



**CITY OF PUNTA GORDA, FLORIDA
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, JULY 2, 2008 9:00 A.M.**

COUNCILMEMBERS PRESENT: Friedman, Albers, Wallace, Goldberg, Smith-Mooney

CITY EMPLOYEES PRESENT: Dave Drury, Finance; Rick Keeney, Public Works; Tom Jackson, Utilities; Phil Wickstrom, Human Resources; Dennis Murphy, Growth Management; Kathy Dailey, City Manager's Office; Butch Arenal, Police; Robert Hancock, Fire; City Attorney Levin; City Manager Kunik; City Clerk Foster

Mayor Friedman called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Invocation was given by Mr. Oscar Dorr, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

PROCLAMATION/PRESENTATIONS

Introduction of Board / Committee Nominees

Mr. Chuck Zajicek introduced himself as a nominee for Planning Commission.

NOTE: City Council recessed and reconvened as the Community Redevelopment Agency. (See corresponding minutes)

PUBLIC HEARINGS

A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Punta Gorda, Florida, Amending the 1990 Downtown Redevelopment Plan ("Plan") pursuant to Section 163.361(1), Florida Statutes, extending the time certain for Completion of the Implementation Strategy of the "Plan"; and providing an effective date.

City Attorney Levin read the resolution by title.

Mayor Friedman called three times for public comment.

Councilmember Goldberg **MOVED** to close the public hearing, **SECONDED** by Councilmember Smith-Mooney.

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

Councilmember Smith-Mooney **MOVED** approval, **SECONDED** by Councilmember Albers.

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

An Ordinance of the City of Punta Gorda, Florida, amending Chapter 23 of the City Code of Ordinances, "Traffic", Article II, "Parking Areas", Section 23-13, "Parking in

Laishley Park and Ponce De Leon Park”, by adding a new subsection (b) establishing fees on an annual or daily basis for boat trailer parking throughout Laishley Park and Ponce De Leon Park, amending Section 23-14(a), providing a penalty for violation of boat trailer parking fee requirements; providing for conflict and severability and providing an effective date. **FIRST READING**

City Attorney Levin read the ordinance by title.

Mayor Friedman opined more consideration was necessary toward enacting same, stating pay centers located in Laishley and Ponce de Leon Parks would require a large amount of administration and enforcement. He pointed out if envelope supplies were exhausted, payment would be hindered, adding accounting for same would be difficult. He inquired if members felt the same, adding he felt annual passes should be encouraged with payment for daily parking to be paid only at the City Clerk’s Office and Laishley Park Marina office.

Councilmember Goldberg inquired if staff had developed a plan toward collection of the payments.

City Manager Kunik responded the plan was based on other marinas. He explained Laishley Park marina staff would manage the pay stations in Laishley Park with staff monitoring Ponce de Leon Park.

Mayor Friedman reiterated accountability would be difficult.

Councilmember Goldberg stated he felt Ponce de Leon Park would require the most resources for enforcement.

City Manager Kunik explained no additional staff would be hired, but rather existing staff would monitor same twice daily. He acknowledged the alternative was to pay at the City Clerk’s or Laishley Marina office, adding same would require a person to stop there prior to parking.

Mayor Friedman repeated his support for the latter alternative.

Councilmember Smith-Mooney recalled another location who found accounting and enforcement of same was more costly than the revenue derived from same. She recommended a cost analysis be performed to determine whether there was a benefit to same.

Mayor Friedman opined annual passes were preferred.

Councilmember Albers concurred the problem with keeping pay envelopes available could be problematic. He stated he felt further consideration should be given.

Councilmember Goldberg referenced the verbiage in the ordinance with regard to collection of payment, suggesting the ordinance be approved with same eliminated.

Discussion ensued with regard to possible payment methods.

Councilmember Albers suggested same be delayed and rewritten to require the daily fee be paid at either the City Clerk's or Laishley Park marina office.

Discussion ensued with regard to various pay station machines and their associated costs.

City Attorney Levin inquired if it was possible for the local bait shops to sell the daily passes and be allowed to retain a portion of each for their service.

Mayor Friedman suggested the verbiage related to payment methods be eliminated and the ordinance approved as amended, to allow staff to consider other alternatives.

