



Florida's Harborside Hometown

## CITY WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS REPORT AUGUST 9, 2019

### City Manager

- **FY 2020 Budget Message** – The proposed FY 2020 budget message provides information regarding progress of current year strategic plan action items; economic trends on a national, state, regional and local level; budget highlights by fund and department; property tax impact; reserves; and unresolved issues still to be addressed. Previous weekly reports have highlighted pertinent budget action already taken by City Council. Below are some additional information that will aid the community in their evaluation of our proposed service delivery plan:
  - ✓ The Charlotte County Property Appraiser reported that taxable property values increased Citywide by 7.1%, which is the seventh straight year of increasing property values, reversing a previous trend of six straight decreases in overall value.
  - ✓ The Community Redevelopment Area (CRA) experienced a 10.1% increase from previous year property values, the fifth straight year of value increases.
  - ✓ Increased value from new construction, annexations and other adjustments in the City is \$54.2 million, down from \$60.1 million the previous year.
  - ✓ The proposed FY 2020 General Fund Budget, net of ending reserve and an \$8.2 million transfer for a line of credit draw for the PGI Canal Maintenance Fund, totals \$23.2 million, which is \$1.6 million or 7.4% more than the original FY 2019 budget. The cumulative increase in the general fund since FY 2008 is 12.9%, which averages to an approximate 1.1% increase per year.
  - ✓ The proposed millage rate is 3.4337, up from the 3.1969, which was held constant since FY 2014. The City's portion of a residential tax bill, excluding non-ad valorem assessments, is generally 20% or under. The majority of ad-valorem taxes are for services provided to Charlotte County government and Charlotte County School system.
  - ✓ The 291 funded full time equivalent (f.t.e.) position count for FY 2020 has increased by three from the amended count of FY 2019. The positions added: are a dispatcher, a civilian employee development coordinator and community engagement officer in the police department; an EMS training chief in fire department; a change that increases the part-time line & grade inspector in the building division to a full-time engineering technician position that will be funded 50% by the building division to continue to complete that work and 50% from the engineering division; a computer support specialist in the information technology division; and an outreach associate and a research associate in CHNEP funded through grants and contributions. This increase of 7.5 f.t.e. positions was offset by the reduction of 4 temporary f.t.e positions (seawall inspectors and a communications liaison) that were approved for the Hurricane Irma seawall repair project that were budgeted in FY 2019 and not budgeted in FY 2020. The ratio of employees per 100 population is 1.5, down from 1.9 in 2007.

- ✓ The change in Consumer Price Index (CPI) as reflected in the State “Save Our Homes” Legislation is 1.9%. This means that no matter how high the market value of a homestead property increases, the assessed value can only rise 1.9%.

Property owners will soon receive their TRIM (Truth In Millage Act) notices being sent by the Property Appraiser to all County property owners. City budget public hearings will take place Sep. 4 and 18. The full budget message can be viewed at <http://www.ci.punta-gorda.fl.us/home/showdocument?id=9620>.

- **Alligator Creek Waterway Municipal Services Benefit Unit (MSBU)** – County staff will be recommending that the Alligator Creek Waterway MSBU assessment for the Buckley’s Pass parcels be put off for one year due to the delay in construction. In order to accomplish this, the assessment rate will have to be lowered to zero during their Sep. 9, budget public hearing at the Charlotte County Event and Conference Center.
- **Citywide Master Plan Draft Presentation** – Aug. 21 at 5 pm Dover Kohl & Partners will present the Draft Citywide Master Plan to the community at the Charlotte Harbor Events Center. Registration is not required and Punta Gorda stakeholders are welcome.
- **Strategic Planning** – City Council and staff will host a strategic planning session on Aug. 28 at 5 pm at the Punta Gorda Isles Civic Association to gather stakeholder input for the FY2020 Strategic Plan. All community stakeholders are welcome to participate.
- **Buckley’s Pass** – Payments totaling \$1,905,814.91 have been received for Buckley’s Pass through Aug. 8.

