



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

Wednesday, April 2, 2025

6:00 PM

Fire Station 86 Training Room - Wellen Park

Commission Town Hall – 2025 Referendums

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Stokes called the meeting to order at 6:00 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, Police Chief Garrison, Fire Chief Titus, Finance Director Williams, Deputy Communications Manager Ingalls, Assistant Utility Director Brasefield, Deputy City Manager Yarborough, Assistant Utilities Director Vuolo

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Lance Broat.

1. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Valdy Olender: Spoke to 2023 Annual Financial Report.

2. GENERAL BUSINESS:

[25-1924](#)

Introduction by the City Manager

Mayor Stokes announced the item.

Mr. Fletcher provided an introduction.

[25-1926](#)

Discussion Regarding Referendum Question Related to City Borrowing

Authority for Response to Declared Emergencies with Public Question and Answer Session

Mayor Stokes announced the item.

Mr. Fletcher introduced the item.

Questions and answers took place regarding borrowing authority and citizen voting, declared emergency guidelines, election turnout, changes since November election, Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) letter, and conflict of interest.

[25-1928](#)

Discussion Regarding Referendum Question Related to Removal of Residency Requirements from the City of North Port Charter for the City Attorney and City Clerk Positions with Public Question and Answer Session

Mayor Stokes announced the item.

Mr. Fletcher introduced the item.

Questions and answers took place regarding justification, recruitment costs, quality of performance, opinion representation, and position advertisement.

[25-1930](#)

Discussion Regarding Referendum Question Related to Borrowing Authority for the North Port Police Department Headquarters Project with Public Question and Answer Session

Mayor Stokes announced the item.

Mr. Fletcher introduced the item.

Questions and answers took place regarding options should the referendum fail, fiscal responsibility, pay as you go methodology, space needs, grants, certificates of participation, safety, construction costs, DOGE, approximate cost based on property value, effective date, and prior discussion.

[25-1932](#)

Discussion Regarding Referendum Question Related to Borrowing Authority for the Solid Waste Transfer Station Project with Public Question and Answer Session

Mayor Stokes announced the item.

Mr. Fletcher introduced the item.

Questions and answers took place regarding cost/tax.

[25-1934](#)

Discussion Regarding Referendum Question Related to Borrowing Authority for Capital Improvements to the Pan American Wastewater Treatment Facility with Public Question and Answer Session

Mayor Stokes announced the item.

Mr. Fletcher introduced the item.

Questions and answers took place regarding existing structures and growth, capacity levels, rain levels, impact to utility customers, water treatment system connectivity, and prioritization of referendum questions.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was no public comment.

4. ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Stokes adjourned the meeting at 8:14 p.m.

City of North Port, Florida

By: _____
Phil Stokes, Mayor

Attest: _____
Heather Faust, City Clerk