City Attorney Levin recommended alternate language as follows: "A daily boat trailer parking permit shall be available at the City Clerk's Office, the ship store at Laishley Park Marina and other authorized outlets. Other authorized outlets shall be entitled to retain dollars to defray their costs."

Consensus of members was to agree.

Mr. Bill Bergman stated he was on the Charlotte County Marine Advisory Board, noting they had been opposed to parking fees within the County. He acknowledged the budget issues; however, he felt if fees were to be charged, a portion of same should be devoted to maintenance of the boat ramps. He then asked if the City would allow parking with a County permit due to the City's location within the County. He stated he had asked the County the same question, with no response to date.

Mayor Friedman responded he felt there would be no detriment to allowing the County permit within the City, noting it would be a benefit to residents to be allowed to utilize City permits at County locations.

Consensus of members was to allow same if the County agreed to reciprocate.

Mayor Friedman pointed out there was no need to earmark funds toward maintenance as same would be paid from the same budget funds.

Mr. Zajicek asked if sales tax was required with a parking fee, noting the County charged tax on their fee.

Mr. Dave Drury, Finance Director, responded same was required by law.

Mr. Fred Hannon opined the parking fees were more trouble than they were worth. He maintained boat ramps were supposed to be user friendly, noting the need for tourism. He questioned why only boat trailers were being targeted. He mentioned the inconvenience of having to go to another location to obtain a daily parking permit, questioning what a person traveling overnight to fish in the morning of a holiday would do when the locations with parking permits were not open.

Mayor Friedman recalled past discussions with regard to whether to charge for parking due to the need for additional revenue, with a unanimous decision to do so. He added the discussion this date was regarding the method of doing so.

Ms. Patti Allen voiced uncertainty if same was a good idea in a developing waterfront community. She inquired what would occur if a person purchased a parking pass for the next day and there were no spaces available when they arrived. She suggested the Waterfront Development Advisory Committee (WDAC) be given the opportunity to review the proposed ordinance.

Mr. Gene Kingery stated the amount of revenue to be gained was not enough for the amount of administration to be required. He questioned why only boat trailers were being required to pay for parking.

Mr. Randy Fassett voiced objection to the proposal, stating same would not provide much revenue. He further stated it ran counter to the intent to bring people into down to improve the economic situation. He pointed out many fishermen went out very early in the morning and would not be able to obtain a parking permit.

Mr. Steve Fabian voiced support, noting it would bring the City in line with the County. He pointed out the public safety building was open 24 hours and could serve as a location to pay for permits.

Mr. Tom McAlear commented Ponce de Leon Park filled up with commercial fishing guides on weekends, noting same prevented residents of the City from using same. He opined offering free parking supplemented commercial business.

Mr. Bill Hughes stated he felt administration of the program would be more costly than the revenues gained. He voiced opposition to same.

Councilmember Albers **MOVED** to close the public hearing, **SECONDED** by Councilmember Goldberg.

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

City Manager Kunik reminded members the proposal initiated during the budget process in an attempt to generate additional revenue, adding the City was the only place within the entire area, including Charlotte, Lee and Sarasota Counties, that did not charge a fee for boat trailer parking. He acknowledged it was not a great deal of revenue; however, same provided some funds for maintenance.

Councilmember Albers **MOVED** approval as amended with the verbiage recommended by the City Attorney, to be effective October 1, 2008, **SECONDED** by Councilmember Goldberg.

City Attorney Levin stated the public safety building should be added to the amended verbiage, adding determination of the amount to be retained by the other designated locations should be included.

Councilmember Albers **AMENDED** the **MOTION** to include the public safety building and to designate a \$1 retainer.

Councilmember Goldberg **AMENDED** the **SECOND**.

Councilmember Wallace voiced discomfort with a person paying the fee and finding no available parking, pointing out if pay stations were used, it would be obvious whether there was available parking.

Councilmember Smith-Mooney voiced opposition to the proposal, inquiring whether WDAC had been consulted. She agreed it was not equitable to only charge boat trailers for parking.

Councilmember Albers **AMENDED** the **MOTION** to remove the other locations for sale of permits.

Councilmember Goldberg **AMENDED** the **SECOND**.

City Attorney Levin clarified sale of daily parking permits would be sold at the City Clerk's Office, Laishley Park marina office and the public safety building. He inquired as to refundability, recommending same be nonrefundable.