### Upcoming Events

Date	Event	Location	Contact
8/10	Tiki Fest	Fishermen’s Village	<a href="http://www.fishville.com/events/">www.fishville.com/events/</a>
8/15	Third Thursday Wine Walk	Downtown Punta Gorda	<a href="mailto:frontdesk@puntagorda-chamber.com">frontdesk@puntagorda-chamber.com</a>
8/16-8/18	Punta Gorda Woodstock	Charlotte Harbor Event & Conference Center	<a href="http://puntagordawoodstock.com/">http://puntagordawoodstock.com/</a>
8/17	Monthly Car Show	Muscle Car City	<a href="http://musclearcity.net/events/">http://musclearcity.net/events/</a>
8/24	Arts in August	Fishermen’s Village	<a href="http://www.fishville.com/events/">www.fishville.com/events/</a>
8/25	Monthly Auto Flea Market	Muscle Car City	<a href="http://musclearcity.net/events/">http://musclearcity.net/events/</a>
9/14	Nick’s Kid Show & Safety Day	Fishermen’s Village	<a href="http://www.fishville.com/events/">www.fishville.com/events/</a>
9/14-9/15	Sullivan Street Craft Fair	Sullivan Street	<a href="http://puntagordachamber.com">http://puntagordachamber.com</a>
9/17	PGI Car Club Cars & Coffee	1133 Bal Harbor Blvd	<a href="mailto:billtucker@earthlink.net">billtucker@earthlink.net</a>
9/19	Third Thursday Wine Walk	Downtown Punta Gorda	<a href="mailto:frontdesk@puntagorda-chamber.com">frontdesk@puntagorda-chamber.com</a>
9/20	Recovery Candlelight Vigil	Laishley Park	<a href="https://www.cbhcf.org/events/">https://www.cbhcf.org/events/</a>

### Lot Mowing Program

- City mowers completed mowing the following areas; East Side and the area behind Dunkin Donuts (E. Marion Ave, E. Olympia Ave, Narranja St, E. Henry St, and Cooper St.) and Downtown and Historic District (W. Marion Ave., W. Olympia Ave., Shreve, and Harvey St.)

## Urban Design

- Staff attended the monthly Gulf Coast Partnership (GCP) Stakeholders meeting. Discussion items included the following:
  - ✓ A review of end of the year State Grant funding for Fiscal Year 18/19.
  - ✓ Established the meeting date, time and location for a new Chronic Homeless Task Force.
  - ✓ Established the meeting date, time and location for Grant Review and Ranking Committee.
  - ✓ Reviewed list of GCP requested grant submittals for the coming fiscal year.
  - ✓ Discussed upcoming Housing Authority only applications for various programs through the Federal government.
  - ✓ Reviewed the 2019 Annual Report of the Florida's Council on Homelessness
- Urban Design staff held a Design Studio meeting regarding the following:
  - ✓ Property owner regarding the relocation and construction of a funeral home
  - ✓ Citizen regarding the establishment and construction of a 'Little Library' at the Gilchrist Park Playground
  - ✓ Property owners/developers along Burnt Store Road regarding annexation and rezoning

## Public Works Department

### Parks & Grounds

- **Laishley Park Fountain** – The Interactive Fountain will be closed Aug. 12 for maintenance.
- **Laishley Park Rest Rooms** – Aug. 12-Aug. 16, the Laishley Park Rest Rooms will be closed for painting. The project includes painting of the interior men's and ladies rest rooms. Port-a-lets will be available for use during the closure. Questions can be directed to Art Brewster (Supervisor of Parks & Grounds) at (941) 575-5041.

