

**CITY OF PUNTA GORDA, FLORIDA  
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 25, 2021, 9:00 A.M.**

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

**CITY EMPLOYEES PRESENT:** Kristin Simeone, Finance; Rick Keeney, Public Works; Charles Pavlos, Utilities; Jeff Payne, Human Resources; Joan LeBeau, Urban Design; Pamela Davis, Police; Ray Briggs, Fire; City Attorney Levin; City Manager Murray; City Clerk Smith

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

Invocation was given by Mr. Bill Frank, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Mayor Matthews** announced the discussion regarding the Huey helicopter had been pulled from the agenda.

**PUBLIC INPUT**

Mr. Gary Butler opined the vision for the Veterans Park included the Huey helicopter, speaking in favor of relocating same to the Vietnam Memorial Wall.

Ms. Ashley Maher, Charlotte Community Foundation, stated it would be a tremendous loss if the helicopter could not be relocated to the Veterans Park and retained for historical purposes, voicing support for its relocation.

Mr. Gary Snow commended City Council for passing the ordinance banning offensive language.

Mr. Jeff Lustig stated people had a right to protest, stressing free speech needed protection.

Mr. Kevin Prentice opined the City was enacting unconstitutional laws, stating there was an effort underway to recall all five City Councilmembers.

**Mayor Matthews** confirmed there were no Board or Committee nominees who wished to introduce themselves.

**PROCLAMATIONS / PRESENTATIONS**

**10 Year Service Award - Firefighter/EMT Danny Felico, Fire Department**

Mr. Holden Gibbs, Operations Chief, announced Mr. Danny Felico was not able to attend the meeting this morning; thus, his award would be presented at the Fire Station.

**10 Year Service Award - Lieutenant Stephen Richardson, Fire Department**

Mr. Gibbs spoke regarding Mr. Stephen Richardson's service to the Department.

**Mayor Matthews** presented the award to Mr. Richardson.

**Government Finance Officers Association Distinguished Budget Presentation Award FY 2020- 2021**

City Manager Murray presented the Award, which was accepted by Ms. Kristin Simeone, Finance Director.

**Mayor Matthews** announced the Board and Committee agenda items would be heard at the end of the meeting.

**NOTE: Boards/Committees were heard following the City Clerk's report.**

### **BOARDS / COMMITTEES**

#### **Announcement of Vacancies**

Building Board Alternate

Board of Zoning Appeals - Regular (1) and Alternate (2)

Code Enforcement Board Alternate (2)

Historic Preservation Advisory Board

City Clerk Smith announced the vacancies.

#### **Nominations**

Board of Zoning Appeals (2)

City Clerk Smith stated based on discussion this date, the vacancies would continue to be announced in order to collect additional applications.

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

### **PUBLIC HEARING AGENDA**

#### **Quasi- Judicial and Legislative**

**GA- 02- 2021 - An Ordinance of the City of Punta Gorda, Florida, amending Chapter 7, "Building Regulations," Article V, "Floodplain Management," Punta Gorda Code; Amending Section 107.4 thereof to reflect the current chapter in the Florida Building Code, Existing Building, relating to historic buildings; Amending Section 202 thereof, "Definitions," by providing a new definition for "accessory structure", amending the definition for "appeal," amending the definition for "coastal high hazard area," deleting the definition for "existing manufactured home park or subdivision," deleting the definition for "expansion to an existing manufactured home park or subdivision," amending the definition for "historic structure" to reflect the current chapter in the Florida Building Code, Existing Building, relating to historic buildings, amending the definition for "market value," and deleting the definition for "new manufactured home park or subdivision"; Amending Section 301 thereof, "Buildings And Structures," by deleting Subsection 301.3, "Elevation Requirements," and adding a new Subsection 301.3, "Accessory Structures"; Amending Section 304 thereof, "Manufactured Homes," Subsection 304.4, "Elevation," deleting Subsection**

**304.4.1, “General Elevation Requirement,” and deleting Subsection 304.4.2, “Elevation Requirement for Certain Existing Manufactured Home Parks and Subdivisions”; providing for conflicts and severability; and providing an effective date.** **FIRST READING**

City Attorney Levin read the ordinance by title.

