



City of North Port

4970 CITY HALL BLVD
NORTH PORT, FL 34286

Meeting Minutes City Commission Special Meeting

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

Thursday, December 11, 2025

1:00 PM

City Commission Chambers

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Emrich called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

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

ALSO PRESENT

City Manager Fletcher, City Attorney Fuino, City Clerk Faust, Deputy Police Chief Garrison, and Fire Chief Titus.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by City Clerk Heather Faust.

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Emrich requested a motion to approve the agenda.

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

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

2. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Ms. Faust read the following eComments into the record:

Sandy Cortopassi: Expressed support of Item No. 26-0216 and concerns regarding the City Manager.

Carmine Miranda: Expressed support of the City Manager.

City Employee: Expressed support of the City Manager.

Jeremy Ansel: Expressed support of the City Manager.

Citizen North Port: Expressed support of the City Manager and concerns related to

property tax proposals.

Valerie Franks: Expressed support of Item No. 26-0216 and concerns regarding the City Manager.

City Employee: Expressed support of the City Manager.

Karen Jamalle: Spoke to previous hostile work environment.

Anonymous Person: Expressed support of the City Manager.

In Person:

Susan Balmer: Expressed concern regarding the City Manager.

Pam Tokarz: Spoke to the need for compromise.

John Rawlings: Spoke to the need for professionalism.

Ms. Faust read the following eComments into the record:

Laura Ansel: Expressed support of the City Manager.

Jill Luke: Spoke to the need for unity.

3. GENERAL BUSINESS:

26-0216

Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Placement of the City Manager on Administrative Leave

Mayor Emrich announced the item.

Mr. Fuino introduced the item.

Commission questions and discussion took place regarding complaint, the City Manager's apology, opportunities to resolve the matter, public commentary and public perception, investigation process, independent investigation, respect, opinions versus facts, policy language and its relationship to the Charter, comparisons to other municipalities, transparency and accountability, the need for compromise, addressing underlying issues, employee disciplinary guidelines, distinctions between policy and law, the full scope of the complaint, and interpretation of Charter provisions.

Ms. Faust read the following eComments into the record:

Jerry Sing: Expressed support of the City Manager.

Michele Moore: Expressed opposition of the item.

Cheryl Cook: Spoke to the commission-manager form of government and separation of policymaking and administration.

Anonymous Employee: Expressed support of the City Manager.

Anonymous Person: Expressed concerns regarding Commissioner conduct and employee morale.

In Person:

Joan Morgan: Expressed opposition of the item and spoke to employee morale and community unity.

Pam Tokarz: Expressed opposition of the item and spoke to optics.

John Rawlings: Spoke to the need for Commission to follow policy and procedures.

Peggy Burton: Spoke to concerns regarding embarrassment and distractions.

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Langdon, seconded by Commissioner Stokes, to not conduct an investigation regarding the complaint filed on December 8, 2025. The motion carried on the following vote:

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

No: 2 - Commissioner Duval and Commissioner Petrow

4. PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was no public comment.

5. ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Emrich adjourned the meeting at 2:45 p.m.

City of North Port, Florida

By: _____

Pete Emrich, Mayor

Attest: _____

Heather Faust, City Clerk