

Weekly Highlights Report Mar. 4, 2022

City Manager

- **City Manager Column** – Earlier this year, the Punta Gorda City Council started the process of determining the Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 Budget. The Finance Department initiated the conversation with the City Council in order to review the FY 2022-2026 Long Range Financial Plan. The plan review included the multi-year fiscal forecasts for the City's major fund groups. In addition, the review discussed an examination of current policies, any changes proposed to enhance efficiencies, and budget issues or items currently known for the upcoming budget year.



City Council identified issues such as seawall replacement schedules and sustainability relative to the seawall's expected life. The canal advisory boards review the assessment rate annually, and the City Council ultimately sets the assessment rate. The subject will be discussed further as part of the budget planning process. During this discussion Council also inquired about funds received through the COVID-19 program. Staff is creating recommendations for using these funds that can be used for general government costs, increased personnel costs, and infrastructure costs. Council will review the recommendations as part of the budget process.

The financial planning review goes hand in glove with the current strategic planning process. It results in a current year management plan and strategic focus on a longer-term vision for the upcoming needs of the City. This sets the stage for a starting point of discussion and direction in developing the FY 2023 budget while providing a context of how it might affect future forecasts.

The Strategic Plan sets the overall goals for the city, provides direction to city departments, and establishes the basis for each year's annual budget. The plan is a tool for more effective and economical operations and demonstrates to the public the careful consideration of future development and direction of the organization. The five focus areas are financial and economic stability, infrastructure sustainability, partnerships and collaborations, strategic communications positioning, and quality of life.

Resident and stakeholder input is critical to creating both financial and strategic plans. We are fortunate to have a community made up of residents and business owners with a long history of engagement in government processes. At the Mar. 16 City Council meeting, the agenda will include a listening session for input regarding the FY2023 Budget and the FY2023 Strategic Plan. Staff anticipates that the agenda item for the listening session will start at approximately 11 a.m. This input assists the city with aligning annual revenues with the costs of services.

If you have thoughts or ideas for the City Council to consider integrating into the strategic plan or budget and cannot attend the listening session, please email your suggestions to citymgr@cityofpuntafordafl.com. Together we will preserve and enhance Punta Gorda's identity as a vibrant waterfront community, unique in character and history, and as a desirable place to live, work and visit." Readers may reach City Manager Greg Murray at citymgr@cityofpuntafordafl.com or by calling (941) 575-3302.

- **City Council** – City Council met on Mar. 2 at 9 a.m. at the Historic City Hall. Items of interest included:
 - Approval of the vacation of an alley in the Davis Addition to Punta Gorda
 - Awarded a Master Agreement to Johnson Engineering, Inc. for the Henry Street force main project and authorized a specific authorization to Johnson Engineering Inc. for professional engineering services to design and permit the Henry Street force main and sewer replacement project.
 - Approved Shoreline Settlement Agreement
 - Readied Park Hours Ordinance for Publication
 - Discussed lobbying services agreement. Consensus reached to allow Anfield Consulting to absorb the City's current contract. A post legislative update will be requested of Anfield Consulting to be presented to Council.
- **Procurement Division to Host Event** – The Procurement division as members of the Gulf Coast Association of Governmental Purchasing Officers (GPCAGPO) are hosting this year's Gulf Coast Association of Governmental Purchasing Officers, Reverse Trade Show at the Event Center on April 29. The Reverse Trade Show is an annual event allowing suppliers, consultants, contractors, etc. the opportunity to meet with procurement professionals from numerous governmental agencies at one time. The governmental agencies man booths or tables, and suppliers roam the trade show floor to meet with individuals from each of the entities. The Reverse Trade Show provides a platform for networking, product presentations, contracting guidelines and education. The GCAGPO dedicated to enhancing the government procurement process, providing worthy partners the chance to market their products and services and increase the cooperation between suppliers and procurement executives. For more information or to register visit www.gcagpo.org.
- **FPL/Comcast Update** – Work continues to address all reported issues. If you have a more than one pole in your front yard and an old pole that hasn't been taken down, if wires are hanging on the new pole or any other concern about this project, please email Mayor Matthews with your name, address and contact phone and email WITH PHOTOS to support your request, and send to lmattews@cityofpuntagordafl.com. The City Manager and Mayor Matthews are sharing the emails with both companies so all properties get restored.