Mr. Randall Cole, Building Official, explained the amendment was needed to update the language in Punta Gorda Code Chapter 7 as per the current language of the Florida Building Code to bring manufactured homes into compliance with base flood elevation requirements.

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

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

**MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.**

Councilmember Prafke **MOVED** approval of GA-02-2021, **SECONDED** by Councilmember Cummings.

**MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.**

#### **ORDINANCES / RESOLUTIONS**

##### **No Public Hearing Required**

**A Resolution of the City of Punta Gorda, Florida, repealing Resolutions 3124- 14 and 3344- 18, re- adopting the event manual, application and contracts and re- establishing park rental fees and street rental fees; providing for conflict and severability; and providing an effective date.**

City Attorney Levin read the resolution by title.

Ms. Lisa Hannon, Zoning Official, explained the updates which had been made to the manual including electrical contractor requirements, right-of-way closures, event exemptions, and road closure rental rates.

**Councilmember Cummings** stated the Rescue 22 Foundation, a non-profit organization providing dogs to veterans, had to scale back an event they planned to hold at the Celtic Ray based on the language regarding street closures, concluding the proposed event manual would have impacts on the non-profit sector.

**Councilmember Prafke** stated Council had been clear the intention was not to restrict groups from raising funds for non-profits.

**Mayor Matthews** questioned if the event would encompass the lot across the street from the Celtic Ray, with an individual escorting attendees.

Ms. Hannon announced the organizer had changed their plans and the event would be held entirely on side of the Celtic Ray property for safety purposes.

**Mayor Matthews** stated the rules needed to be applied consistently.

**Councilmember Carey** spoke in favor of the proposed event manual.

**Councilmember Cummings** clarified his concern was that a limit of one street closure request was restrictive.

**Councilmember Carey** pointed out events could be held at City parks which could accommodate a number of vendors.

Councilmember Carey **MOVED** approval of the resolution, **SECONDED** by Councilmember Prafke.

**MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.**

**A Resolution of the City of Punta Gorda, Florida, authorizing submission of a Florida Department of Economic Opportunity Rebuild Florida General Infrastructure Grant; and authorizing execution of the application and agreement by the City Manager and providing an effective date.**

City Attorney Levin read the resolution by title.

City Manager Murray explained this grant application and the next could bring in millions of dollars for the City.

Ms. Melissa Reichert, Assistant City Manager, explained the purpose and allowed uses of the grant funding, noting staff desired to submit a funding request for the Boca Grande Storm Water Mitigation Project and the Streets and Utilities Infrastructure Project.

Councilmember Prafke **MOVED** approval of the resolution, **SECONDED** by Councilmember Carey.

**MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.**

**A Resolution of the City of Punta Gorda, Florida, authorizing submission of a Florida Department of Environmental Protection Resilient Florida Grant Program Application; and authorizing executive of the application and agreement by the City Manager and providing an effective date.**

City Attorney Levin read the resolution by title.

Ms. Joan LeBeau, Urban Design Director, provided information regarding funding available from the Resilient Florida Grant Program, noting staff desired to apply for funding to support an update to the 2019 City of Punta Gorda Climate Adaptation Plan and to implement a living shoreline project to mitigate the risks of flooding and sea level rise in the Historic Downtown District.

**Mayor Matthews** inquired as to how mangroves would be maintained to ensure the harbor remained visible from land.

Ms. LeBeau replied staff was working with the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to ensure the mangroves could be maintained at a height which would not impact the viewshed.

**Mayor Matthews** inquired if the mangroves at Ponce de Leon Park and Pittman Park could be addressed.

Ms. LeBeau replied she believed those mangroves were at their approved heights; however, staff could discuss the issue with the DEP.

