

**CITY OF PUNTA GORDA, FLORIDA
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6, 2019, 9:00 A.M.**

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

CITY EMPLOYEES PRESENT: Kristin Simeone, Finance; Rick Keeney, Public Works; Tom Jackson, Utilities; Phil Wickstrom, Human Resources; Joan LeBeau, Urban Design; Pamela Davis, Police; Ray Briggs, Fire; City Attorney Levin; City Manager Kunik; Recording Secretary Welch; Mitchell Austin, Urban Design Planner

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

Invocation was given by Mr. John Burrage, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Prafke recognized Mr. Steve Laraway, a City Councilmember in St. Cloud, Minnesota, who recently purchased a home in the City.

PROCLAMATION/PRESENTATIONS

ARCHway Institute for Mental Health and Addictive Disorders Day

Councilmember Matthews presented the proclamation, which was accepted by Mr. Dan Stuckey.

Florida Surveyors and Mappers Week

Councilmember Carey presented the proclamation, which was accepted by Mr. Derek Miller.

Leah Valenti, District Director for U.S. Senator Rick Scott

Ms. Leah Valenti provided an overview of her involvement with the district, explaining constituents would soon be able to communicate with the Senator's office online.

Volunteers in Policing (VIP) 20 Year Milestones – Kathleen Stanton & Jim Belivieu

Ms. Pamela Davis, Police Chief, presented Ms. Kathleen Stanton and Mr. Jim Belivieu awards in recognition of their twenty years of service as volunteers. She noted volunteers provided approximately 12,000 hours of assistance the previous year, then explained the new Bicycle Volunteer Unit.

Introduction of Board/Committee Member Nominees

Ms. Debbie Sarkisian, Ms. Julie Moriarty, Mr. Jeff Carman, Ms. Beth Magnin, Mr. Gene Pawlowski, Mr. Jim Round, Mr. Craig Ehrich and Mr. Rick Sarkisian introduced themselves as applicants for the Pickleball Committee.

Ms. Wendy Mueller introduced herself as a nominee for the Board of Zoning Appeals.

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

Ordinance/Resolution

(No Public Hearing Required)

Citizen Comments – Ordinances/Resolution Items Only

None.

ZA-09-18 An Ordinance of the City of Punta Gorda, Florida, amending Chapter 26, Article 8, Section 8.3, Punta Gorda Code, providing exclusions from height limits for radio antennas and deleting provisions relating to a waiver from height limitations; providing for conflict and severability; and providing an effective date.

SECOND READING

City Attorney Levin read the ordinance by title.

Councilmember Wein **MOVED** approval of ZA-09-18, **SECONDED** by Councilmember Cummings.

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

ZA-10-18 An Ordinance of the City of Punta Gorda, Florida, amending Chapter 26, Punta Gorda Code, known as “The Land Development Regulations”, Amending Article 10, “Parking and Loading”, Section 10.3 “Parking Specifications”, by adding new Subsections (j) and (k), to provide for optional electric vehicle parking and charging station facilities; providing for conflict and severability; and providing an effective date.

SECOND READING

City Attorney Levin read the ordinance by title.

Councilmember Matthews **MOVED** approval of ZA-10-18, **SECONDED** by Councilmember Carey.

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

CONSENT AGENDA

A. Citizen Comments - Consent Agenda Items

None.

Councilmember Matthews **MOVED** approval of the Consent Agenda, **SECONDED** by Councilmember Wein.

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

B. City Clerk's Department

1. Approval of Minutes: Regular Meeting of February 20, 2019

2. Approval of Minutes: Special Meeting of December 23, 2018

C. Legal Department

1. Invoice of Allen, Norton & Blue, P.A. for legal services rendered through January 31, 2019

2. Renewal of City Attorney Agreement

3. Monthly Litigation Report
- D. Utilities Department
1. A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Punta Gorda, Florida, accepting a Bill of Sale from Charlotte County, Florida, conveying the Piper Road Water Main to the City; providing for conflict and severability; and providing an effective date.

