

**MINUTES  
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

**NORTH PORT CITY HALL CHAMBER  
4970 CITY HALL BOULEVARD  
NORTH PORT, FLORIDA**

6:00 p.m.

**JOINT MEETING  
WITH NORTH PORT CITY COMMISSION**

David R. Mills, Chair, District 2  
Nora Patterson, Vice Chair, District 4  
Paul Mercier, District 1  
Shannon Staub, District 3  
Jon Thaxton, District 5

Rue S. Berryman, Chair  
Barbara L. Gross, Vice Chair  
Vanessa Carusone  
Richard Lockhart  
Fred Tower, III

Also present were:

James Ley, County Administrator  
Stephen DeMarsh, County Attorney  
Paula Clintsman, Deputy Clerk

Steven Crowell, Jr., City Manager  
Robert Robinson, City Attorney  
Helen Raimbeau, City Clerk  
Patsy Adkins, Deputy City Clerk

**6. OTHER BUSINESS**

**A. PROCLAMATIONS**

Following introduction of North Port City and County Commissioners and Staff members present, Chair Berryman presented a Proclamation, American Legion Auxiliary Poppy Days, February 24 through February 26, 2006. Chair Mills commented on the new North Port City Hall Chamber and building.

**7. OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

**A. PUBLIC WORKS**

Ms. Buddy Hughes inquired regarding the time frame and ground breaking for the road improvements (right-turn lane) on U.S. 41 and Sumter Boulevard. Commr. Tower suggested to contact Staff regarding the matter and Chair Berryman noted the approximate time frame for the ground breaking of the road improvements.

(6:11:09)

**1. INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT FOR PARKS AND RECREATION**

**A. Board Discussion**

**B. Public Comment**

**C. Board Action**

Community Services Parks and Recreation General Manager John McCarthy introduced former Deputy County Administrator Walt Rothenbach who provided background information on the Interlocal Agreements for Parks and Recreation. Mr. McCarthy discussed the following topics/issues:

- active versus passive parks/capital versus maintenance costs
- trends/opportunities/future recreation needs of the community/new technology

**1. INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT FOR PARKS AND RECREATION - Continued**

- Level of Service (LOS)/components/role in defining the LOS
- options for parks and recreation planning/development/maintenance and operation/programming/revenue sources
- neighborhood/community parks/partnerships and volunteer efforts.

Mr. McCarthy summarized the revisions to the Interlocal Agreements that better define maintenance LOS, complaint response, and operation and maintenance of new parks and noted the need to address the operation of new parks with a sustainable funding plan.

Commr. Tower suggested revisions to the Interlocal Agreement to add language referencing (requesting) input from City of North Port residents relating to Programs, to work with the City of North Port regarding future planning for the acquisition of parkland, and to look at third parties.

The following individuals commented on park issues:

Mr. Larry Thoennissen  
Mr. Mark Beatty

(6:42:05)

Discussions were held with Mr. McCarthy, County Administrator James Ley, and North Port City Attorney Robert Robinson on the following topics/issues:

- determination of responsibility for park functions
- administration/allocation/distribution of funds/ad valorem taxes/impact fees/management priorities
- fair share/recommendation for the Board to provide the funds to municipalities currently spent on parks/policy issues to be addressed/managing and operating facilities/budget/stewardship responsibility for the funds collected from taxpayers
- comparison of various tax bases (based on population) for active and regional parks
- need to increase facilities (growth)/suggestion to remain under the County's "umbrella"/land availability (Thomas Ranch)
- requirement/obligation for the County to pay for parks.

(7:03:35)

Following comments, Commr. Staub suggested that the Board of County Commissioners' Vice Chair and North Port City Vice Chair meet with the County Administrator/City Manager to work out the details of an Interlocal Agreement for Parks and Recreation. Discussion ensued on the following topics/issues to be addressed:

- maintenance and operation
- define funds for regional parks/new parks/level of maintenance
- work with County and City Staff (form a partnership)
- schedule a joint meeting/complete process within 45 days
- passive parks/neighborhood/County/City responsibility
- complaints/maintenance funds
- parkland/acreage/skate park usage/growth rate

**1. INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT FOR PARKS AND RECREATION - Continued**

- suggestion for North Port City residents not to pay for usage/requirements/ designated funds for maintenance/capital improvements/involve the City and users in the planning process for new and current parks
- complete the process prior to budget workshops.

Chair Berryman and Chair Mills noted consensus for both Vice Chairs to meet to address the issues discussed, provide a draft report in 45 days, and schedule a joint meeting the last week of April/first week of May 2006.

(7:23:45)

**2. UPDATE ON ESCHEATED LOTS**

- A. Board Discussion**
- B. Public Comment**
- C. Board Action**

Public Works Policies and Project Manager Terry Gilbert submitted a copy of the PowerPoint presentation, commended North Port City Staff, and gave an overview of the process and the results of the online auction for the sale of the escheated lots. Discussion ensued regarding the total gross revenues, contract/deed process/preparation, the status/findings by the Federal Government of the lots relating to Scrub-jay habitat/properties, and noted the anticipated sale of the remaining lots in March. Individual comments followed on the efforts of County and City Staff.

(7:35:02)

**3. UPDATE ON LITTLE SALT SPRINGS**

- A. Board Discussion**
- B. Public Comment**
- C. Board Action**

Public Works Business Operations General Manager Larry Arnold provided an overview of the significant archaeological sites located near the intersection of Price Boulevard and Acadian Terrace within the North Port City limits. Mr. Arnold noted the purchase of 19 of the 25 lots, the purchase of one of the remaining six lots, and a contract for the purchase of an additional lot to be presented to the Board of County Commissioners on March 21, 2006. Individual comments followed.

(7:43:08)

**4. STATE TRANSPORTATION FUNDING**

- A. Board Discussion**
- B. Public Comment**
- C. Board Action**

Public Works Executive Director Jim Harriott discussed the Fiscal Years (FY) 2006/2007 through FY 2010/2011 Draft Tentative Work Program and submitted and reviewed documents entitled "Cost Trends 1997-2006" and "Road/Bridge Construction Cost Increases." Discussions were held with Mr. Harriott and County Administrator James Ley on the following topics/issues:

- impacts/one project/delayed/deleted projects
- overall cost increases
- status of right-of-way acquisition (Venice Bypass)/scheduled work/time frame/funding

**4. STATE TRANSPORTATION FUNDING - Continued**

- amount of the funds/lobbying efforts/fair share/return of the funds
- Transportation State Fund/pre-legislative/match.

(8:00:01)

**5. UPDATE ON RIVER ROAD**

- A. Board Discussion**
- B. Public Comment**
- C. Board Action**

Public Works Executive Director Jim Harriott provided a summary of the Englewood Interstate Connector Status Report for Segments 1 and 2, U.S. 41 to Interstate 75 (I-75). Discussions were held with Mr. Harriott and County Administrator James Ley on the following topics/issues:

- U.S. 41 north area/two Segments/U.S. 41 and Center Road/Center Road and I-75
- PD&E (Project Development and Environment) Study/Federal funding amount/design/right-of-way
- Federal funding issues/process
- coordination efforts/Thomas Ranch/Lee and Charlotte Counties.

(8:07:28)

**7. OPEN TO THE PUBLIC** - No one appeared at this time.

**6. OTHER BUSINESS** - Continued

**B. MUNICIPALITIES/COMMUNITY SERVICES**

Chair Mills thanked the City Commission and suggested to address the Parks and Recreation issue and Chair Berryman commented on scheduling additional joint meetings.

**MEETING ADJOURNED:** 8:10 p.m.