Councilmember Prafke **MOVED** approval of the resolution, **SECONDED** by Councilmember Carey.

**MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.**

#### **CONSENT AGENDA**

Councilmember Prafke **MOVED** approval of the Consent Agenda, **SECONDED** by Councilmember Miller.

**MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.**

- 8.a Approval of Minutes: Regular Meeting of July 7, 2021
- 8.b Approval of Minutes: Regular Meeting of July 14, 2021
- 8.c Monthly Litigation Report
- 8.d Invoice of Allen, Norton & Blue, P.A. for legal services rendered in August 2021
- 8.e Invoice of Icard, Merrill, Cullis, Timm, Furen & Ginsburg, P.A. for legal services rendered through June 23, 2021
- 8.f Invoice of Persson, Cohen & Mooney, P.A. for legal services rendered in June 2021
- 8.g Termination of FDOT LAP Agreement Airport Road to Carmalita Street
- 8.h TU-14-19-Peace River Wildlife Center Temporary Use Extension request for the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard property.

#### **REGULAR AGENDA**

**Event Permit: 21- 163992 - Twins TOT 5K Walk/Run, Gilchrist Park Harborwalk and US 41 Northbound, November 20, 2021.**

Ms. Hannon described the event and walk/run route, noting City Council approval was needed in order to submit the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) permit application package.

Councilmember Cummings **MOVED** approval of Event Permit 21-163992, **SECONDED** by Councilmember Carey.

**MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.**

**Event Permit: 21- 165220; Halloween 2021, Oct. 31, 2021**

Mr. Justin Davoult, Police Department, stated staff was proposing to close additional lanes of travel, including West Marion Avenue from US 41 South to Shreve Street and side streets, to improve safety. He provided a brief history of street closures for past Halloween events and outlined the plan for 2021, as delineated in the agenda material. He stated the event timeframe was 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., with street closures starting at 5:00 p.m. and ending at 10:00 p.m. following clean up.

**Councilmember Carey** voiced concern regarding leaving open one lane of West Retta Esplanade.

Mr. Davoult explained the rationale for same, noting it would allow traffic in but not out in order to provide additional room for pedestrian traffic.

Police Chief Davis clarified the partial closure would provide a buffer for pedestrians.

Councilmember Prafke **MOVED** approval of Event Permit 21-165220, **SECONDED** by Councilmember Cummings.

**MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.**

**Mayor Matthews** reported briefly on plans for the City Hall Annex Halloween event, noting the City was accepting donations of candy.

**Event Permit: 21- 164416 - Veterans Appreciation Day Parade, November 6, 2021**

Ms. Hannon described the event and parade route, noting City Council approval was needed in order to submit the FDOT permit application package.

Councilmember Prafke **MOVED** approval of Event Permit 21-164416, **SECONDED** by Councilmember Cummings.

**MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.**

**Event Permit: 21- 165114 - Dinesh Gandhi Wedding Event**

Ms. Hannon described the multi-day event, noting City Council approval was needed due to the time of day requested for setup and cleanup which was not in compliance with the requirements of the event manual.

**Mayor Matthews** recalled a prior wedding which involved a large group of pedestrians crossing US 41 to travel from the Wyvern Hotel to the Charlotte Harbor Event and Conference Center (Event Center), expressing concern regarding potential traffic impacts if same occurred again.

Ms. Hannon stated the ceremony would be held at the Event Center, indicating guests could use the Harborwalk to travel there.

**Mayor Matthews** confirmed closure of the Harborwalk was not requested.

**Councilmember Prafke** voiced concern regarding the late event times and possible impacts for the Harborwalk Condominium residents.

Ms. Hannon expressed uncertainty regarding plans for music, clarifying City Council could place conditions on the timeframe for music as part of the approval.

**Councilmember Prafke** recalled City Council had discussed consistency, speaking in favor of acting with consideration for the condominiums adjacent to the park.