Councilmember Albers **AMENDED** the **MOTION** to indicate the permits would be nonrefundable.

Councilmember Goldberg **AMENDED** the **SECOND**.

VOTNG AYE: Goldberg, Albers, Friedman.

VOTNG NAY: Smith-Mooney, Wallace.

MOTION CARRIED.

A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Punta Gorda, Florida, approving the 2008 Community Development Block Grant Action Plan for the City of Punta Gorda.

City Attorney Levin read the resolution by title.

City Manager Kunik noted the Housing and Urban Development Department (HUD) deadlines, explaining amendments to same could be made at a later date.

Councilmember Smith-Mooney inquired if the funds were not needed by Cooper Street if same could be allocated to the cost of impact fees at the Bernice Russell Community Development Corporation (BRCDC) mixed use project.

Mr. David Hilston, Urban Design Manager, responded same was not allowed by law.

Councilmember Smith-Mooney related a problem the BRCDC had encountered wherein they had incurred additional costs beyond what had been indicated by their

engineer, noting she had agreed to assist in finding a resolution to same. She mentioned the TWEDC did not encounter the same problems.

Mr. Hilston responded the difference was that one was solely residential while the other was a mixed use project.

Councilmember Wallace inquired as to the planning and administrative fee.

Mr. Hilston advised same was related to staff time.

Councilmember Albers **MOVED** to close the public hearing, **SECONDED** by Councilmember Goldberg.

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

Councilmember Goldberg **MOVED** approval, **SECONDED** by Councilmember Albers.

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

ORDINANCE/RESOLUTION

No Public Hearing Required

AX-10-07 – An Ordinance of the City of Punta Gorda, Florida, Annexing within the Corporate Area of the City Of Punta Gorda, Property described as Parcel No. 0071974-000100-2, being Lots 1 through 40, inclusive, Block 5, Carmalita Heights, as Recorded in Plat Book 7, Page 26 of the Public Records of Charlotte County, Florida and Parcel No. 0071966-000500-8, being Lots 1 through 52, Inclusive, Block 6, Forest Park as Recorded in Plat Book 1, Page 88 of the Public Records of Charlotte County, Florida, together with those portions of Burland Street, Education Avenue and Carmalita Street lying contiguous and adjacent to said lots, commonly known as 1100 Carmalita Street and 1500 Carmalita Street, containing 21.65 Acres+/-, as more particularly described on Exhibit A, and Property described as Parcel Nos. 0080941-000000-4, 0080942-000000-3, 0080943-000000-2, 0080944-000000-1, 0080945-000000-0, 0080946-000000-9, 0080947000000-8,0080947-000000-7, being Lots 1-20 inclusive, Block 9 together with the 60' Right-of-Way of Clemens Avenue lying contiguous to Lot 13, Block 9 of said Forest Park, commonly known as 1014 Cooper Street, 607 Carmalita Street, 611 Carmalita Street, 705 Carmalita Street, 737 Carmalita Street, 600 Allen Street, 608 or 700 Allen Street, 612 Allen Street, containing 3.06 Acres +/-, as more particularly described on Exhibit B, and Property described as Parcel Nos. 0071986-000000-9, 0071988-000000-7, 0071985-000000-0, 0071987-000000-8, being the East 1/2 of Lot 27, Clay's Subdivision of Section 8, Township 41 South, Range 23 East, Recorded in Plat Book 1, Page 14 of the Public Records of Charlotte County, Florida, commonly known as 1420 Henry Street, 1404 Henry Street, 1416 Henry Street, 1450 Education Avenue, containing 5.06 Acres+/-, as more particularly

described on Exhibit C in accordance with the Voluntary Annexation Provisions of Section 171.044 Florida Statutes; Redefining the Boundary Lines of said City in conformance therewith; Amending the Official Boundary Map of the City of Punta Gorda, Florida; providing for conflict and severability and providing an effective date.

SECOND READING

Former City Attorney Rob Berntsson read the ordinance by title.

Councilmember Wallace **MOVED** approval, **SECONDED** by Councilmember Smith-Mooney.

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

CONSENT AGENDA

Councilmember Albers **MOVED** approval of the consent agenda, **SECONDED** by Councilmember Goldberg.

