

**CITY OF PUNTA GORDA, FLORIDA
CITY COUNCIL BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2019, 5:01 P.M.**

COUNCILMEMBERS PRESENT: Carey, Cummings, Matthews, Profke, 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 Profke 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 explained the bid rate for health insurance was less than anticipated, noting two options for utilizing the anticipated savings were 1) increase to ending reserves and use for approved projects or 2) reduce the tentative millage rate. She provided a General Fund comparison of millage rates, noting the proposed rate of 3.4337 mils would generate revenue of \$10.97 million with a proposed budget of \$129.835 million. She the briefly reviewed the budgets for the Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA), Punta Gorda Isles Canal Maintenance Fund (CMF) and Burnt Store Isles CMF.

A Resolution adopting a tentative millage rate for the City of Punta Gorda, Florida, for Fiscal Year 2019/2020 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 Profke 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, noting alternative two included a millage rate of 3.3396 which was 11.27% higher than the rollback rate.

Ms. Diane Adams questioned whether property tax assessments considered homes that were sold and then rolled into the new tax rate versus someone who owned a home for 20 years.

City Manager Kunik replied affirmatively, noting the taxable value provided by the Charlotte County Property Appraiser (CCPA) was used to develop the budget. He stated if more detail was needed the CCPA could provide assistance.

Ms. Dawn MacGibbon questioned why the Harborwalk project discussion was included with the CRA budget discussion as same would be funded with 1% Sales Tax funds.

City Manager Kunik explained projects were shown as part of the CRA meeting each month to inform the public about what was happening in that area.

Mayor Prafke called three times for public comment.

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

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

Councilmember Matthews suggested adopting the lower millage rate due to the tax burden on residents from countywide increases.

Councilmember Wein opined it was necessary to stay the course, adding it would be prudent to replenish reserves.

Councilmember Cummings agreed, opining the increase was not substantial.

Councilmember Matthews suggested utilizing \$1 million of the proceeds of the Fishermen's Village property sale to bring reserves to the national standard.

Mayor Prafke pointed out there was \$1 million in reserves set aside for one-time expenditures. She then commented the increase on a home with a \$300,000 assessed value was approximately \$10, adding she had received feedback that if the small amount of net proceeds went to reserves, it would be supported. She clarified she would support those funds going to reserves.

Councilmember Carey inquired whether the use of the ending reserves could be limited to reserves only.

Ms. Simeone replied affirmatively; however, there had been many projects which required funding and there were still items to come from the Master Plan and staff did not want to limit City Council as to how the funds could be utilized.

Councilmember Wein stressed the City had been prudent with the expenditure of funds and operations, noting the organization was efficient and lean with a loyal staff. He stated should there be an economic downturn, the City did not have the luxury of cutting staff.

Councilmember Cummings stated the City's level of commercial taxation was lower than average.

Councilmember Cummings **MOVED** approval of the resolution adopting a tentative millage rate of 3.4337 and limiting the use of any overage toward reserves only, noting the final Budget Public Hearing date was set for September 18, 2019, at 5:01 p.m., in City Council Chambers, **SECONDED** by Councilmember Wein.

Voting Aye: Carey, Cummings, Prafke, Wein.

Voting Nay: Matthews.

MOTION CARRIED.

A Resolution adopting a tentative budget for the City of Punta Gorda, Florida, for the Fiscal Year 2019/2020 and setting a date, time, and place of public hearing to consider the final budget.

City Manager Kunik read the resolution by title.

Ms. Suzanna Gross objected to the millage rate.

Ms. Diane Adams requested Council to help people as they went into their retirement years.

Mayor Prafke called three times for public comment.

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

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

Councilmember Carey **MOVED** approval of the resolution adopting a tentative budget based on alternative 1, setting September 18, 2019 at 5:01 p.m. as the final Budget Public Hearing date to be held in City Council Chambers, **SECONDED** by Councilmember Wein.

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Punta Gorda, Florida, establishing fiscal year 2019/2020 assessments for lot mowing program services; finding a special benefit to the owners of lots assessed; providing for collection of such assessments by the tax collector as non- ad valorem assessments; and providing an effective date

City Manager Kunik read the resolution 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 resolution adopting an assessment of \$170 per ERU, **SECONDED** by Councilmember Cummings.

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

Note: City Council recessed and reconvened as the Community Redevelopment Agency at 5:33 p.m.

A Resolution adopting a budget for the City of Punta Gorda, Florida, Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) for Fiscal Year 2019/2020.

Executive Director Kunik read the resolution by title.

Ms. MacGibbon questioned the budget of \$4.098 million.

Executive Director Kunik noted the budget included debt service, maintenance of Herald Court Centre and other operations such as Laishley Marina.

Ms. Simeone displayed the budget sheet from the agenda material, noting Tax Increment Funding could only be utilized for debt service. She stated revenue from Herald Court Centre leases was used to maintain the garage and common areas. She stated revenue from leases at Laishley Marina and the Trabue Woods loan repayment could be used for specific projects.

Ms. MacGibbon inquired as to the future of the CRA.

Executive Director Kunik stated projections indicated the CRA would sunset by 2028.

Ms. Simeone clarified Herald Court Centre would become an enterprise fund after sunset of the CRA.

Chair Prafke called three times for public comment.

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

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

Commissioner Cummings **MOVED** approval of the resolution adopting the CRA budget, **SECONDED** by Commissioner Wein.

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

Note: The Community Redevelopment Agency recessed and reconvened as the Punta Gorda Isles Canal Maintenance Assessment District at 5:41 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 2019/2020 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 non-ad valorem assessments; and providing an effective date.

City Manager Kunik read the resolution 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 resolution adopting an assessment of \$650, **SECONDED** by Councilmember Cummings.

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

Note: The Punta Gorda Isles Canal Maintenance Assessment District adjourned and reconvened as the Burnt Store Isles Canal Maintenance Assessment District at 5:42 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 2019/2020 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 non-ad valorem assessments; and providing an effective date.

City Manager Kunik read the resolution 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 resolution adopting an assessment of \$555, **SECONDED** by Councilmember Cummings.

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

Note: The Burnt Store Isles Canal Maintenance Assessment District adjourned and reconvened as the City Council at 5:44 p.m.

CITIZENS COMMENTS

Ms. MacGibbon commented on the budget process.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:48 p.m.

Mayor

City Clerk