordinance title and required sections. The motion carried on the following vote:***

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

Ms. Faust read the Ordinance title and Sections 2.01 and 2.02 into the record.

Mr. Fletcher introduced the item and read the reason as to why the ad valorem tax revenues are increasing.

There were no Commission questions or discussion.

There was no public comment.

Mayor Stokes closed the public hearing and requested a motion.

***A motion was made by Vice Mayor Emrich, seconded by Commissioner Duval, to continue Ordinance No. 2025-24 to second reading on September 18, 2025. The motion carried on the following vote:***

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

- D. [ORD. NO. 2025-25](#) An Ordinance of the City of North Port, Florida, Adopting the Non-District Budget for the Fiscal Year Beginning October 1, 2025, and Ending September 30, 2026; Adopting the Capital Improvement Budget and Program; Prescribing the Terms, Conditions, and Provisions with Respect to the Items of Appropriations and Their Payment; Providing for Supplemental Appropriations and Reappropriations; Providing for Findings; Providing for Posting of the Budgets; Providing for Conflicts: Providing for Severability; and Providing an Effective Date.

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

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

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

Ms. Faust read the Ordinance by title only.

Mr. Fletcher introduced the item.

Commission questions and discussion took place regarding hiring freeze, additional personnel positions, and affordability.

There was no public comment.

Mayor Stokes closed the public hearing and requested a motion.

***A motion was made by Vice Mayor Emrich, seconded by Commissioner Duval, to continue Ordinance No. 2025-25 to second reading on September 18, 2025. The motion carried on the following vote:***

**Yes:** 4 - Vice Mayor Emrich, Commissioner Duval, Commissioner Langdon and Mayor Stokes

**No:** 1 - Commissioner Petrow

#### **4. PUBLIC COMMENT:**

There was no public comment.

#### **5. ADJOURNMENT:**

Mayor Stokes adjourned the meeting at 5:57 p.m.

City of North Port, Florida

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phil Stokes, Mayor

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Heather Faust, City Clerk