**Councilmember Cummings** opined music was part of living downtown.

**Mayor Matthews** noted Smugglers did not plan to hold fireworks on New Year's Eve.

Discussion ensued regarding the volume of music allowed in the downtown area.

Ms. Hannon stated the item could be continued until the organizer could attend the meeting to answer questions.

City Attorney Levin suggested staff could research how music had been handled previously, noting Council could allow music to continue past 10:00 p.m. but not be amplified.

Councilmember Cummings **MOVED** to continue Event Permit 21-165114 to the September 8, 2021, meeting **SECONDED** by Councilmember Carey.

**MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.**

#### **Farmers Market Food Service Exemption**

City Manager Murray explained the Downtown Merchants Association had requested a determination as to whether the farmer's markets would be able to operate should the Governor issue another executive order allowing only essential service businesses to operate. He drew members' attention to the determination memorandum included in the agenda materials, pointing out food vendors of the market would be permitted to operate should such an executive order be issued.

Councilmember Prafke **MOVED** approval of the farmer's market food service exemption, **SECONDED** by Councilmember Carey.

**MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.**

**NOTE: A short break was called at 10:27 a.m.**

#### **Proposal for the Placement of the Huey Helicopter in Veterans Park**

Item withdrawn.

#### **Punta Gorda Boat Club - Exterior Improvements Update**

Mr. Mitchell Austin, Principal Planner, announced staff had met with representatives of the Boat Club, noting additional building signage required City Council approval.

Mr. John Byrne, Punta Gorda Boat Club, provided an update on the exterior renovations to the building, noting proposed aesthetic enhancements included a rebranded monument sign, addition of a pergola and paver area at the entry, a wall sign for the building and three mural locations. He requested permission to do interim digital murals until the Historic Mural Society could complete the final wall murals.

City Attorney Levin requested Mr. Austin verify whether the proposed interim murals were consistent with the sign code.

Mr. Austin replied the permanent murals would be in compliance; however, the interim murals would not. He concluded all development requirements were subject to Council approval as the land was public.

**Mayor Matthews** requested to see an example of the interim mural prior to approval.

Mr. Byrne offered to find an example and display same later in the meeting.

**Councilmember Prafke** noted the design of the Punta Gorda Boat Club would need to be consistent with the Bayfront Activity Center.

**NOTE: Discussion of the exterior updates to the Punta Gorda Boat Club resumed following Award of Amendment #1 to Goodwyn Mills Cawood.**

Mr. Byrne displayed examples of the proposed digital art for the interim murals.

Mr. Austin explained City Council needed to make a decision on the interim murals and the proposed wall sign location.

**Councilmember Prafke** expressed preference not to display digital art.

**Councilmember Carey** suggested artwork be printed on the mural cloth instead of the proposed digital art; however, she supported the wall sign.

**Mayor Matthews** concurred with Councilmember Carey.

Councilmember Cummings **MOVED** approval of the proposed wall sign, pergola and monument sign, **SECONDED** by Councilmember Carey.

**MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.**

Mr. Byrne confirmed the Club could return with alternative images for the interim murals.

**Award of a Master Agreement to Goodwyn Mills Cawood, LLC, of Sarasota, FL, for professional services for the City Hall Rehabilitation & Council Chambers.**

Ms. Anne Heinen, Procurement Manager, stated a request for qualifications for architectural and engineering services to design the City Hall rehabilitation and an addition for City Council Chambers was issued, briefly reviewing the qualification process. She reported the top three firms made presentations to the evaluation committee, noting staff negotiated rates for the different levels of staff which might be needed. She concluded staff recommended award of the Master Agreement to Goodwyn Mills Cawood, LLC, of Sarasota, Florida (Goodwyn Mills).

**Mayor Matthews** questioned if there would be not-to-exceed numbers for each amendment.



Ms. Heinen explained each authorization would be negotiated with either a lump sum or a not-to-exceed figure, adding professional services authorizations of more than \$50,000 required City Council approval.