Urban Design

Upcoming Events

- Charlotte Harbor Event Center, 75 Taylor St. For additional information, visit <https://www.charlotteharborecc.com/events>
- Fishermen's Village events can be accessed at <https://www.fishville.com/events/>
- Punta Gorda Chamber of Commerce events can be accessed at <https://puntagordachamber.com/calendar-events/>
- Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce events can be accessed at <https://business.charlottecountychamber.org/events/calendar>
- Military Heritage Museum events can be accessed at <https://freedomisntfree.org/#>
- Punta Gorda Isles Civic Association, 2001 Shreve Street, for all community event and class information visit <https://pgica.org/>.

- The Punta Gorda Historical Society will be hosting a variety of musicians in the Park on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month, through May 2022 from 4 to 6 p.m. Bring your own chair and beverage of choice, peruse the Food Trucks for your dining pleasure. In lieu of admission fees, the Punta Gorda Historical Society requests your donations for the ongoing maintenance of our four History Park buildings. For more information visit www.puntagordahistory.com.
- Mar. 4, Peter Mayer Group* and the Scott Trio Concert at the Woman's Club, 118 Sullivan Street. Tickets can only be purchased through: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/peter-mayer-group-w-scott-kirby-trio-tickets-250973527577?aff=ebdssbdestsearch>.
- Mar. 6, Rotary Club Taste of Punta Gorda, Laishley Park. For more information, visit <https://tasteofpuntagorda.org/>
- Mar. 12, Punta Gorda ½ Marathon, beginning and ending in Laishley Park. For more information, visit <https://www.puntagordahalf.com/>
- Mar. 14, Everly Set concert at Burnt Store Presbyterian Church buy tickets and learn more at <http://www.bspconline.org>
- Mar. 17, St. Patrick's Day Event, Celtic Ray, 145 E Marion Ave. For additional information visit <https://celticray.net/>
- Mar. 18-19, Premier Auto Auction, Charlotte Harbor Event and Conference Center, 75 Taylor St. For more information, visit <https://www.premierauctiongroup.com/vehicles>
- Mar. 19-20, Peace River National Art Show, Laishley Park. For more information, visit <https://visualartcenter.org/collections/peace-river-national-art-festival>
- Mar. 19-20, Punta Gorda National Art Show. For additional information, visit <https://visualartcenter.org/>
- Mar. 22, Punta Gorda Garden Club Flower Show, Isles Yacht Club. For more information visit <https://pggc.org/flower-show/>
- Mar. 26, Pedal and Play in Paradise, Laishley Park. For more information visit <http://pedalandplayinparadise.com/>
- April 2, Strongman Competition, Laishley Park Pavilions. For more information visit <https://www.facebook.com/events/2666695273476742/>
- Apr. 9, Loveland Center 5K Run, Laishley Park, 96 Nesbit St., For more information, visit <https://runsignup.com/Race/FL/PuntaGorda/LovelandCenterIncAbility5KRunFamilyWalk>
- Apr. 9-10, Bloom and Art, Art & Craft Show, Gilchrist Park, 400 W Retta Esplanade. For more information contact blueribboneventsllc@gmail.com
- Apr. 17, The Rock Calvary Chapel Easter Outreach, Laishley Park, 96 Nesbit St., For more information contact rich.therockcc@gmail.com
- Apr. 30, Charlotte County Heart Walk, Laishley Park, 96 Nesbit St., for additional information, visit https://www2.heart.org/site/TR?fr_id=6422&pg=informational&type=fr_informational&sid=1020222 Charlotte County Heart Walk: Event Master Page - Heart Walk - American Heart Association
- Apr. 30-May 2, Hibiscus Festival, Gilchrist Park, 400 W Retta Esplanade, contact teresadesguin@iheartmedia.com or visit <https://thehibiscusfestival.com/> for more information.

Lot Mowing Program

- Due to the lack of rain and dormant grass, the City will begin the next mowing cycle on Mar. 7. To learn more about the lot mowing for vacant lots please visit <https://www.ci.punta-gorda.fl.us/services/lot-mowing-program>.

