

**CITY OF PUNTA GORDA, FLORIDA
CITY COUNCIL BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2018, 5:01 P.M.**

COUNCILMEMBERS PRESENT: Cummings, Keesling, Matthews, Prafke, 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 Keesling called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

BUDGET PUBLIC HEARINGS

Fiscal Year 2018 Budget Hearing Presentation – Special Assessments, Millage Rate and All Funds Operating Budget.

Ms. Kristin Simeone, Interim Finance Director, explained the FY 2019 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.

A Resolution adopting a tentative millage rate for the City of Punta Gorda, Florida, for Fiscal Year 2018/2019 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 Keesling announced the calculated rollback rate for the City was 3.0360 mills, adding the tentative millage rate was 3.1969 mills, which was 5.30% higher than the calculated rollback rate.

Ms. Simeone displayed a comparison of millage rates, noting the proposed rate of 3.1969 mills would result in revenue of \$9.5 million and the rollback rate of 3.0360 mills would have generated revenue of \$9 million. She displayed revenues sorted by categories, reporting the total budget was \$100.3 million. She concluded ad valorem taxes represented only 9.5% of all revenue sources.

Mayor Keesling called three times for public comment.

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

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

Councilmember Wein **MOVED** approval of the resolution adopting a tentative millage rate of 3.1969, noting the final Budget Public Hearing date was set for September 17, 2018, at 5:01 p.m., in City Council Chambers, **SECONDED** by Councilmember Matthews.

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

A Resolution adopting a tentative budget for the City of Punta Gorda, Florida, for the Fiscal Year 2018/2019 and setting a date, time, and place of public hearing to consider the final budget.

City Manager Kunik read the resolution by title.

Ms. Simeone displayed revenue and expenditure summary graphs depicting the various categories and percentage of dollars, pointing out Ad Valorem Taxes represented only 9.5% of the total budget.

Mr. Chuck Kirsch questioned beginning and ending carryovers.

Ms. Simeone replied each fund had a beginning reserve set by policy, adding sometimes use of the reserves was budgeted for use in a current year; thus, the ending reserve was considered to be part of the budget and was carried forward to the following year.

Mayor Keesling called three times for public comment.

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

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

Councilmember Prafke **MOVED** approval of the resolution adopting a tentative budget, setting September 17, 2019 at 5:01 p.m. as the final Budget Public Hearing date to be held in City Council Chambers, **SECONDED** by Councilmember Matthews.

City Manager Kunik explained at the September 17, 2018 City Council meeting, staff would present recommendations for use of 3.5 million proceeds from the sale of City property to Fishermen's Village, all of which would be one-time uses rather than ongoing expenses.

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Punta Gorda, Florida, establishing fiscal year 2018/2019 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.

Ms. Simeone reported the proposed annual fee of \$170 reflected an increase of \$5 in order to fund the increased costs of the lot mowing program and administrative overhead.

City Manager Kunik confirmed double mows were currently taking place and would continue next summer as well.

Councilmember Matthews inquired if the City had a separate assessment for multi-family vacant lots.

Ms. Simeone replied in the negative, clarifying same were based on Equivalent Residential Units (ERUs).

Mayor Keesling called three times for public comment.

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

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

Councilmember Prafke **MOVED** approval of the resolution adopting an assessment of \$170 per ERU, **SECONDED** by Councilmember Matthews.

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

A resolution of the City Council of the City of Punta Gorda, Florida, establishing Fiscal Year 2018/2019 assessments for procurement of a binding cost estimate from Florida Power & Light for the conversion of existing overhead electric distribution facilities to underground facilities within the Burnt Store Isles Underground Utility Assessment Area; finding a special benefit to the owners of lots assessed; providing for collection of such assessment by the tax collector as non-ad valorem assessments; and providing an effective date.

City Manager Kunik read the resolution by title, adding the assessment was previously approved, and this was a formality.

Ms. Simeone reported the assessment was \$75 per Equivalent Benefit Unit (EBU), adding it was a one-time assessment for the study.

Mr. John Scarrow asserted there was no benefit to below ground utilities other than aesthetics.

Mr. Kirsch asserted the only possible area of susceptibility would be the location of the transformers.

Mayor Keesling called three times for public comment.

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

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

Councilmember Prafke **MOVED** approval of the resolution adopting an assessment of \$75 per EBU, **SECONDED** by Councilmember Matthews.

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

Note: City Council recessed and reconvened as the Community Redevelopment Agency at 5:20 p.m.

A Resolution adopting a budget for the City of Punta Gorda, Florida, Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) for Fiscal Year 2018/2019.

Executive Director Kunik read the resolution by title.

Ms. Simeone reported the proposed budget was \$3.46 million, or \$2.85 million net of interfund eliminations, noting funds could only be utilized for specified CRA purposes.

Chair Keesling called three times for public comment.

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

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

Commissioner Prafke **MOVED** approval of the resolution adopting the CRA budget, **SECONDED** by Commissioner Council.

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

Note: The Community Redevelopment Agency recessed and reconvened as the Punta Gorda Isles Canal Maintenance Assessment District at 5:22 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 2018/2019 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.

Ms. Simeone reported the proposed assessment was \$650, which represented a \$100 increase over FY 2018 based on the need to repay the debt service on repairs necessary as a result of Hurricane Irma. She stated staff continued to work with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) on submitting for reimbursements.

Ms. Karen Turnbull inquired if it was a one-time increase.

Ms. Simeone replied the debt repayment was scheduled for four years.

Ms. Turnbull inquired if the increase was specifically for seawall repair debt.

Ms. Simeone replied affirmatively.

Ms. Turnbull objected to the methodology for calculating the canal assessment fee.

Ms. Wendy Young inquired whether the assessment must be approved each year.

Ms. Simeone replied affirmatively.

Mayor Keesling called three times for public comment.

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

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 5:30 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 2018/2019 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.

Ms. Simeone stated the proposed Burnt Store Isles annual canal maintenance assessment fee was \$555.

Mayor Keesling inquired if there would be an increase for Hurricane Irma damage repair.

Ms. Simeone replied in the negative.

Mayor Keesling called three times for public comment.

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

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

Councilmember Prafke **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 5:32 p.m.

CITIZENS COMMENTS

Ms. Turnbull reiterated her objection to the assessment methodology for the PGI Canal Maintenance Assessment fee.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

Mayor

City Clerk