



**CITY OF PUNTA GORDA, FLORIDA
SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, MARCH 9, 2009 2:00 P.M.**

COUNCILMEMBERS PRESENT: Friedman, Albers, Wallace, Goldberg, McCormick

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

Mayor Friedman called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

Relocation of Public Works/Utilities Complex to Cooper Street Commerce Park

Mayor Friedman reported the meeting had been called to consider a change in plans with regard to the Public Works/Utilities Campus. He provided a brief background regarding the loss of the former complex during Hurricane Charley and the subsequent consideration of a land swap to utilize the former property for a mixed use development while relocating the campus on property near the airport. He stated the estimated cost for construction, not including the property in the land swap, was approximately \$6,000,000. He then stated recently a 16 acre parcel on Cooper Street had become available with two buildings, explaining with approximately \$1,000,000 in renovations to the structures, the City would have the same campus as was planned for the airport. He stated benefits to same were as follows: City retained ownership of the former Public Works property on Henry Street, net cost of project was less, construction would occur within one year as opposed to three and the value of new property would increase over the next few years at a higher rate than the airport property. He stated the land swap deal would be abrogated, the new property purchased and a decision on the sale of the Henry Street property would be considered in the future. He recalled previous concern with regard to relocation of the dog park as well as the request for variances on the property with regard to the land swap, concluding those issues would become moot with the proposed change in plans.

Councilmember McCormick confirmed a portion of the funds to be utilized were insurance proceeds, asking if reconstruction was necessary.

City Manager Kunik responded in the negative.

Councilmember Wallace inquired as to the amount.

City Manager Kunik responded up to \$1,600,000.

Ms. Diane Tufts, 601 Shreve Street, recalled past discussions with regard to relocating the dog park wherein it had been mentioned the fence that was destroyed by the hurricane had not been replaced due to that reason.

City Manager Kunik responded there were no present plans for replacing the fence.

Ms. Tufts stated the fence kept the noise down.

Mayor Friedman requested staff present a cost for same. He then asked for members' opinion as to the change in location.

Councilmember Goldberg opined same was an excellent opportunity.

Councilmember Goldberg **MOVED** to proceed with the change in plans, **SECONDED** by Councilmember Albers.

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

Mayor Friedman then drew members' attention to the assignment of contract, as delineated in the agenda material, noting two appraisals would be obtained.

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

Councilmember McCormick pointed out same would bring the Bayfront Center back to the citizens much sooner than initially planned.

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

City Attorney Levin reported the City had until March 23, 2009 to perform due diligence.

COUNCILMEMBER COMMENTS

Mayor Friedman thanked Southwest Land Developers for bringing this property to the City's attention.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:18 p.m.

Mayor

City Clerk