



City of North Port

4970 CITY HALL BLVD
NORTH PORT, FL 34286

Meeting Minutes City Commission Workshop

CITY COMMISSIONERS
Barbara Langdon, Mayor
Alice White, Vice Mayor
Pete Emrich, Commissioner
Debbie McDowell, Commissioner
Phil Stokes, Commissioner

APPOINTED OFFICIALS
Jerome Fletcher, City Manager
Amber L. Slayton, City Attorney
Heather Faust, City Clerk

Wednesday, July 19, 2023

9:00 AM

City Commission Chambers

Budget

CALL TO ORDER

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

ROLL CALL

Present: 5 - Mayor Barbara Langdon, Vice Mayor Alice White, Commissioner Pete Emrich, Commissioner Debbie McDowell and Commissioner Philip Stokes

ALSO PRESENT:

City Manager Jerome Fletcher, Assistant City Clerk Adrian Jimenez, Fire Chief Scott Titus, Deputy Fire Chief Nick Herlihy, Deputy Police Chief Chris Morales, Assistant City Manager Julie Bellia, Assistant City Manager Jason Yarborough, Finance Director Kimberly Williams, Budget Administrator Lisa Herrmann, Performance and Accountability Officer Eve Sweeting, Public Information Officer Jason Bartolone, Parks and Recreation Director Sandy Pfundheller, Communications Manager Jason Bartolone, Assistant Utilities Director Jennifer Desrosiers, Assistant Utilities Director Michael Vuolo, and Public Works Director Chuck Speake

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Assistant City Manager Jason Yarborough.

1. PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was no public comment.

2. GENERAL BUSINESS:

A. [23-1052](#) Discussion and Possible Direction Regarding the Fiscal Year 2024 City Manager's Proposed Budget.

Mayor Langdon announced the item.

Mr. Fletcher introduced the item and provided a presentation including proposed all funds budget by strategic pillar, general fund budget, fiscal year (FY) 2024 City Manager proposed general fund budget, general fund budget proposals by department, and general fund balance.

Commission questions and discussion took place regarding Police Department purchasing versus leasing vehicles, surtax and impact fees versus general fund usage relating to vehicle purchase, securing funding for emergency services telecommunications equipment upgrade, Emergency Medical Services (EMS) rhythm generator funding, budget proposals formatting, Natural Resources Division funding source, and tree fund relation to general fund.

There was no public comment.

There was consensus to fund Budget Proposal No. 2475 in the amount of \$70,000 for a vehicle for the Police Sergeant using surtax instead of the general fund.

B. [23-1129](#) Fire Department

Mayor Langdon announced the item.

Mr. Fletcher introduced the item and provided a presentation including total budget, fiscal year (FY) 2024 City Manager proposed budget, budget proposals, changes, fund balance, and Capital Improvement Program (CIP).

Commission questions and discussion took place regarding utility task vehicle (UTV) usage and funding sources, trailer location, Fire Rescue versus Emergency Medical Services (EMS) impact fee usage, and fund balance in relation to policy requirements.

There was no public comment.

C. [23-1130](#) Development Services Department

Mayor Langdon announced the item.

Mr. Fletcher introduced the item and provided a presentation including total budget, fiscal year (FY) 2024 City Manager proposed budget, budget proposals, changes, fund balance, and Capital Improvement Program (CIP).

Commission questions and discussion took place regarding Natural Resources Division fund usage relating to Communications Department, Natural Resources Division funding source and sustainability requirements, Environmental Advisory Board recommendations relating to tree fund usage, tree planting plan future discussion, Conservation Officer duties and role, Code Enforcement and Natural Resources Division collaboration, tree fund intent and goal requirements, and the building fund balance in relation to policy requirements.

Mr. Yarborough spoke to the need for future discussions relating to the building fund balance.

There was no public comment.

D. [23-1131](#) Parks and Recreation Department

Mayor Langdon announced the item.