Citizen Comments – Regular Agenda Items Only

Mr. John Byrne thanked Mr. John Welsh and the Boater’s Alliance for their work on the Waterfront Development Master Plan, stating same was critical to the Boat Club and its users. He expressed gratitude to Councilmembers for making same a priority.

Ms. Pat Campagna, Peace River Wildlife Center (PRWC), asserted construction of facilities for PRWC at the Dundee Road site would result in more positive outcomes for wildlife, noting various associated benefits. She expressed gratitude for the support received by PRWC.

Mr. John Peterman expressed a desire to cede his time to Mr. Larry Jaeger.

Mayor Prafke confirmed same could be done.

Mr. Jaeger stated the points noted by the Boater’s Alliance as the Historic District Homeowners Association’s (HDHOA) concerns were inaccurate and incomplete, noting the HDHOA’s key concerns were related to long-term live-aboards and long-term boat storage off Gilchrist Park as well as the Boater’s Alliance’s desire for another mooring field.

Mr. Sarkisian spoke in favor of Mr. Carman and Ms. Sarkisian being appointed to the Pickleball Committee.

Mr. Gary Skillicorn commented favorably on the Waterfront Development Master Plan.

BUDGET

Award of Agreement to Marine Contracting Group, Inc. of Punta Gorda, FL for general marine construction services on an as required basis.

Ms. Anne Heinen, Purchasing Agent, explained staff recommended award of this agreement for general marine construction services to Marine Contracting Group, reviewing the details of same. She estimated work would require expenditure of \$200,000 annually.

Councilmember Matthews **MOVED** approval of award of the agreement to Marine Contracting Group, **SECONDED** by Councilmember Wein.

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

Appropriation of funds for project and award of CEI Services Agreement for Alligator Creek Pedestrian Bridge to KCCS of Tampa, FL.

Ms. Heinen explained staff recommended award of the agreement to KCCS, providing a review of estimated construction costs and related grants. She requested appropriation of \$200,000 from Transportation Impact Fees and \$125,000 from 1% Sales Tax Funds Undesignated Projects, advising Council approval would be sought for additional funds if construction costs exceeded the engineer's estimate.

Councilmember Matthews inquired as to the status of the Cooper Street Sidewalk project.

City Manager Kunik replied same required more time to prepare than originally thought; therefore, those impact fees were being reallocated to complete the Alligator Creek Pedestrian Bridge project within the grant deadline.

Mayor Profke confirmed the Florida Department of Transportation Shared-Use Non-Motorized Trails Network grant would connect the City's Multi-Use Recreational Trails with others throughout the State.

Councilmember Matthews **MOVED** approval of the agreement and appropriation of funds, **SECONDED** by Councilmember Cummings.

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

NOTE: A short break was called at 10:29 a.m.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Presentation by the Punta Gorda Boaters Alliance of the "Punta Gorda Waterfront Development Master Plan 2019"

Mr. John Welsh drew Councilmembers' attention to the Waterfront Development Master Plan, as delineated in the agenda materials, explaining no significant changes had been made following input from community groups. He reviewed issues which complicated establishing the City as a preferred boating destination, suggesting opportunities and options to address same. He asserted removal of the dinghy docks at Gilchrist Park would result in boaters leaving their dinghies onshore, suggesting construction of a mooring field could be funded solely through grants. He then offered to answer any questions.

Councilmember Matthews stated the proposed plan was an update to that adopted in 2011, explaining feedback had been requested from community groups to ensure same was relevant. She noted the City had already begun engaging in efforts to address the problems identified in the Waterfront Master Plan, advocating for additional moorage and dinghy docks to the west of the U.S. 41 bridge in order to exercise control over nearby waters.

Councilmember Wein expressed preference to incorporate the plan within the City-wide Master Plan. He opined the City would not primarily be a boating community in the future, explaining he preferred ongoing review of such plans.

