



**CITY OF PUNTA GORDA, FLORIDA  
CITY COUNCIL BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES  
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2010 5:01 P.M.**

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

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

**Mayor Goldberg** called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m. He reported for fiscal year (FY) 2010/2011 the City's calculated rollback millage rate was 2.9275 mils, while the proposed millage was 2.7251 mils, which was a 6.9% reduction of the rollback rate.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**A Resolution adopting a tentative millage rate for the City of Punta Gorda, Florida, for Fiscal Year 2010/2011 and setting a date, time and place of public hearing to consider the final millage rate.**

City Manager Kunik read the resolution by title.

**Mayor Goldberg** called three times for public comment.

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

**MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.**

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

**VOTING AYE: Friedman, Albers, McCormick, Goldberg.**

**VOTING NAY: Wallace.**

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**A Resolution adopting a tentative budget for the City of Punta Gorda, Florida, for Fiscal Year 2010/2011 and setting a date, time, and place of public hearing to consider the final budget.**

City Manager Kunik read the resolution by title.

Ms. Grace Nurse, New Operation Cooper Street, stated funds had been set aside for electric payment and janitorial services, requesting same be used for that purpose.

**Councilmember Albers** countered same had not been set aside for that purpose, adding there were not adequate funds to cover both aspects.

**Councilmember Wallace** stated he felt they were requesting only the amount in the budget.

**Councilmember Albers** proposed the City pay the electric bill, while the cleaning contract be cancelled and New Operation Cooper Street be responsible for janitorial services.

Ms. Nurse provided background information on the programs offered by Cooper Street Recreational Center, stating it was necessary to provide educational assistance.

**Mayor Goldberg** commended the services provided by Cooper Street; however, the previous year, Cooper Street had agreed they would become self supporting with regard to the janitorial and electrical payments for 2011. He explained the funds were retained in the budget by error, adding he would be in favor of contributing those funds with the agreement that Cooper Street must demonstrate the ability to be self supporting for the 2012 budget year.

Ms. Nurse responded their funds had been reduced from various agencies, adding they were attempting to be self supporting, albeit unsuccessfully.

**Councilmember Wallace** supported the Mayor's approach.

**Councilmember McCormick** opined investment into the youth was well worth the funds, adding he supported providing the funding included in the 2011 budget.

**Mayor Goldberg** spoke of the assistance provided to Cooper Street by the City aside from the utilities and janitorial services, stating it had gone beyond what the City could continue to contribute.

**Councilmember Friedman** pointed out the Councilmembers had agreed to cut those funds; however, they were inadvertently kept in the budget. He stated had that not happened, the discussion would be with regard to what other services to cut in order to fund this request. He stated the question had been whether property tax funds should assist with the funding of programs such as Cooper Street, with a decision same should be phased out. He pointed out the funds would not be included in the 2012 budget; thus, Cooper Street must become self supporting.

Consensus of members was to utilize the budgeted funds for janitorial and electrical services for Cooper Street for 2011.

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

**MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.**

Councilmember Friedman **MOVED** approval, **SECONDED** by Councilmember McCormick.

**MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.**

**NOTE: City Council recessed and reconvened as the Punta Gorda Isles (PGI) Canal Maintenance Assessment District (CMAD) at 5:21 p.m.**

**PUNTA GORDA ISLES CANAL MAINTENANCE ASSESSMENT DISTRICT**

**A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Punta Gorda, Florida, as the governing body of the Punta Gorda Isles Canal Maintenance Assessment District, establishing Fiscal Year 2010/2011 assessments for canal maintenance and repairs; finding a special benefit to the owners of lots assessed; providing for collection of such assessments by the tax collector as nonadvalorem assessments; and providing an effective date.**

City Manager Kunik read the resolution by title, stating the fee would be set at \$500 for single family residents and 5.2 cents per square foot for other than single family lots.

**Mayor Goldberg** called three times for public comment.

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

**MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.**

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

**MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.**

**NOTE: The PGI CMAD adjourned and reconvened as the Burnt Store Isles (BSI) CMAD at 5:23 p.m.**

**BURNT STORE ISLES CANAL MAINTENANCE ASSESSMENT DISTRICT**

**A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Punta Gorda, Florida, as the governing body of the Burnt Store Isles Canal Maintenance Assessment District, establishing Fiscal Year 2010/2011 assessments for canal maintenance and repairs; finding a special benefit to the owners of lots assessed; providing for collection of such assessments by the tax collector as nonadvalorem assessments; and providing an effective date.**

City Manager Kunik read the resolution by title, stating the fee would be set at \$400 for single family residences and .042 cents per square foot for other than single family lots.

Ms. Linda Treeworgy stated she had purchased a lot in BSI and had been told that \$200 of the tax bill was used to maintain the canal; however, her tax bill included an additional \$400 charge.

**Mayor Goldberg** stated some properties in BSI were assessed for maintenance of Alligator Creek, adding it may be possible her lot was included in that assessment district. He stated that was a separate taxing authority that the BSI community was a member of.

Ms. Treeworgy then asked if funds would be allocated to widen the former lock area.

**Mayor Goldberg** expressed uncertainty, suggesting she contact her homeowner's association for additional information.

Mr. Rick Keeney, Public Works Director, stated the lock area was a part of the BSI CMAD, adding the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) had indicated the walls could not be widened. He then provided information on the monthly BSI Canal Advisory Committee (CAC) meetings.

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

**MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.**

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

**MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.**

**NOTE: The BSI CMAD adjourned and reconvened as the City Council at 5:32 p.m.**

**COUNCILMEMBER COMMENTS**

**Councilmember Wallace** commended the City Manager and staff for preparing an excellent budget in lean economic times.

**Mayor Goldberg** concurred.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

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Mayor

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City Clerk