Councilmember Prafke **MOVED** approval of award of the Master Agreement to Goodwyn Mills, **SECONDED** by Councilmember Carey.

**MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.**

**Award of Amendment #1 to Goodwyn Mills Cawood, LLC, of Sarasota, FL, for planning, designing, and permitting the City Hall interior and exterior Rehabilitation and a new addition for City Council Chambers.**

Ms. Heinen stated as per the Master Agreement awarded to Goodwyn Mills, staff negotiated a scope of work and fees to plan, design and permit the rehabilitation of City Hall and the new addition for Council Chambers. She stated the not-to-exceed cost was \$458,820, noting tasks 1 through 16 would be completed within 12 months of the notice to proceed. She concluded staff was requesting a contingency of \$30,000 to be utilized for unforeseen items, noting with permitting fees of \$2,500, the total was \$491,320.

**Councilmember Carey** inquired if any of the tasks were duplicates of work previously performed.

Ms. Ryan explained Parker Mudgett Smith completed a historical survey of the building, clarifying Goodwyn Mills would be using that study as a baseline.

Ms. Heinen stated there was a possibility of realizing \$17,000 in savings at 30% level of design if City Council selected one of the three design concepts to be presented.

Councilmember Prafke **MOVED** approval of award of Amendment #1 to Goodwyn Mills, **SECONDED** by Councilmember Cummings.

**MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.**

**Councilmember Prafke** confirmed the expenditures for relocation of staff from City Hall to Herald Court were drawn from the General Fund instead of Local Option Sales Tax Program funds as same was not part of the infrastructure project.

**NOTE: The Code Board discussion was held following final discussion of the exterior updates to the Punta Gorda Boat Club.**

**Code Board Discussion**

City Manager Murray explained behavior at the most recent Code Enforcement Board (CEB) meeting did not comply with Council's rules of conduct, noting certain conduct at the meeting lacked impartiality as required by the City's quasi-judicial proceedings ordinance. He stated the next Code Enforcement Board meeting had been deferred to September 2021 to provide Council an opportunity to discuss proper decorum, rules of

conduct and the quasi-judicial proceedings ordinance's requirement for impartiality. He indicated if certain members had violated Council's rules of conduct or the decorum required for quasi-judicial proceedings, Councilmembers could provide direction to staff on board member training or sanctions.

**Councilmember Carey** expressed displeasure the ordinance was on trial rather than the litigants, stating it was not for board members to make the rules or decide if they liked what Council had deemed to be the law. She expressed concern the member who arrived with a collection of prepared papers had violated the quasi-judicial nature of the proceedings. She noted the City's board member handbook outlined board members' duties, emphasizing once the City's laws were established, it was up to staff and officials to uphold same.

**Mayor Matthews** stated it was necessary for CEB members to understand they represented the City when they sat at the dais and were there to enforce the City's ordinances rather than express their personal opinions. She noted one CEB member had spoken to the press prior to the meeting. She stated it was necessary for members to maintain professional decorum, to come to each meeting with an open mind and to base their decisions on the evidence and testimony presented; however, there were at least two CEB members who did not follow the rules and action needed to be taken in response to same.

**Councilmember Prafke** inquired as to training provided to board members regarding quasi-judicial procedures, opining education needed to be provided so that board members understood the expectations. She acknowledged same was addressed in the handbook, expressing preference for additional training as reinforcement. She stated it was also necessary for all board members to understand the rules of conduct and to maintain their composure.

**Mayor Matthews** suggested requiring board members to obtain ethics training and provide proof of the training to the City Clerk's Office. She voiced concern regarding challenges to the results of the hearings based on members' name calling or speaking to the media.

City Manager Murray read the introduction from the City's quasi-judicial hearing procedures, noting same addressed the need for fairness, impartiality and due process being afforded to all parties.

**Councilmember Cummings** agreed formal training would be beneficial to members' understanding, suggesting same be required of all members involved with quasi-judicial proceedings along with training regarding ethics.