Planning

- **The Planning Corner – Land Development Regulations** – Staff presented the first draft of the Land Development Regulations (LDRs) (Form Base Code) update project to the Planning Commission on Feb. 28. The presentation focused on Article three - Zoning Regulating Districts and Article seven- Architectural Provisions. In addition, staff explained the development of the Community Benefits Program and the associated categories were compiled from the Existing Land Development processes which included: Article five Planned Development; Section 8.2 Development Agreements; and Section 3.17 Medical Overlay. The suggested categories include: Workforce Housing, Public Open Space; Bicycle and Pedestrian; Infrastructure; Medical and Hospital Uses; Waterfront Recreation and Boating Amenities; Public Parking and Affordable Non-Profit, Art, Cultural Space. The LDRs also contain specific requirements for parking, landscaping, architecture, and administrative processes and procedures. The proposed changes cover only a portion of the City, including the downtown and surrounding historic neighborhoods. Comments from the Planning Commission will be included in the presentation for City Council on Apr. 6. The draft LDR documents are available as part of the Planning Commission Agenda package located at <https://www.ci.punta-gorda.fl.us/government/city-council/agendas-meetings>. Please send any questions or comments regarding the proposed Land Development Regulation (Form Base Code) Update to the Urban Design Division at UrbanDesign@cityofpuntagordafl.



Public Works

Administration

- **Citizens' Academy Utilities Department Session** – The Utilities Department hosted the Citizens' Academy on Mar. 1 with an overview of the services provided to the residents. Neil Peters, Interim Director provided an outline of provided services. GIS Coordinator Mike Putman provided the group with an in-depth presentation that included Geographic Information Systems (GIS) tools used across the city. Mike covered the process of collecting the utility data, delivering data, the drone program, Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR), Locator balls. Mike has covered several miles across the city, improving the GIS data. Next stop, we toured the Wastewater Treatment Plant and the Water Treatment Plant. David Brooks, the Utilities Supervisor, provided the group with several informative videos surrounding the function of the plant. David's team demonstrated how they maintain and manage the systems. The team works closely with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; ensuring standards continue to be met. At the Water Treatment Plant, Brian Fuller, Supervisor, of the Water Treatment Plant along with Maintenance Chief, Tom Spencer, guided us on a tour of the Water Treatment RO Plant. Here we learned how the water is managed through the tanks and pumps throughout the city.



Canal Maintenance

- **Seawall Replacement Projects** - Punta Gorda Isles has 44 seawall replacement projects scheduled for fiscal year 2021/2022 and the seawall replacement contractor has 10 projects under construction and has completed seven projects. Burnt Store Isles has eight seawall replacement projects scheduled for fiscal year 2021/2022 and the seawall replacement contractor has four projects under construction at this time. A seawall replacement project can consist of multiple properties. A seawall project is not considered complete until the sod has been placed.
 - Crews filled depressions at 24 locations.
 - Crews manufactured (30) 10'ft., panels and (6) 12.5'ft., panels
- **Seawall Replacement Schedule** - The annual Seawall Replacement Work Program can be found on the City of Punta Gorda website under Canal Maintenance <https://www.ci.punta-gorda.fl.us/home/showpublisheddocument/12550/637643718591830000>. Every year the City replaces approximately 12,000 linear feet of seawall. By utilizing the Seawall Assessment Data, the seawall replacement program is planned a year in advance (unexpected seawall failures or seawalls that are inspected and found to be at extreme risk of failure are given top priority and may bump planned projects to the following year).

Engineering

- **Boca Grande Drainage Improvements** –The 90% plans continue to track towards City and Southwest Florida Water Management District for permitting review in Mar. /Apr. The City continues to seek grant opportunities for the project.
- **Pavement Rejuvenation** - The contractor is currently working on the preparation and application of the asphalt rejuvenation product on various City streets. This project should be completed the week of Mar. 7.
- **Harborwalk 2B parking and upland improvement project** –An onsite field meeting with Contractors Staff, FPL, and City Staff was held on Mar. 4. Site survey, layout, erosion control and mobilization are scheduled to commence on Apr. 4.
- **Wayfinding Signage** – The concrete base installations are in the cure period. The fabrication issues on the signs have been resolved and contractor is now fabricating the signs.
- **City Wide Drainage Swale Regrading** – Work has begun on Rum Cay Ct and Parisian Ct., with acquiring grades of driveways, box culverts, and pipe elevations. Grade stakes have been installed in the right of way for the contractor to grade the swale. The contractor will commence work on Mar. 7.
- **Fitzhugh Crosswalk Realignment** – The crosswalk on Fitzhugh between Milus and Dr. Martin Luther King Blvd has been completed.
- **McKenzie Railroad Crossing Replacement** – Beginning next week the City of Punta Gorda and Seminole Gulf Railway will begin replacement of the railroad crossing on E. McKenzie Street. The project is estimated to take two weeks to complete. Temporary traffic control signs will be installed to help citizens navigate the construction area. E. McKenzie will be closed at the railroad tracks. If you have any questions, please contact Public Works Department at (941) 575-5050 between the business hours of 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday