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

A. CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

1. Approval of Minutes: Regular Meeting of June 18, 2008

B. LEGAL DEPARTMENT

1. Monthly litigation report
2. Statements of the Farr Law Firm in the total amount of \$450.00 dated June 1, 2008 for services rendered to the City in forfeiture matters.
3. Estate of Lynn Cord
4. Statement from the law firm of Christiansen & Dehner, P.A., in the amount of \$116.00 dated April 20, 2008 for services rendered to the City.

C. HUMAN RESOURCES

1. City Vacation Policy Modifications

D. GROWTH MANAGEMENT

1. A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Punta Gorda, Florida repealing Resolution 782-85, which has become obsolete due to the rezoning of property commonly known as Fishermen's Village, establishing Uses Permitted as those Uses Permitted in the Neighborhood Center (NC) Zoning District.

NOTE: A short break was called at 11:06 a.m.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

FY 2009 General Fund Budget Options

Mayor Friedman advised the discussion would relate to the shortfall; however, same was unknown until the millage rate was determined. He mentioned the Florida Power & Light (FPL) rate increase that was pending. He suggested the discussion be postponed

at least until after the millage rate was determined and possibly until the August 6, 2008 meeting.

City Manager Kunik requested he be allowed to show the proposed options, noting he was required to present a balanced budget to members. He advised the present gap utilizing the roll forward rate was \$273,000. He displayed an overhead which denoted the following options: use of estimated fund balance in excess of 5% reserve - \$200,000 to \$250,000; employee salary adjustment of 3% to be paid half in January, 2009 and in July, 2009 - \$60,000, 3% in July, 2009 - \$120,000 or no merit - \$180,000; decrease in election costs - \$35,000 or utilize increase in new construction ad valorem taxes - \$22,638.

Mayor Friedman stated his preference would be to determine the amount necessary from reserves along with the election and new construction figures prior to determining if changes to the employee merit would be necessary. He noted the City had entered this budget year with a 5% reserve, noting same could be done the following year prior to attempting to increase the reserve amount.

Councilmember Wallace agreed with regard to remaining with a 5% reserve. He pointed out other entities were not providing merit increases to their employees; therefore, if it was required to reduce or delay payment, it should be understood it was necessary.

Mayor Friedman concurred; however, he felt treating the City's employees better helped to retain good employees.

Consensus of members was to agree with Mayor Friedman's proposal.

City Manager Kunik stated the County's pay structure had been higher than the City's, adding he was unaware of what they were proposing for this budget year.

Councilmember Smith-Mooney mentioned the employees in the lower pay ranges must be struggling with the increased gas prices, recalling past experiences where a reduced rate was negotiated with a particular gas station for employees.

City Manager Kunik expressed unease with doing so, based upon this being the public sector.

Mr. Phil Wickstrom, Human Resources Manager, stated staff was researching a discount program through a particular entity. He noted same was offered to the City rather than the City soliciting same.

Utility Rate Study Discussion

City Manager Kunik displayed an overhead, as delineated in the agenda material, denoting the comparison of the operational budget for 2008 and 2009, noting a shortfall of \$2,350,400 for 2008 and \$1,908,379 in 2009 with no rate increase. He

explained reserves were being reduced to make up the shortfall. He then displayed overheads detailing revenues and expenses, providing a summary of each. He pointed out a net 9.8% reduction in expenses had been provided by staff, noting further shortfalls still existed.

Mayor Friedman clarified a deficit would exist requiring use of most of the reserves without a rate increase; however, bond covenants and mandated interest costs required a certain level of reserves. He pointed out same was the reason a rate increase was necessary.

City Manager Kunik responded affirmatively. He mentioned the need to perform certain core Capital Improvement Projects (CIP). He then displayed the rate covenant formulas for 2008 and 2009, as delineated in the agenda material, providing a brief explanation of each.

Mayor Friedman pointed out if the bond covenant calculations had been performed the prior year, a rate increase would have been indicated at that time.

Discussion ensued with regard to the bond covenants.

City Manager Kunik then displayed a chart denoting an 18% increase would provide over \$200,000 in additional funds while a 15% increase would amount to only a \$2,282 deficit, thus 15% was the lowest increase possible.

Councilmember Wallace requested assurances that every possible operational cut had been made prior to agreeing to a rate increase.