Mr. Fletcher introduced the item and provided a presentation including total budget,

fiscal year (FY) 2024 City Manager proposed budget, budget proposals, changes, fund balance, and Capital Improvement Program (CIP).

Commission questions and discussion took place regarding planting trees at Mckibben Park versus Pine Park, comprehensive tree planting strategy future discussion, Natural Resources Division role and implementation, Kiwanis Club of North Port contribution, and CIP discussion timeline.

Mayor Langdon spoke to the meeting procedure and timeline for discussion of CIP questions.

Commission questions and discussion continued regarding Warm Mineral Springs (WMS) expenses included in budget, WMS personnel outsourcing, WMS revenues relating to discounted rate admissions, and fee schedule capturing new admission costs.

Ms. Pfundheller noted the fee schedule captures the new admission costs.

There was no public comment.

E. [23-1132](#)

Finance Department

Mayor Langdon announced the item.

Mr. Fletcher introduced the item and provided a presentation including total budget, fiscal year (FY) 2024 City Manager proposed budget, budget proposals, and changes.

There were no Commission questions or discussion.

There was no public comment.

F. [23-1133](#)

Human Resource Department

Mayor Langdon announced the item.

Mr. Fletcher introduced the item and provided a presentation including total budget, fiscal year (FY) 2024 City Manager proposed budget, budget proposals, changes, and fund balance.

Commission questions and discussion took place regarding Florida Retirement System (FRS) cost increase and State versus City legislation.

Ms. Herrmann noted the increase is due to State legislation.

There was no public comment.

Recess was taken from 10:20 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

G. [23-1134](#)

Police Department

Mayor Langdon announced the item.

Mr. Fletcher introduced the item and provided a presentation including total budget, fiscal year (FY) 2024 City Manager proposed budget, budget proposals, changes, fund balance, and Capital Improvement Program (CIP).

There were no Commission questions or discussion.

There was no public comment.

H. [23-1135](#) Public Works Department

Mayor Langdon announced the item.

Mr. Fletcher introduced the item and provided a presentation including total budget, fiscal year (FY) 2024 City Manager proposed budget, budget proposals, changes, fund balance, and Capital Improvement Program (CIP).

Commission questions and discussion took place regarding repair and replace (R&R) fund number, district versus impact fee usage relating to Solid Waste District, Road and Drainage District fund balance in relation to policy requirements, initiating road recon bond debt payments utilizing fund balance, Tropicaire Boulevard pathway, and bus stop pads.

There was no public comment.

I. [23-1136](#) Information Technology Department

Mayor Langdon announced the item.

Mr. Fletcher introduced the item and provided a presentation including total budget, fiscal year (FY) 2024 City Manager proposed budget, budget proposals, and changes.

There were no Commission questions or discussion.

There was no public comment.

J. [23-1137](#) City Manager/Communications Department

Mayor Langdon announced the item.

Mr. Fletcher introduced the item and provided a presentation including total budget, fiscal year (FY) 2024 City Manager proposed budget, budget proposals, and changes.

Commission questions and discussion took place regarding Communications Department role, employee roles and utilization, Community Engagement Coordinator position, addressing misinformation, and operating cost decrease reasoning.

There was no public comment.

K. [23-1138](#) Social Services Department

Mayor Langdon announced the item.

Mr. Fletcher introduced the item and provided a presentation including total budget, fiscal year (FY) 2024 City Manager proposed budget, budget proposals, and changes.

There were no Commission questions or discussion.

There was no public comment.

L. [23-1139](#) Economic Development Division

Mayor Langdon announced the item.

Mr. Fletcher introduced the item and provided a presentation including total budget, fiscal year (FY) 2024 City Manager proposed budget, budget proposals, and changes.

There were no Commission questions or discussion.

There was no public comment.

M. [23-1140](#) City Attorney's Department

Mayor Langdon announced the item.

Mr. Fletcher introduced the item and provided a presentation including total budget, fiscal year (FY) 2024 City Manager proposed budget, budget proposals, and changes.

