

Meeting Called to Order at 6:05 pm by Mark Frandsen, President.

INVOCATION: Ron Cutsinger

Pledge Led By: Chris Morales

Treasurer and Secretary Reports were available for review.

Officials and Dignitaries were introduced. Visitors were welcomed.

Audio and Video recording is not permitted.

A dinner honoring Graci McGillicuddy will be held on April 4th. Tickets are \$50. See Mark Frandsen for more details.

The club will be featuring shirts with our logo available for purchase at the next meeting. They will be \$40 each. Annual dues need to be paid. Joe is here tonight to receive payments.

Volunteers will be needed for the May 13 primary tents. There will also be early voting for 5 days before the primary to be held at the Biscayne Plaza. See Mark to volunteer.

John Coughlin of the West Villages Club announced their fundraiser, a Cigar Night. See John for details and tickets.

Karen Arlington will be in charge of the slate committee for the Fall 2025 election of Club Board members. She is seeking volunteers for the committee and candidates.

Mark then briefly discussed the referenda on the May 13 ballot. For more details see the City of North Port website. First, there will be a request to ensure reasonable funding in the event of emergencies for the city. The referenda will allow city borrowing without the need of voter approval. A process which can lead to delays and increased costs.

A second referendum asks for approval to change requirements for the City Attorney and City Clerk to live in North Port. These positions are appointed by the City Commissioners. Changing this could allow the city to attract highly qualified candidates.

The third ballot question seeks approval to issue 30 year bonds to construct a new police headquarters. This will be further discussed by tonight's speakers. This will increase taxes.

Bonds to construct a solid Waste Transfer Station is the fourth ballot item. This will increase efficiency and reduce costs. If passed, it will not result in new taxes.

The fifth and final ballot question requests bonds to finance capital improvements of a waste water treatment facility near Pan American. If passed, this will also not be a new tax.

Mark then introduced tonight's speakers. Chief Todd Garrison and Deputy Chief Chris Morales of the North Port Police Department to discuss the new Police headquarters item on the May 13th Ballot.

Chief Garrison and Deputy Morales outlined the current issues facing the police force and facilities. Currently 215 Officers work in the city center headquarters. They are 180% over capacity of the building.

Many significant support personnel are required for the department in addition to the officers we see each day. Positions such as investigations, communications, crime lab and records need space. The storage of evidence is required for prolonged periods of time. Evidence must be preserved in the same state it was received. It is projected that we may need up to 700 officers in the future. This is the size of St. Petersburg's force.

QUESTIONS DISCUSSED:

- Location of new headquarters will be at I-75 and Toledo Blade. This will include 30,000 SF of shell space for future expansion. Less costly to build now even if not used.
- Other City departments will take over the current headquarters at City Center. With the new headquarters at Toledo Blade, there will be possibly 3 other smaller stations in the community.
- It is best to build now with rising costs. The building will account for \$78 Million and the total will be \$115 Million which includes the cost to furnish and equip the facility.
- Discussion of methods applied to substance abuse problems in the community.
- With current technology in place, police are aware of your presence in the city and when you leave. The objective is to make the criminals decide that the risk of capture in North Port is greater than the reward of committing a crime. The plan objectives are to arrest, deter and push criminals out of North Port.

With the presentation and questions concluded, Mark thanked Chief Garrison and Deputy Morales for their service to the community and for speaking this evening.

Meeting Adjourned at 6:53 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Marian L. Patricoski, Secretary