Fire

- **Bike Medic Program** – The Punta Gorda Fire Department Bike Medic program allows first responders to access heavily crowded pedestrian areas and special events held downtown. Bike Medics are able to carry medical equipment including oxygen, medications, an AED and several other items used to aid in a medical emergency. These items are essential to providing effective patient care while waiting for the ambulance to navigate heavily trafficked areas.



Police

- **2021 Annual Award Ceremony** – The Punta Gorda Police Department held our annual award ceremony to recognize officers, public safety dispatchers, and professional staff members for their accomplishments and outstanding service in 2021. During the ceremony Volunteer Coordinator Ilene Hockman received the Volunteer of the Year Award, Employee Development Coordinator Glen Ritta received the Civilian of the Year Award, and Police Officer First Class Fernando Burga received the Officer of the Year Award. Congratulations to all of the award recipients!



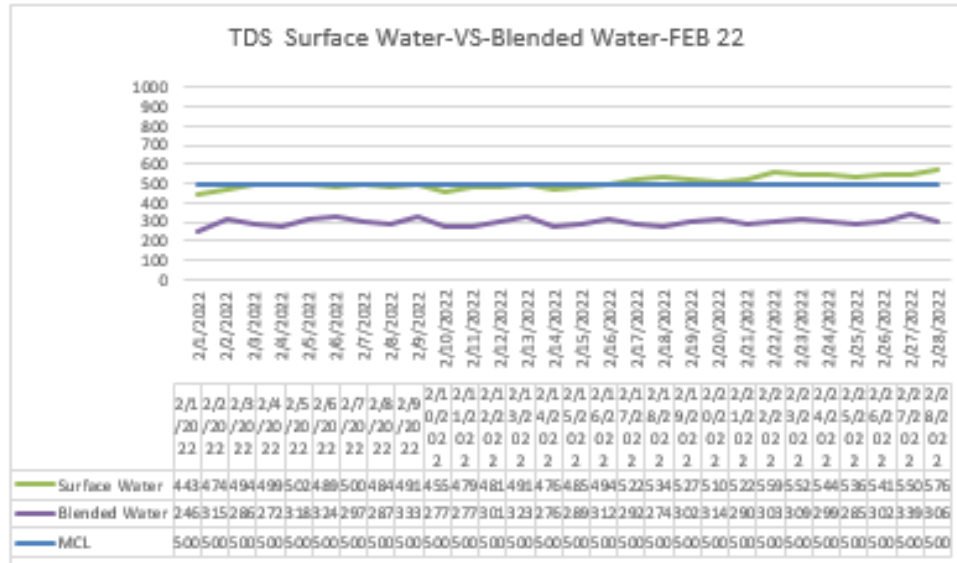
Open Positions

- **Police Officer Testing** - The police department conducts new hire testing continually in order to be prepared for future openings. We are currently accepting applications for the position of Police Officer. We will be holding a virtual testing process in June. Applications must be received by May. The written exam will be completed online anytime between June 1, and June 9, with virtual oral board exams conducted via Zoom on June 20, and June 21. We are currently only accepting applications from candidates who are currently law enforcement certified or Equivalency of Training (EOT) eligible.
- **Public Safety Dispatcher Testing** - The police department conducts new hire testing continually in order to be prepared for future openings. We are currently accepting applications for the position of Public Safety Dispatcher.
- **Internship Program** - The police department is currently accepting internship applications for the Summer Semester and Fall Semester of 2022. Our internship program is open to college students and high school seniors interested in gaining educational experience in law enforcement, criminal justice, and small government administration. Spots fill up quickly and the selection process can be competitive, so we encourage potential interns to apply today! The deadline to apply for the Summer Semester of 2022 is Mar. 4.
- **Volunteers in Policing (VIP) Program** - The police department has an active and diverse volunteer program including vehicle patrol, bike patrol, marine patrol, community services, and more. We are always looking for dedicated volunteers. Members of the community interested in volunteering are encouraged to contact the Volunteer Staff Coordinator at (941) 575-5536 or by emailing vip@pgorda.us.

