



City of North Port

4970 CITY HALL BLVD
NORTH PORT, FL 34286

Meeting Minutes City Commission Regular 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

Tuesday, February 11, 2025

10:00 AM

City Commission Chambers

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Stokes called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.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 Deputy City Attorney Roberts, City Clerk Faust, Police Captain Fussell, and Public Works Director Speake.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Legislative Analyst Todd Miles.

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Stokes requested a motion to approve the agenda.

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Emrich, seconded by Commissioner Langdon, 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 eComment into the record:

Stephanie Gibson: Spoke about public comment policy discussion at prior meeting.

Robin San Vicente: Spoke about Ord. No. 2025-04.

In Person:

Valdy Olender: Spoke about oaths and police headquarters.

3. ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. [25-1894](#) Announcement of Current Advisory Board and Committee Vacancies

Mayor Stokes announced the item and called on the City Clerk to read the announcements.

Ms. Faust read the announcements into the record.

4. CONSENT AGENDA:

Mayor Stokes announced the item and queried the City Manager regarding items pulled from the consent agenda for discussion.

There was no public comment.

Mayor Stokes requested a motion.

A motion was made by Commissioner Langdon, seconded by Vice Mayor Emrich, to approve the items in the consent agenda. The motion carried on the following vote:

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

A. [25-1757](#) Approve Contract Amendment NPP00001.2 and Statement of Work with TeamDynamix Solutions LLC for the City of North Port Police Department to Add Additional Information Technology Service Desk Software Licenses to the City's Original Contract for an Additional Cost of \$23,820.11 Over a Three (3) Year Period.

This item was approved on the consent agenda.

B. [25-1768](#) Approve the Application to the SUN Trail Grant Program in the Amount of \$3,730,000 for the Warm Mineral Springs Connector and Authorize the City Manager or the Mayor, as Applicable Under the City Charter, to Execute all Funding Documents After Legal Review, Should the Grant be Awarded to the City.

This item was approved on the consent agenda.

C. [25-1830](#) Approve the Award of Funds From the Special Event Assistance Program to St. Andrew's Religious & Cultural Center in Support of the Ukrainian Festival of Southwest Florida to be Held on March 1, 2025, in an Amount up to, and Not to Exceed, \$1,000 to Cover the Costs of City Fees and Services.

This item was approved on the consent agenda.

D. [25-1835](#) Approve the Award of Funds From the Special Event Assistance Program to People for Trees, Inc. in Support of the 2025 Tree Fair to be Held on April 26, 2025, in an Amount up to, and Not to Exceed, \$500 to Cover the

Costs of City Fees and Services.

This item was approved on the consent agenda.

- E. [25-1836](#) Approve the Award of Request for Bid No. 2025-11 - Citywide Park Facility Debris Removal and Restroom Cleaning to Clean Space, LLC. in the Amount of \$159,709.68 Plus a Cleaning Contingency of \$8,000.00 for a Total Amount of \$167,709.68.

This item was approved on the consent agenda.

- F. [25-1837](#) Approve the Fourteenth Amendment to Construction Manager at Risk Contract No. 2023-17.002 for Construction Services Contract, Phase II With Halfacre Construction Company in the Amount of \$551,258.37 for Repairs/Replacement of the Myakkahatchee Creek Environmental Park (MCEP) Restroom Replacement.

This item was approved on the consent agenda.

- G. [25-1900](#) Approve the Municipal Election Agreement Between the City of North Port and the Sarasota County Supervisor of Elections for the May 13, 2025, City of North Port Special Election.

This item was approved on the consent agenda.

5. PUBLIC HEARINGS:

ORDINANCE - First Reading:

- A. [ORD. NO. 2025-06](#) An Ordinance of the City of North Port, Florida; Amending the Code of the City of North Port, Florida, Section 2-329 Regarding Deferred Retirement Option Plan; Providing for Findings; Providing for Conflicts; Providing for Severability; Providing for Codification; 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 negotiations and benefit to city.

