



City of North Port

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-R-26

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF NORTH PORT, FLORIDA, SUPPORTING THE IDENTIFICATION OF WARM MINERAL SPRINGS AND LITTLE SALT SPRING AS FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION'S OUTSTANDING FLORIDA SPRINGS; URGING MEMBERS OF THE LOCAL DELEGATION OF THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE TO SUPPORT THESE SPRINGS FOR FUNDING OF SPRINGS PROTECTION; PROVIDING FOR INCORPORATION OF RECITALS; PROVIDING FOR TRANSMITTAL; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, in 2014, Florida voters adopted Amendment 1, guaranteeing revenues dedicated to Florida springs; and

WHEREAS, more than \$113,000,000 has been generated within the Sarasota Soil and Water Conservation District by way of one-third of collected documentary stamp fees that has been sent to the State of Florida; and

WHEREAS, more than \$8,500,000 would have been available to benefit Warm Mineral Springs and Little Salt Springs if allocated for the local springs; and

WHEREAS, Florida's springs are essential to the environment, economy, citizens, and visitors of this state; and

WHEREAS, Florida has one of the most productive aquifers in the world, which supports more than 1,000 natural springs and gives this state one of the world's highest concentrations of springs; and

WHEREAS, Florida is home to more first-magnitude and second-magnitude springs than any other state in the nation; and

WHEREAS, the groundwater supply is vital to the state's economy and approximately 90 percent of Florida residents rely on it for their drinking water; and

WHEREAS, Florida's springs reflect groundwater conditions and provide an important habitat for wildlife, making the springs a natural resource that must be protected; and

WHEREAS, springs provide important recreational resources and opportunities that are enjoyed by citizens and visitors of this state; and

WHEREAS, Florida's springs discharge nearly 8 billion gallons of water each day, and healthy springs reflect the State of Florida's commitment to sustainable groundwater and surface water resource protection; and

WHEREAS, Warm Mineral Springs and Little Salt Spring are located within the boundaries of the City of North Port and the County of Sarasota; and

WHEREAS, Warm Mineral Springs and Little Salt Spring are among the state's most unique ecological, hydrological, archeological, and paleontological geologic features; and

WHEREAS, Warm Mineral Springs and the related environs both possess profound therapeutic, historic, architectural, and artistic features; and

WHEREAS, the Warm Mineral Springs creek is among the most significant natural warm water winter refugia for manatees on Florida's Gulf Coast; and

WHEREAS, these two springs are irreplaceable and act as a natural treasure for all citizens of the State of Florida; and

WHEREAS, the City Commission seeks support for the identification of Warm Mineral Springs and Little Salt Spring as Outstanding Florida Springs and maximum funding for preservation and protection.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF NORTH PORT, FLORIDA:

SECTION 1 – INCORPORATION OF RECITALS

1.01 The above recitals are true and correct and are incorporated in this resolution by reference.

SECTION 2 – RESOLUTION

2.01 The City Commission hereby urges members of the local delegation of the Florida Legislature to support the identification of Warm Mineral Springs and Little Salt Spring as high priority for listing as Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Outstanding Florida Springs and to support the maximum funding for preservation and protection.

SECTION 3 – TRANSMITTAL

3.01 The City Clerk is directed to transmit a certified copy of this resolution to the Florida League of Cities, the Sarasota County Legislative Delegation, and any other interested parties.

SECTION 4 – CONFLICTS

4.01 In the event of any conflict between the provisions of this resolution and any other resolution, in whole or in part, the provisions of this resolution will prevail to the extent of the conflict.

SECTION 5 – SEVERABILITY

5.01 If a court of competent jurisdiction finds that any section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase, or provision of this resolution is for any reason invalid or unconstitutional, that provision will be deemed a separate, distinct, and independent provision and will not affect the validity of the remaining portions of the resolution.

SECTION 6 – EFFECTIVE DATE

6.01 This resolution takes effect immediately upon adoption.

ADOPTED by the City Commission of the City of North Port, Florida, in public session on July 27, 2021.

CITY OF NORTH PORT, FLORIDA

GISELE “JILL” E. LUKE
MAYOR

ATTEST

HEATHER TAYLOR, MMC
CITY CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND CORRECTNESS

AMBER L. SLAYTON
CITY ATTORNEY