**Councilmember Carey** stressed this particular CEB meeting was particularly egregious, opining no reasonable person would think same was the normal course of business.

**Councilmember Miller** indicated it was necessary to address this particular situation.

**Mayor Matthews** confirmed there was consensus for formal training on quasi-judicial proceedings and ethics for all boards and committees.

**Councilmember Carey** suggested nominees be presented at one City Council meeting with selection done at the following meeting to allow more time for Council to study the resumes, emphasizing the need to evaluate the qualifications of applicants. She suggested applicants be required to introduce themselves in person.

**Councilmember Miller** inquired what more could be learned between the meeting where individuals were nominated and the meeting where they were appointed.

**Mayor Matthews** suggested in person introductions take place during the meeting including nominations. She agreed applications should be better screened, suggesting nominations remain open until there were several applicants. She questioned how many boards one person could serve on.

City Clerk Smith explained membership was limited to one decision-making board, stressing applicants were not nominated for more than one such board. She stated the Clerk's Office strongly encouraged applicants to introduce themselves in person. She questioned whether City Council wanted all board members to obtain the ethics training in addition to quasi-judicial training for those involved with such decisions, noting the Florida League of Cities offered free ethics training.

City Attorney Levin stated he was reluctant to make a comment as the City's prosecutor in the case of the CEB and it would also be his responsibility to defend the appeal which was just filed to challenge the CEB's decisions. He explained the CEB was a higher level of quasi-judicial proceedings, noting he preferred the CEB over a special magistrate as members were part of the community, understood what City Council was trying to do and represented the opinions of numerous members as opposed to one magistrate. He opined it was not possible to determine how an individual would perform prior to appointment, adding it was important not only to be impartial but also to give the appearance of being impartial. He expressed concern regarding the potential for respondents to argue they were denied due process if members who had displayed a lack of appropriate judicial demeanor during their prior cases heard similar violations against those respondents. He noted board members served at the pleasure of Council, indicating Council could take appropriate action if they felt one or more members of the CEB had demonstrated a lack of the appropriate judicial demeanor.

**Councilmember Carey** stated the members demonstrated they could not uphold the City's law and they should resign if that was a problem to them and City Council should ask them to go if they did not.

**Mayor Matthews** reiterated it was a liability to the City if rules were not followed and professional decorum were not maintained, concluding it should not be allowed to continue.

**Councilmember Prafke** stated the conduct had put in jeopardy the upcoming proceedings.

**Councilmember Carey** inquired how the members in question could preside over the same defendants going forward.

City Attorney Levin stated academically his concern was that there was a built-in argument for a lack of impartiality by at least two of the CEB members.

**Councilmember Carey** inquired how to proceed.

City Clerk Smith stated the options were for City Council to remove the members in question based on their concerns or allow them to remain on the CEB.

City Attorney Levin voiced concern regarding the next CEB meeting consisting of only those members voting in support of the finding of violation. He stated the need for due process and the inability to determine a person's judicial temperament prior to seeing them perform made vital the ordinance related to the CEB and the remedy City Council had in the ability to fill a vacancy. He concluded City Council had the ability to take swift action when necessary to maintain the integrity of the board.

Councilmember Carey **MOVED** to remove the two worst offenders. She voiced uncertainty regarding the wording for the motion.

City Attorney Levin stated to clarify, and for identification purposes only, City Council's concerns were directed at the two members of the Board who happened to vote against the finding of the violation. He suggested the City Clerk could identify those two individuals.

City Clerk Smith announced the two individuals were Mr. Jay Nadelson and Mr. Edward Weiner.

Councilmember Carey **MOVED** to remove Mr. Jay Nadelson and Mr. Edward Weiner from the Code Enforcement Board for failing to uphold and indicating no desire to uphold the laws of the City, **SECONDED** by Councilmember Miller.