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. 2025-06 to second reading on February 25, 2025. The motion carried on the following vote:

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

ORDINANCE - Second Reading:

B. [ORD. NO. 2025-03](#)

An Ordinance of the City of North Port, Florida, Calling for a Referendum Question to be Placed Before the Qualified Voters of the City of North Port, Florida at a Special Election; Providing a Referendum Question Determining Whether to Finance the New Police Department Headquarters Project Through the Issuance by the City of General Obligation Bonds Payable from the Proceeds of Ad Valorem Taxes Levied on all Taxable Property within the City in Amounts Sufficient to Pay Debt Service on Such Bonds; Providing for Findings; Providing for the Filing of the Ordinance with the Sarasota County Supervisor of Elections; 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 cost comparison to other projects, benefit to the city, cost to delay, and relocation of other staff to vacant building.

Public Comment:

Pam Tokarz: Expressed concern with citizen awareness and understanding, support of the item, and spoke to a Plan B.

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. 2025-03 as presented. The motion carried on the following vote:

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

C. [ORD. NO. 2025-04](#)

An Ordinance of the City Of North Port, Florida, Calling for a Referendum Question to be Placed Before the Qualified Voters of the City of North Port, Florida at a Special Election; Providing a Referendum Question Determining Whether to Finance a New Solid Waste Transfer Station Through the Issuance by the City of Bonds Payable from the Revenues of the City’s Solid Waste District; Providing for Findings; Providing for the Filing of the Ordinance with the Sarasota County Supervisor of Elections; 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 benefit to city, cost to city, and determination of associated fees.

Public Comment:

Ms. Faust read the following eComment into the record:

Debbie McDowell: Expressed opposition about the Ordinance.

Stephanie Gibson: Expressed opposition about the Ordinance.

In Person:

Pam Tokarz: Expressed opposition about the Ordinance due to lack of backup material.

Mayor Stokes closed the public hearing and requested a motion.

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Emrich, seconded by Commissioner Langdon, to adopt Ordinance No. 2025-04 as presented. The motion carried on the following vote:

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

D. [ORD. NO. 2025-05](#)

An Ordinance of the City Of North Port, Florida, Calling for a Referendum Question to be Placed Before the Qualified Voters of the City of North Port, Florida at a Special Election; Providing a Referendum Question Determining Whether to Finance Certain Capital Improvements to a Wastewater Treatment Facility Through the Issuance by the City of Bonds Payable From the Revenues of the City's Water and Sewer Utility System; Providing for Findings; Providing for the Filing of the Ordinance with the Sarasota County Supervisor of Elections; 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 project need.

Public Comment:

Ms. Faust read the following eComment into the record:

Debbie McDowell: Expressed opposition about the Ordinance.

Commission discussion continued regarding educating the citizens.

Mayor Stokes closed the public hearing and requested a motion.

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Emrich, seconded by Commissioner Duval, to adopt Ordinance No. 2025-05 as presented. The motion carried on the following vote:

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

6. PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was no public comment.

7. COMMISSION COMMUNICATIONS:

Mayor Stokes called on Commissioners for communications.

A. [25-1895](#) Mayor Stokes' Communications

Mayor Stokes reported on events attended and important topics.

B. [25-1896](#) Vice Mayor Emrich's Communications

Vice Mayor Emrich reported on important topics.

C. [25-1897](#) Commissioner Duval's Communications

Commissioner Duval reported on events attended and important topics.

D. [25-1898](#) Commissioner Langdon's Communications

Commissioner Langdon noted her report is in the agenda backup.

E. [25-1899](#) Commissioner Petrow's Communications

Commissioner Petrow reported on events attended.

8. ADMINISTRATIVE AND LEGAL REPORTS:

Mayor Stokes called on Charter Officers for reports.

Mr. Fletcher reported on special election information.

Ms. Roberts and Ms. Faust did not have a report.

9. ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Stokes adjourned the meeting at 10:51 a.m.

By: _____
Phil Stokes, Mayor

Attest: _____
Heather Faust, City Clerk