

**CITY OF PUNTA GORDA, FLORIDA  
CITY COUNCIL BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES  
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2019, 5:01 P.M.**

**COUNCILMEMBERS PRESENT:** Carey, Cummings, Matthews, Prafke, Wein

**CITY EMPLOYEES PRESENT:** Kristin Simeone, Finance; Rick Keeney, Public Works; Tom Jackson, Utilities; Pam Davis, Police; Ray Briggs, Fire; City Manager Kunik; City Clerk Smith

**Mayor Prafke** called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**BUDGET PUBLIC HEARINGS**

**Fiscal Year 2019 Budget Hearing Presentation – Special Assessments, Millage Rate and All Funds Operating Budget.**

Ms. Kristin Simeone, Finance Director, explained the FY 2020 General Fund Ad Valorem tax revenue increase was to better match current revenues with current expenditures, to fund the paving program and continue funding for the drainage improvement program as well as to continue to provide expected service levels, replacement of equipment and emergency vehicles and improving the General Fund operating reserve. She noted the proposed rate of 3.4337 mils would generate revenue of \$10.97 million with a proposed budget of \$129.835 million.

**A Resolution Adopting a Final Millage Rate for the City of Punta Gorda, Florida, for the levying of Ad Valorem Taxes for the City of Punta Gorda, Florida for Fiscal Year 2019/2020.**

City Manager Kunik read the resolution by title.

**Mayor Prafke** announced the calculated rollback rate for the City was 3.0521 mils, adding the tentative millage rate was 3.4337 mils, which was 12.5% higher than the calculated rollback rate.

Mr. George Wood voiced concern regarding the millage increase, questioning the rationale for same.

Ms. Simeone responded with a brief explanation of the City's expenditures, pointing out the property tax increase was the same as the ad valorem percentage increase.

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

Councilmember Matthews **MOVED** to close the public hearing, **SECONDED** by Councilmember Cummings.

**MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.**

Councilmember Matthews **MOVED** approval of the resolution adopting a final millage rate of 3.4337, **SECONDED** by Councilmember Cummings.

**MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.**

**An Emergency Ordinance of the City of Punta Gorda, Florida, Adopting a Budget for Fiscal Year 2019/2020, Making Appropriations; Providing for Conflict and Severability; and Providing an Effective Date.**

City Manager Kunik read the Ordinance by title.

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

Councilmember Matthews **MOVED** to close the public hearing, **SECONDED** by Councilmember Cummings.

**MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.**

Councilmember Matthews **MOVED** approval of the Ordinance adopting a budget for Fiscal Year 2019/2020, **SECONDED** by Councilmember Cummings.

**MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.**

Ms. Simeone confirmed the savings from the health insurance rate would be utilized for reserves, noting same was outlined in the draft Strategic Plan.

**CITIZENS COMMENTS**

None.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:01 p.m.

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Mayor

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City Clerk