To apply for employment or for more information, please visit www.pgpdjobs.com or contact our Employee Development Coordinator at (941) 575-5571 or by email at employeedevelopment@pgorda.us.

Utilities

- R.O. Plant



Water Treatment Plant Operations

- 60.7 MG delivered to the distribution system with a 8.7 MG daily average
- Peace River Manasota Regional Water Supply Authority Emergency Interconnect – Receiving 750 gallons per minute from the new Interconnect (Phase 1 Pipeline). Sending 1500 gallons per minute from the tank on 17 (Phase 1A Pipeline).
- Rainfall Feb. 2021 1.20” Feb. 2022 0.70” Mar. 2021 .30” Mar. 0.00”
- Hardness is a measurement of calcium and magnesium ions naturally occurring in the raw water. Currently "moderately hard" – Grains of Hardness 8 ppm – Total hardness 140 ppm
- TDS Mar. 3 – Current 272 ppm, Low 262 ppm, High 666 ppm, 12 Year Avg. 475 ppm
- Reservoir Mar. 3 – Current 5.08', Record Low 4.92', Record High, 6.25' 57 Year Average 5.21'.

Wastewater Treatment

- **Maintenance** – The contracted vendor has finished repairing the walls of the North tank at the Master Pumping Facility. Our maintenance crew has returned the tank to service. Team members were able to haul and inject 266,000 gallons of bio-solids to field seven this week.
- **Operations** – The average daily flow for the past week was 2.76 million gallons for a total of 19.33 million gallons of wastewater being treated this week.

City Clerk

Charter Review Committee

- Review of the City’s Charter, a process that occurs once every six years, is underway. Video of the Committee’s meetings are available on the City’s Agendas and Meetings page and YouTube channel. The Committee’s next meeting will be held in Council Chambers at City Hall (326 West Marion Avenue) on Mar. 14, at 9 a.m. Topics for discussion at the next meeting include term length draft language, economic development powers, ad valorem tax exemptions, historical exemptions, frequency of the Charter Review Committee, Capital Improvements by Special Assessment and the Planning Commission. All meetings of the Charter Review Committee are open to the public and attendance is encouraged.

Current Board and Committee Vacancies (Volunteer Appointment Information Form)

- **Board of Zoning Appeals** – (two alternate) Meets monthly on the fourth Tuesday at 4 p.m. in City Council Chambers. City residency is required. Seven-member board with two alternate members. Three-year terms, maximum of three terms or partial term plus two more terms. Financial disclosure required. Makes recommendations to City Council on variances to City Code.
- **Code Enforcement Board** – (two alternate) Meets monthly on the fourth Wednesday at 9 a.m. in City Council Chambers. City residency required. Seven-member board with two alternate members. Three-year terms, maximum of three terms OR partial term plus two more terms. Financial disclosure required.
- **Historic Preservation Advisory Board** – (one alternate) Meets monthly on the fourth Thursday at 9 a.m. in City Council Chambers. City residency required. Seven-member board with two alternate members. Two members must reside within the Historic District. Three year terms, maximum of three terms OR partial term plus two more terms. Identifies for the City Council historically significant structures and sites that should be considered for designation as a “Local Historic Landmark” or be nominated for listing on the Florida Master Site File and the National Register of Historic Places. Makes recommendations of the policies for the protection of historically significant structures and sites. Makes recommendations to staff with regard to certificates of appropriateness for any demolition, variance, sign or relocation of structures. Promotes public awareness of historic archaeological preservation and its community benefits.
- **Police Officers’ Pension Board** – (one City resident member). Meets quarterly and as called in City Council Chambers. Five members – two City residents at-large, two general employees and one member appointed by the Board. Four-year terms, no maximum. Financial disclosure required. Charged with management of the General Employees’ Pension Fund.

New Businesses

- All persons, firms or corporations engaging in business or occupation within the City of Punta Gorda are required to obtain a Local Business Tax (LBT) Receipt in accordance with Chapter 12 of the Punta Gorda City Code. As part of our effort to promote economic development and vitality in our area, we offer the following list of new or transferred business within our community this week:
 - Splash of Madness – 308 Sullivan Street
 - Armstrong Interiors – 2705 Tamiami Trail
 - The Well Therapy PLLC – 223 Taylor Street