There were no Commission questions or discussion.

There was no public comment.

N. [23-1141](#) City Clerk's Department

Mayor Langdon announced the item.

Mr. Fletcher introduced the item and provided a presentation including total budget, fiscal year (FY) 2024 City Manager proposed budget, budget proposals, and changes.

Commission questions and discussion took place regarding operating cost decrease reasoning.

There was no public comment.

O. [23-1142](#) City Commission

Mayor Langdon announced the item.

Mr. Fletcher introduced the item and provided a presentation including total budget, fiscal year (FY) 2024 City Manager proposed budget, budget proposals, and changes.

Commission questions and discussion took place regarding challenge coins.

Consensus was requested to remove the \$1900 for challenge coins from the City Commission budget.

Commission questions and discussion continued regarding usage of remaining challenge coins and future discussion relating to potential challenge coin replacement.

There was no public comment.

P. [23-1143](#) Utilities Department

Mayor Langdon announced the item.

Mr. Fletcher introduced the item and provided a presentation including total budget, fiscal year (FY) 2024 City Manager proposed budget, budget proposals, changes, and Capital Improvement Program (CIP).

Commission questions and discussion took place regarding previous exclusion of Risk

Assessment and Emergency Response budget proposal.

There was no public comment.

Q. [23-1144](#)

Non Departmental

Mayor Langdon announced the item.

Mr. Fletcher introduced the item and provided a presentation including total budget, fiscal year (FY) 2024 City Manager proposed budget, budget proposals, and changes.

There were no Commission questions or discussion.

There was no public comment.

Mayor Langdon spoke to the meeting procedure and timeline for discussion of Capital Improvement Program (CIP) questions.

Commission questions and discussion took place regarding prioritizing Activity Center 6 and reason for omission, Master Plan development process and order of operations, developer funding agreement process, budget relation to priorities, Dallas White Park soccer fields, and City Charter requirements relating to the current bond referendum process.

In response to Commission discussion, Ms. Slayton spoke to City Charter requirements relating to the current bond referendum process.

Commission questions and discussion continued regarding future discussion of the current bond referendum process involving input from the Charter Review Advisory Board, Tamiami Trail multimodal path amenities design funding status, Tamiami Trail parking options and funding, consistency relating to surtax versus general fund usage determination, American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding, community input relating to parking, Italy Avenue fund reallocation, and impact fees usage.

There was consensus to leave Italy Avenue as is in the budget Capital Improvement Program sheets and direct the City Manager to create an agenda item for discussion.

Commission questions and discussion continued regarding removal of Dallas White Park campus and renovations CIP sheet, Highland Ridge Park playground replacement CIP sheet status, Public Safety Training Complex CIP sheet status, prior Commission direction relating to the closure of the Police Station Construction CIP sheet, CIP sheet status update process, and Utilities waste water line redesign impact on rezoning of Price Boulevard.

In response to Commission discussion, Mr. Yarborough spoke to meeting with Commissioners to clarify details regarding the waste water line redesign.

Recess was taken from 12:18 p.m. to 12:32 p.m.

R. [23-1104](#)

Discussion and Possible Direction Regarding the Strategic Plan Priorities Ranking.

Mayor Langdon announced the item.

Mr. Fletcher introduced the item.

Commission questions and discussion took place regarding limitations of the ranking

format, exclusion and inclusion of priorities, action taken in relation to priorities, intent and value of the ranking format, short-term versus perpetual priorities in relation to creating a strategic plan, potential revisions, impact on budget process, potential for process improvement, timeline, and next steps.

In response to Commission discussion, Ms. Sweeting spoke to meeting with Commissioners to review potential process improvements.

There was no public comment.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was no public comment.

4. ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Langdon adjourned the meeting at 1:07 p.m.

City of North Port, Florida

By: _____
Barbara Langdon, Mayor

Attest: _____
Heather Faust, City Clerk