Councilmember Carey questioned why this plan was being presented to Council three days prior to the charette to discuss the development of Gilchrist Park, voicing willingness to accept the plan and present it to Dover Kohl & Partners (DK&P).

Mr. Welsh expressed desire for DK&P to contact him regarding the plan.

Councilmember Cummings noted the City had always been a boating community, opining the plan needed financial information and long-term impacts. He expressed concern emphasis was being placed on how the City could benefit others rather than residents, pointing out homeowners near Gilchrist Park did not feel safe. He suggested a fee should be charged for use of slips, speaking in favor of commercial businesses providing additional slips instead of the City.

Mayor Prafke opined the Waterfront Master Plan was intended to communicate a vision and should not be viewed as obligating the City to fulfill each recommendation.

Councilmember Matthews noted the City was not viewed as a boating friendly community, explaining the plan was intended to change that and to be incorporated within the City-wide Master Plan. She expressed disappointment DK&P had not reached out to the Boaters Alliance.

Mayor Prafke noted DK&P representatives were present and could speak with Mr. Welsh.

Councilmember Carey **MOVED** to accept the Punta Gorda Waterfront Development Master Plan and request same be incorporated into the following week's "planning process"/charettes, **SECONDED** by Councilmember Matthews.

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

NEW BUSINESS

Peace River Wildlife Center Lease Dundee Road Site

City Manager Kunik stated the Peace River Wildlife Center (PRWC) required a lease for the City-owned property on Dundee Road in order to pursue a rezoning request with Charlotte County, advising the City had no need of the property. He noted the 50 year-lease would allow for relocation of PRWC's hospital and rehabilitation facility to this property, advising PRWC was responsible for construction and utility connections but the City would pay the monthly utility bill.

Councilmember Matthews spoke in favor of the lease.

Councilmember Carey commented favorably on relocation of the animal hospital.

Councilmember Wein inquired if relocation of the hospital and rehabilitation facilities would enhance protection of animals during a storm event.

Ms. Callie Stahl, PRWC, replied a building would be constructed for protection of their Ponce de Leon Park residents during hurricanes.

Mayor Prafke expressed satisfaction regarding the plan, then voicing concern regarding the City funding monthly water and wastewater service for nonprofits. She acknowledged an arrangement was currently in place with the PRWC at Ponce de Leon Park, noting same might change in the future.

Ms. Stahl stated only water service was requested at this time as wastewater service was not currently available at the Dundee Road site; however, same was negotiable.

Councilmember Wein **MOVED** to approve the PRWC lease of the Dundee Road site, **SECONDED** by Councilmember Matthews.

Voting Aye: Carey, Cummings, Matthews, Wein.

Voting Nay: Prafke.

MOTION CARRIED.

Citywide Master Plan – Economic & Budgetary Analysis Initial Findings

Ms. Luiza Leite, DK&P, provided an overview of upcoming events related to development of the City-wide Master Plan, indicating she would speak to Mr. Welsh regarding the Waterfront Development Master Plan.

Ms. Anita Morrison, Partners for Economic Solutions, provided a detailed presentation of the initial findings of the economic and budgetary analysis, as delineated in the agenda material, covering the following topics: (1) overview of the community; (2) business strengths and weaknesses; (3) housing strengths and weaknesses; (4) commercial and residential market potential; (5) the City's budget; (6) fiscal reserves; (7) revenue potentials (8) land use impacts on revenue and associated tax burdens; (9) the impact of density on revenue; (10) development potential for City Marketplace and associated potential revenue; (11) implications for the Master Plan. She then offered to answer any questions.

Councilmember Wein questioned if industrial and transportation development had been considered, pointing out suitable land for same could be annexed in the future.

Ms. Morrison advised annexations would be considered in the next phase of analysis.

Councilmember Matthews expressed disappointment with the materials initially provided as well as with the lack of time to review the revised materials.

Ms. Morrison stated she would be present the following week, offering to meet with members.