**Councilmember Prafke** suggested including the failure to exhibit judicial temperament.

Councilmember Carey moved to **AMEND** the motion as suggested, **SECONDED** by Councilmember Miller.

**MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.**

**Councilmember Cummings** stressed Council's action was based on these members' failure to perform their duties, which jeopardized the public's trust in the City.

City Attorney Levin opined the nature of the discussion sufficiently demonstrated Council's reasons for the motion, noting Council could remove members without cause.

**Mayor Matthews** called for a vote on the motion as amended.

**MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.**

**REPORTS FROM CITY OFFICERS**

City Clerk Smith reported the Clerk's Office was in the process of reviewing board bylaws and would be adding a statement indicating members would review the Board Member Handbook and adhere to the rules of conduct, offering to do a brief orientation with new members to review key portions of the handbook. She inquired whether City Council desired the City Attorney to do in-person training for quasi-judicial procedures.

City Attorney Levin opined the ethics training likely did not address quasi-judicial matters, requesting the City Clerk identify some which was more germane.

City Clerk Smith agreed. She then inquired whether City Council desired to leave nominations open until there was a pool of candidates. She stated a resume could be required in order to provide additional information, acknowledging applications were sometimes lacking in information. She stated applicants could be required to introduce themselves at a Council meeting. She added the vacancy announcement process could also be moved up to allow additional time to collect applications prior to nominations being made.

**Councilmember Prafke** suggested the applicant be required to indicate why they were interested in serving on a particular board, adding perhaps appearing in person for introductions should be a requirement.

Consensus was for nominees to appear in person for introductions.

**NOTE: Boards/Committees were heard prior to the City Manager's report.**

City Manager Murray announced the City would be participating in the Punta Gorda Chamber of Commerce's job fair on Tuesday, August 31, 2021. He then indicated Dover, Kohl and Partners would provide a presentation on the form-based code on August 31, 2021, and would hold an open house on the form-based code on

September 1, 2021. He noted he would hold a question and answer session on the budget in Council Chambers on August 27, 2021, from 8:30 to 1:00 p.m.

City Attorney Levin reported the Rutherford Institute filed notices of appeal for the respondents for the sign code violations.

### **POLICY AND LEGISLATION**

**MATTHEWS:** Thanked all who responded regarding the groundbreaking event at the Meridian and the September 11 event, then noting she had shared tentative dates so Councilmembers could determine whether they desired to attend certain events.

- Stated the Punta Gorda Chamber of Commerce's requested all Councilmembers attend their annual awards dinner, adding the Chamber had requested she present a key to the City to Ms. Mindi Abair, who had supported the City.

City Clerk Smith noted the Mayor's Medal was also available to recognize individuals.

**Councilmember Prafke** recalled Ms. Abair had previously received a Mayor's Medal.

**Councilmember Carey** expressed preference for keys to the City to be reserved for children recognized as part of the Do the Right Thing program.

**Councilmember Cummings** concurred.

**Mayor Matthews** concluded other options to recognize Ms. Abair would be investigated.

- Confirmed Councilmembers supported sending a formal letter requesting Baynard Drive be fixed to the Charlotte County Board of Commissioners.

**MILLER:** Questioned whether City Council would attend a County parade or the Elks' parade in the City.

**Mayor Matthews** opined Council should prioritize a City parade; however, she suggested Council could attend both if the firetruck were placed at the front of the County's parade.

**Councilmember Miller** stated Commissioner Deutsch should be contacted regarding same.

**Councilmember Cummings** agreed Council should attempt to attend both.

**Councilmember Carey** suggested Council attend the County parade in two convertibles in order to arrive at the Elk's parade on time.

**CAREY:** Commented on Mayor Matthew's hard work over Council's summer break, particularly in light of the tragedy in her family.

**CUMMINGS:** Indicated Mayor Matthews was in his prayers, concurring with Councilmember Carey.

**PRAFKE:** Expressed appreciation for Mayor Matthews.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:27 p.m.

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Mayor

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk