

**CITY OF PUNTA GORDA, FLORIDA
CITY COUNCIL BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2017, 5:01 P.M.**

COUNCILMEMBERS PRESENT: Cummings, Keesling, Matthews

COUNCILMEMBERS EXCUSED: Prafke, Wein

CITY EMPLOYEES PRESENT: Dave Drury, Kristin Simeone, Finance; Rick Keeney, Public Works; Tom Jackson, Utilities; Jason Ciaschini, Police; Ray Briggs, Fire; Jane Sturges, CRA; City Manager Kunik; City Clerk Smith

Mayor Keesling called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. She announced the calculated rollback rate for the City was 3.0473 mils, adding the tentative millage rate was 3.1969 mils, which was 4.91% higher than the calculated rollback rate.

BUDGET PUBLIC HEARINGS

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

Ms. Kristin Simeone, Finance Department, explained the FY 2018 General Fund Ad Valorem tax revenue increase was to better match current revenues with current expenditures, to fund the paving program and establishing the drainage program as well as to continue to provide expected service levels, replacement of equipment and emergency vehicles and improving the General Fund operating reserve. She displayed a comparison of millage rates, noting the proposed rate of 3.1969 mills would result in revenue of \$8,847,000 and the rollback rate of 3.0473 mils would have generated revenue of \$8,843,000. She displayed revenues sorted by categories, reporting the total budget was \$99.6 million. She concluded ad valorem taxes represented only 8.9% of all revenue sources.

A Resolution adopting a tentative millage rate for the City of Punta Gorda, Florida, for Fiscal Year 2017/2018 and setting a date, time and place of public hearing to consider the final millage rate.

City Manager Kunik read the resolution by title, noting the final public hearing date would be held September 20, 2017, at 5:01 p.m.

Mayor Keesling called three times for public comment.

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

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

Councilmember Matthews **MOVED** approval of the resolution adopting a tentative millage rate of 3.1969, **SECONDED** by Councilmember Cummings.

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

A Resolution adopting a tentative budget for the City of Punta Gorda, Florida, for the Fiscal Year 2017/2018 and setting a date, time, and place of public hearing to consider the final budget.

City Manager Kunik read the resolution by title, noting the public hearing date was September 20, 2017, at 5:01 p.m., at which time the final budget would be considered.

Mayor Keesling called three times for public comment.

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

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

Councilmember Matthews **MOVED** approval of the resolution, **SECONDED** by Councilmember Cummings.

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

Note: City Council recessed and reconvened as the Community Redevelopment Agency at 5:07 p.m.

A Resolution adopting a budget for the City of Punta Gorda, Florida, Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) for Fiscal Year 2017/2018.

Ms. Simeone reported the proposed budget was \$2.8 million, noting funds could only be utilized for CRA purposes.

Executive Director Kunik read the resolution by title.

Chair Keesling called three times for public comment.

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

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

Commissioner Sturges **MOVED** approval of the resolution adopting the CRA budget, **SECONDED** by Commissioner Matthews.

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

Note: The Community Redevelopment Agency recessed and reconvened as the Punta Gorda Isles Canal Maintenance Assessment District at 5:11 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 2017/2018 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.

Ms. Simeone reported the proposed assessment would remain the same at \$550 to fund personnel and operating costs.

City Manager Kunik read the resolution by title.

Mayor Keesling called three times for public comment.

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

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

Councilmember Matthews **MOVED** approval of the resolution adopting an assessment of \$550, **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 5:14 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 2017/2018 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.

Ms. Simeone stated the proposed Burnt Store Isles annual canal maintenance assessment fee was \$555, which was a decrease of \$15 from the previous year, noting the assessment would fund the dredging project and pay the debt service on the project through 2022.

City Manager Kunik read the resolution by title.

Mayor Keesling called three times for public comment.

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

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

Councilmember Cummings **MOVED** approval of the resolution adopting an assessment of \$555, **SECONDED** by Councilmember Matthews.

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

Note: The Burnt Store Isles Canal Maintenance Assessment District adjourned and reconvened as the Lot Mowing Assessment District at 5:15 p.m.

LOT MOWING ASSESSMENT DISTRICT

A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Punta Gorda, Florida, as the governing body of the Punta Gorda Lot Mowing Assessment District, establishing Fiscal Year 2017/2018 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.

Ms. Simeone reported the proposed annual fee of \$165 reflected an increase of \$5 in order to fund the increased costs of the lot mowing program and administrative overhead.

City Manager Kunik read the resolution by title.

Mayor Keesling called three times for public comment.

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

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

Councilmember Cummings **MOVED** approval of the resolution adopting an assessment of \$165, **SECONDED** by Councilmember Matthews.

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

Note: The Lot Mowing Assessment District adjourned and reconvened as the City Council at 5:17 p.m.

COUNCILMEMBER COMMENTS

Mayor Keesling complimented staff on preparations being made for Hurricane Irma.

CITIZENS COMMENTS

Mr. Tom Cominski spoke questioned his assessed tax rate.

City Manager Kunik explained the historic district real estate market was doing well, which increased the value, offering to meet with Mr. Cominski at a future time to provide further assistance.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:22 p.m.

Mayor

City Clerk