Councilmember Smith-Mooney questioned how to explain to a customer that because they had conserved water as required, they were now being required to pay more. She suggested consideration be given to instituting the increase as a surcharge that could be eliminated when it was no longer necessary.

Mayor Friedman recommended increased budget cuts and alternatives in an attempt to eliminate the need for an increase the following year.

Councilmember Goldberg inquired as to the estimated developer contributions denoted in the proforma.

Mr. Tom Jackson, Utility Director, responded it was a total of the small projects proposed for that time period.

Councilmember Albers inquired if City Manager Kunik was comfortable with a 15% increase.

City Manager Kunik responded he was more comfortable with an 18% increase from a planning perspective; however, he had been directed to determine the lowest increase possible.

Councilmember Wallace opined a 15% increase would provide staff the incentive to further reduce costs. He commented not having small increases over the past 12 years caused this problem, recommending consideration be given toward smaller increases in future years.

Consensus of members was to direct staff to proceed with a 15% increase and to work toward the proposed 10% increase for the following year not being necessary.

Discussion ensued with regard to the variance request presented to the Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) to relieve the City from the one day per week watering restrictions.

Event Center Docks Opportunities

Councilmember Albers reported he had attended a boating alliance meeting wherein the status of these docks were questioned, adding he had replied no funding existed. He stated he had been informed grant funds may be available through a few entities, explaining he had suggested that either the City or County take the lead on same.

Councilmember Smith-Mooney pointed out legal costs related to the submerged lands lease, which was in the County's jurisdiction.

City Attorney Levin advised the County could designate the City as their agent.

Consensus of members was to direct staff to contact the County regarding same.

NEW BUSINESS

Annexation Update

City Manager Kunik reported the Loop project had been delayed, adding the City had approached Wal-Mart with regard to annexation. He stated the next step was to contact the remaining businesses between Jones Loop and I-75, noting it would require allocating significant staff time to same. He stated staff was working on several parcels on US 41, as well as the environmentally sensitive lands. He stated US 17 properties would only be considered at this time if they approached the City for annexation.

Councilmember Smith-Mooney inquired if a plan was in process to work from I-75 to the Airport, reporting they would like to annex into the City.

City Manager Kunik responded focus was necessary to work toward I-75 to be prepared to bring the entire area in when the Loop was annexed, adding the area beyond that would be considered at that time.

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM CITY OFFICERS

CITY MANAGER

City Manager Kunik reported the South County Coalition (SCC) had schedule a meeting for presentation of the Sales Tax Extension on July 26, 2008 at 10:00 a.m. at which they hoped to have all of their membership in attendance. He advised he and

Councilmember Albers would be in attendance. He stated it would be followed by an August meeting at the Burnt Store Presbyterian Church. He then stated the Punta Gorda Kiwanis was meeting at 12:00 noon on July 17, 2008 at which he would attend, asking for at least one Councilmember to be in attendance.

Councilmember Goldberg offered to attend.

Mayor Friedman stated the smaller meetings such as Kiwanis were nice to attend; however, he felt focus should be given to the larger meetings such as the SCC mentioned earlier.

CITY CLERK

Designation of voting delegate for Florida League of Cities Conference.

City Clerk Foster recalled members had appointed a delegate and an alternate the previous year, requesting members make a selection for this year's conference.

Councilmember Smith-Mooney **NOMINATED** Councilmember Wallace as he represented the City at the Southwest Florida League of Cities meetings.

Councilmember Wallace **NOMINATED** Mayor Friedman as he felt it had more impact.

Consensus of members was to appoint Mayor Friedman, with Councilmember Wallace to serve as the alternate.

CITY COUNCIL BUDGET MEETING

A Resolution adopting a tentative millage rate for the City of Punta Gorda, Florida, for fiscal year 2008/2009.

City Attorney Levin read the resolution by title.

City Manger Kunik explained the taxable value decreased 12% Citywide and 11% in the CRA area. He then displayed an overhead denoting the current millage rate, levy with amendment 1, rollback/roll forward rate and new construction, as delineated in the agenda material. He advised the maximum rate should be established for advertising purposes, noting the roll forward rate was not required to be advertised as a tax increase.

Mayor Friedman clarified the majority of homesteaded properties would see an increase in City taxes, while those without a homestead exemption would see a decrease. He noted the percentage of increase or decrease would be based on the property value and length of ownership.

Councilmember Albers stated he felt staff had done a great job with reducing expenses, thus the roll forward rate was appropriate.

Councilmember Albers **MOVED** approval of a 2.586 millage rate, **SECONDED** by Councilmember Goldberg.

Councilmember Wallace requested clarification that Amendment 1 was not a tax increase.

City Manager Kunik responded same was not a tax increase.

Councilmember Wallace stated if it was required to be advertised as a tax increase, he would not be in favor.

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

NOTE: City Council recessed and reconvened as the Punta Gorda Isles (PGI) Canal Maintenance Assessment District at 12:27 p.m.

PUNTA GORDA ISLES CANAL MAINTENANCE ASSESSMENT DISTRICT

A Resolution adopting a tentative levy of annual special assessments for the Punta Gorda Isles Canal Maintenance Assessment District for the Fiscal Year 2008/2009.

City Attorney Levin read the resolution by title.

City Manager Kunik advised the PGI Canal Advisory Committee (CAC) had recommended raising the annual fee to \$440; however, staff did not recommend doing so. He advised the following year would require close consideration with regard to the operational budget and the need for an increase.

Councilmember Wallace **MOVED** approval of a \$400 assessment, **SECONDED** by Councilmember Goldberg.

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

NOTE: The PGI Canal Maintenance Assessment District adjourned and reconvened as the Burnt Store Isles (BSI) Canal Maintenance Assessment District at 12:31 p.m.

BURNT STORE ISLES CANAL MAINTENANCE ASSESSMENT DISTRICT

A Resolution adopting the tentative levy of annual special assessments for the Burnt Store Isles Canal Maintenance Assessment District for the Fiscal Year 2008/2009.

City Attorney Levin read the resolution by title.

Councilmember Wallace **MOVED** approval of a \$400 assessment, **SECONDED** by Councilmember Goldberg.

Mayor Friedman opined the projected ending fund balance was too high, suggesting additional seawall cap and seawall work be considered.

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

NOTE: The BSI Canal Maintenance Assessment District adjourned and reconvened as the City Council at 12:33 p.m.

BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

Announcement of Vacancies

Board of Zoning Appeals – Alternate

City Clerk Foster announced the vacancy.

Building Board – Alternate

City Clerk Foster announced the vacancy.

Revitalization Committee

City Clerk Foster announced the vacancy.

Planning Commission – Alternate

City Clerk Foster announced the vacancy.

Nominations

There were none.

Appointments

Planning Commission

Voting forms were distributed.

City Attorney Levin announced Mr. Zajicek had received the most votes and was therefore reappointed to the Planning Commission.

POLICY AND LEGISLATION

Discussion of Board/Committee Attendance

Mayor Friedman advised he had requested this discussion in light of the Planning Commission's inability to gain a quorum at their last meeting, stating research had been performed with regard to attendance at all boards/committees over the past 12 months. He expressed surprise in the amount of absences, adding there was some question as to what constituted an excused absence. He pointed out there were several members who had missed 6 or 7 of the past 12 meetings. He opined there should be no excused absence unless there were extenuating circumstances.

Councilmember Goldberg advised he was concerned as well, adding he understood the members were volunteers; however, they should be able to attend the meetings. He suggested if circumstances changed to prevent attendance, the seat should be resigned. He voiced support of changing the policy to tighten the absence policy.

Councilmember Wallace agreed if the policy was in going forward from this date.

Mayor Friedman suggested starting in January, 2008 and allowing the excused absences to stand, but to not permit them from this point forward.

Councilmember Wallace countered he felt it should be started from this point forward.

Consensus of members was to remove unexcused absences from this point forward, with any member having three absences to forfeit their seat unless they appealed to City Council through the City Clerk if there were extenuating circumstances.

Mr. Don McCormick noted an absence reported prior to the meeting was less onerous than simply not showing up.

Discussion ensued with regard to the manner of notification.

Mr. Fassett stated there were instances where he had notified the Chairman of an absence which had not shown up in the minutes as an excused absence.

FRIEDMAN: Mentioned the July 4th celebration asking all members attend as a show of support for the event.

GOLDBERG: Commented there was a special press conference at 11:30 a.m. at the Sunloft building.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:50 p.m.

Mayor

City Clerk