Mayor Prafke agreed more time was needed to review the revised materials, noting valuable information had been added. She voiced confidence DK&P would perform satisfactorily, expressing a desire for detailed information.

Councilmember Cummings commented favorably on DK&P's performance in Thomasville, Florida.

RECOMMENDATION FROM CITY OFFICERS

CITY ATTORNEY

City Attorney Levin reported pleadings related to Mr. Douglas Plattner and Winter Park Dodge were submitted to court, noting the deadline for comments related to forfeiture of the property was March 19, 2019. He then thanked Councilmembers for their action on his contract.

Councilmember Wein requested the City refrain from further expenditures related to the case against Mr. Plattner if funds could not be recovered.

CITY CLERK

Appointments to Pickleball Committee

Voting forms were distributed for Council district seats.

City Attorney Levin announced Mr. Carman was appointed for District 1, Ms. Sarkisian was appointed for District 2 and Ms. Moriarty was appointed for District 3

Mayor Prafke confirmed Councilmembers could move to nominate and appoint the applicant for District 4 and the applicant for District 5.

Councilmember Matthews **MOVED** to appoint Ms. Beth Magnin for District 4, **SECONDED** by Councilmember Cummings.

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

Councilmember Matthews **MOVED** to appoint Mr. William Hughes for District 5, **SECONDED** by Councilmember Cummings.

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

Voting forms were distributed for two at large seats.

City Attorney Levin announced Ms. Hall and Ms. Peterman were appointed as at-large members.

Announcement of Vacancies

Code Enforcement Board Alternate

Recording Secretary Welch announced the continuing vacancy.

Nominations

Building Board Alternate

Councilmember Carey **MOVED** to nominate and appoint Mr. John Bothwell, **SECONDED** by Councilmember Cummings.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Board of Zoning Appeals Alternate

Councilmember Matthews **MOVED** to nominate and appoint Ms. Wendy Mueller, **SECONDED** by Councilmember Carey.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

POLICY AND LEGISLATION

PRAFKE: Reported on the Pre-Legislative Lunch hosted by Senator Lizbeth Benacquisto.

- Confirmed Councilmembers desired invitation to the League of Cities' Monday morning conference calls to discuss legislation.

- Noted she would present the proclamation to ARCHway Institute on March 9, 2019, during their fundraiser at the Twin Isles Country Club.

CUMMINGS: Reported on his Leadership Florida trip, noting his group met with many State officials.

MATTHEWS: Announced the Military Heritage Museum was hosting Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans on March 29, 2019, at 11:00 a.m. She requested a letter of support from City Council to aid the museum with solicitation of financial support from other organizations, expressing desire for a proclamation regarding the museum's grand opening in April 2019.

CAREY: Stated March 12, 2019, marked the Girl Scouts' 107th anniversary, noting 60% of women in Congress were Girl Scouts alumni.

WEIN: Announced he served as emcee at Taste of Punta Gorda, commenting favorably on the event.

CITIZENS COMMENTS

Mr. Bradford Gamblin thanked the City for providing Laishley Park for the Taste of Punta Gorda, commenting on its success. He noted most of the funds were reinvested in the community.

Ms. Sheri Lenore stated Mr. Austin provided a presentation on form-based code, noting same was very well-received. She asserted form-based code was the City's future.

Mr. Kevin O'Shea thanked Councilmembers for their support of local wildlife. He expressed concern regarding the potential for rodenticides to harm local wildlife, suggesting the City could look into the "A24 cartridge" as an alternative.

Ms. Sheila Jaeger spoke against using acoustic fencing as a permanent solution, voicing concern regarding blame of homeowners for the installation of same as well as concern regarding the time required for construction of courts in another location.

Mr. Bob Talley expressed anticipation for the City-wide Master Plan charrettes, then thanking Councilmembers for their action regarding PRWC's lease.

Ms. Pat Niles stated the Guitar Army had returned to Gilchrist Park. She then commented on building heights, annexations, restaurant capacity and affordable housing.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:25 p.m.

Mayor

City Clerk