

**CITY OF PUNTA GORDA, FLORIDA  
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 3, 2018, 9:00 A.M.**

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

**CITY EMPLOYEES PRESENT:** Dave Drury, 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; Deputy City Clerk Kelly

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

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

**PROCLAMATIONS/PRESENTATIONS**

**Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day**

**Mayor Keesling** presented the proclamation, accepted by Reverend Ellison Haddock.

**Swearing In of Police Chief Pamela Davis**

City Manager Kunik swore in Police Chief Pamela Davis.

Chief Davis provided a brief review of her background and experience and described various programs which she planned to introduce in the community.

**Introduction of Board/Committee Member Nominees**

Ms. Colleen Wright introduced herself as a nominee for the Punta Gorda Isles Canal Advisory Committee.

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

**CONSENT AGENDA**

A. Citizen Comments - Consent Agenda Items

None.

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

**MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.**

B. Legal Department

1. Monthly Litigation Report

C. Police Department

1. Appropriation of 2017/2018 MAC Grant Funds for 24 Foot Marine Vessel

### **Citizens Comments – Regular Agenda Items Only**

Mr. Harvey Goldberg commented on the consolidation of the Planning Commission (PC) and the Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA), opining the two committees should be maintained separately as no efficiencies or cost effectiveness would be gained.

Reverend Haddock spoke in opposition to the unified branding of the City's Historic Districts, stating a number of organizations within the subject community, including the Trabue Woods United Association (TWUA), were not consulted regarding the proposal. He suggested the entire City be designated as historic.

Ms. Gussie Baker commented favorably on uniting all of the City's Historic Districts.

Mr. Darryl Gadsden spoke on behalf of Reverend Carl Brooks, reading a prepared statement into the record regarding his concerns relative to the unified branding of Punta Gorda's Historic Districts.

Ms. Anna Callwood read a written statement into the record, requesting the City involve the TWUA in any major decisions which affected New Operation Cooper Street (NOCS) and the surrounding neighborhood.

Ms. Arlene Gadsden submitted a prepared statement into the record, stating the TWUA would recommend the 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. public park use restriction be changed to 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Mr. Isaac Thomas spoke in favor of the Trabue Woods Initiative Funding Prioritization List, as delineated in the agenda material, further requesting a minimum of 15% of the up to \$50,000 initiative funds be allocated for public service projects, as selected by the community, and any remaining funds be used for neighborhood infrastructure related projects.

Ms. Cathy Getz commented favorably on unification of the City's Historic Districts. She then spoke regarding the Trabue Woods Funding Prioritization List, stating street lighting was the neighborhood's top priority.

Mr. Richard Brawn spoke on behalf of the South Charlotte County Coalition, voicing concern with what he perceived to be a severe lack of communication between the TWUA and the newly formed Historic District Homeowners Association (HDHOA). He asserted Trabue Woods was a part of Punta Gorda he did not wish to lose.

Ms. Eunice Wiley urged Council to approve the proposed unified branding of the City's Historic Districts as doing so would create a historic district extending from Fishermen's Village to Cooper Street.

Ms. Martha Bireda explained the HDHOA desired a united historic district from a branding perspective. She requested the replacement of "Trabue Woods" with "East Historic District"; however, no separation in terms of signage was proposed.

Ms. Charley Ann Thomas spoke in opposition to the unified branding, opining the community should be allowed to utilize “Trabue Woods” when referring to their neighborhood.

## BUDGET

### Trabue Woods Initiative Funding Prioritization List

Ms. Joan LeBeau, Urban Design Planner, stated subsequent to Council’s decision to withdraw from the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) entitlement program, a decision was made to budget funds annually for programs and projects to benefit the former entitlement areas. She explained the following two projects would be prioritized based on prior commitments under the CDBG program: \$5,000 - Agripreneur Fresh Market and Garden Annual Start-up and Operating Costs for 3 years; \$15,000 - Cooper Street Recreation Center Interior Furniture. She reported community input identified other items of importance to the neighborhood, noting a list and brief explanation of each item was provided in Council’s agenda material. She recommended approval of the priorities, offering to answer questions.

**Mayor Keesling** asked if the \$5,000 intended for the Agripreneur Fresh Market and Garden was the only three-year funding proposal.

Ms. LeBeau replied affirmatively, noting the proposal was for \$5,000 annually.

**Councilmember Matthews** questioned the sufficiency of \$15,000 for street lighting.

Ms. LeBeau replied \$15,000 was proposed so as to be able to fund all of the other projects requested by the community, acknowledging same was for lighting one block. Discussion ensued with regard to the need for adequate street lighting.

Councilmember Matthews **MOVED** approval of \$5,000 for the Agripreneur Fresh Market and Garden and \$15,000 for Cooper Street Recreation Center Interior Improvements, **SECONDED** by Councilmember Wein.

**MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.**

**Mayor Keesling** concluded Council would have further discussion in the future on the community’s lighting needs and other available funding.

### Single Source Award to Shafer Consulting for Performance of the Environmental Protection Agency's Required Revision to Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program (CHNEP) Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan

City Manager Kunik stated CHNEP wished to single source a purchase to Shafer Consulting LLC, adding the Procurement Division processed their request in accordance with established policy.

Councilmember Prafke **MOVED** approval of the purchase and to execute the Federal Conflict of Interest Statement for this partially funded Federal purchase, **SECONDED** by Councilmember Cummings.

**MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.**

**Budget Re-appropriations from FY 2017 to FY 2018 and Appropriations for FY 2018**

City Manager Kunik drew Councilmembers' attention to the Schedules of Requests for Re-appropriation and Appropriation for Fiscal Year (FY) 2017 to 2018 and FY 2018, respectively, as delineated in the agenda material, requesting Council's approval.

Councilmember Matthews **MOVED** approval of the budget re-appropriations and appropriations as proposed, **SECONDED** by Councilmember Wein.

**MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.**

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**Consideration of Consolidation of Planning Commission and Board of Zoning Appeals**

**Councilmember Matthews** stated she made the initial suggestion, recommending the status quo be maintained.

Consensus was to make no changes.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Unified Branding of City's Historic Districts**

City Manager Kunik announced a group of citizens from the three Historic Districts had formed HDHOA and wished to rename the Trabue Woods Historic Overlay District to the East Historic District. He noted this renaming would require a public hearing to amend the City Code, requesting Council's direction regarding same.

**Councilmember Cummings** explained this initiative was being proposed partially to avoid certain negative connotations associated with a separate, east side district as had been the case in past years. He opined the subject community could become as vibrant as any other area of Punta Gorda, adding the re-naming should be done for social, cultural and historical reasons. He pointed out doing so would place the City in a better marketing position.

Mr. Mitchell Austin, Urban Design Planner, displayed a map depicting the National Register, Downtown Commercial and Trabue Woods Historic Districts.

**Mayor Keesling** clarified signage would state "Punta Gorda Historic District," and there would be no changes to City Code beyond the re-naming.

**Councilmember Cummings** commented on the abovementioned objections to the proposed re-naming, stating the TWUA did not currently represent the interest of the

residents. He noted the HDHOA was formed to ensure those residents had representation, adding the community had stressed the need for infrastructure improvements in particular and wished to have their overall needs prioritized. He clarified the TWUA could certainly continue to advocate on their own behalf; however, they could not dictate residents' needs.

**Councilmember Prafke** acknowledged the work of the TWUA; however, she pointed out the differences between a community group and a homeowners association. She summarized she had no objection to the re-naming request.

**Councilmember Matthews** spoke in favor of unification in the community, stating it was apparent the two groups must communicate with one another. She noted she also had no objection to the re-naming.

Consensus of Council was to present the proposal to the Planning Commission for a recommendation.

City Attorney Levin summarized the ordinance title would provide for unification of the Historic District and whatever Code amendments were necessary to be consistent with same as well as re-naming certain portions of the district for identification purposes.

**Councilmember Matthews** suggested the City's new Communications Manager be included in any related discussions.

**Note: A short break was called at 10:45 a.m.**

#### **CHNEP Update**

Ms. Jennifer Hecker, CHNEP Executive Director, provided a PowerPoint presentation, as delineated in the agenda material, delineating CHNEP's goals as well as their partnership with and support of the City of Punta Gorda and Peace River/Charlotte Harbor water quality issues.

**Mayor Keesling** confirmed CHNEP worked closely with Charlotte County on their Comprehensive Plan as well.

Ms. Hecker offered to provide copies of CHNEP's recent presentation to the Board of Charlotte County Commissioners.

**Councilmember Prafke** recalled seeing charts which depicted significant improvements in the water quality of Charlotte Harbor, requesting copies of those as well.

Ms. Hecker agreed to e-mail links to those charts/maps to Councilmembers.

**Councilmember Wein** questioned the status of future CHNEP funding.

Ms. Hecker responded Federal funding for the following year was somewhat uncertain at this time, acknowledging the President's budget and the Environmental Protection Agency proposed elimination of CHNEP; however, Congress' recommendation for

continued full funding was encouraging. She noted there might be other State funding sources, adding she had reached out to legislators and other entities.

**Councilmember Wein** asked if the City could assist in any way, pointing out CHNEP was a great asset, both economically and environmentally.

Ms. Hecker requested Council's permission to reach out to the City Lobbyist to carry CHNEP's message.

**Mayor Keesling** offered to bring CHNEP's fact sheets to Tallahassee at the end of January 2018 and provide same to the City Lobbyist.

### **RECOMMENDATION FROM CITY OFFICERS**

#### **CITY MANAGER**

City Manager Kunik announced the Vivante public hearing would be held at the next City Council meeting, adding Team Punta Gorda would present the Gilchrist Park Activity Center research at the February 7, 2018 Council meeting. He advised the budget process would begin with presentation of the Long Range Financial Plan at the latter meeting.

### **BOARDS AND COMMITTEES**

#### **Announcement of Vacancies**

Building Board

Building Board Alternate

Code Enforcement Board Alternate

Punta Gorda Housing Authority

Planning Commission

Deputy City Clerk Kelly announced the vacancies.

#### **Nominations**

Code Enforcement Board

Councilmember Prafke **MOVED** to nominate and appoint Mr. William Brennan, **SECONDED** by Councilmember Matthews.

**MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.**

#### **Appointments**

Punta Gorda Isles Canal Advisory Committee (2)

Voting forms were distributed.

City Attorney Levin announced Mr. Fred Hannon and Ms. Colleen Wright had received the majority of votes and were thus appointed to the Committee.

## POLICY AND LEGISLATION

### Update of Activities/Programs at New Operation Cooper Street

**Councilmember Cummings** provided a detailed update of NOCS activities and after-school, pre-school and middle/high school programs.

**PRAFKE:** Announced the Pickleplex team was working with the Boys & Girls Club as part of their mission was to help community youth.

## CITIZENS COMMENTS

Ms. Julia Moore opined “East Punta Gorda” already carried a stigma, adding she believed the eastern portion of the City required more attention.

Ms. Jocelyn Carter admonished TWUA and HDHOA to initiate communication with each other.

Reverend Kevin Shaw stated communication or the lack thereof was crucial.

## ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:31 a.m.

---

Mayor

---

City Clerk