### Engineering

- **Alligator Creek pedestrian bridges along US41 NB-FDOT Right of Way** – The contractor mobilized to the site and commenced work on Aug. 5. Utility line relocations are occurring. Erosion control measures, Maintenance of traffic devices, survey and layout, clearing and grubbing, utility locates and potholing is taking place. Preparing to construct the crane pad and set pile template. The work area is north and south of the north fork Alligator Creek Bridge. Pedestrians are requested to seek alternate routes.
- **Pavement Rejuvenation** – Pavement rejuvenation continues weather and equipment operations permitting on the following roadways:
  1. Cooper St. from Airport Rd. to Taylor Rd.
  2. Marion Ave. from Tropicana to DiVinci Dr.
  3. Trieste Dr. from Palermo to the cul-de-sac
  4. Portofino Dr. from Monaco Dr. to the cul-de-sac
  5. Palermo Dr. from Portofino Dr. to the cul-de-sac
  6. Henry St. from Shreve St. to Garvin Dr.
  7. St. Girons Ct. from St. Girons Dr. to the cul-de-sac
  8. St. Girons Dr. from Madrid Blvd. to the cul-de-sac
  9. San Pietro Ct. from Madrid Blvd. to the cul-de-sac
  10. Licata Ct. from Monaco Dr. to the cul-de-sac



- **Paving Program** – Milling and resurfacing has been completed on Ida Ave., Elizabeth St., Coco Plum, Carissa and Philodendron. Striping is pending installation.
- **Harborwalk West Area 2a & 2b** – The project Award Recommendation is being processed for presentation to City Council for approval consideration the Aug. 21 City Council Meeting.
- **Harborwalk at Justice Center Boardwalk and Pier at Adrienne St.** – Five pier pilings have been repaired with epoxy filled jackets at the Adrienne Street Pier near the hospital. Sixteen pier pilings are under repair at the Harborwalk Pier near the Justice Center. The sunken sections of the pier are being lifted as part of the repair. Once the pilings are repaired, limited deck and handrail repairs will also be made.
- **Citywide Drainage Swale Regrading** – To date JRL Underground has completed work at 452 properties totaling 334,800 square feet of grading/sodding. Excavation and grading this week was completed at 7355-7369 and 7376-7390 Schefflera as well as 321-329 W. Virginia. Due to heavy inland rains that have flooded sod fields the contractor has been unable to obtain sod for these streets. The next locations for grading include 417-426 Vitex, 7512-7518 Dracena, 7316-7340 S. Blue Sage
- **Goldstein Street Bricking between Marion and Olympia Ave.** – The paving contractor completed asphalt base which is currently in the curing period. Concrete curb repair is pending early next week. Sand and bricking will be scheduled accordingly.
- **Veterans Park Phase II** – Bid opening held Aug. 6. Bids under review and projected for award at the Aug. 21 City Council meeting.

### **Canal Maintenance**

- **Bass and Snook Inlet** – Beginning the week of Aug. 5 through Aug. 23 (weather permitting), the Bass and Snook Inlet is scheduled to be dredged. The contractor will off load dredge material at the easterly end of Breakers Park and the material will be transported to another location by dump trucks. Boaters are asked to please use caution in this area during construction. For additional information on this project, please contact Canal Maintenance Supervisor, Cathy Miller, Punta Gorda Public Works Department at (941) 575-5050 between the business hours of 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Monday thru Friday.
- **Seawall Restoration Project** – All of the seawall panels have been installed for the Hurricane Irma seawall restoration project. The only items left to complete the project are: PGI-NW2 sequence number 50 sod and sequence 58 cap, backfill and sod.



### **Fire Department**

- **Public Safety Awards** – Congratulations go out to Lt. James Klages for earning the Firefighter of the Year award at the Public Safety Appreciation Dinner.





- **Safety Tip** – Outdoor entertaining, cooking on the grill, and spending time with family and friends in the back yard or near the pool all make for great memories that will last forever. However, hosting events such as this creates increased risks for home fires and injuries.



The following safety tips can help ensure everyone takes away happy memories and stays safe:

- ✓ Always have an adult present when there is a portable fire pit burning
- ✓ Use sturdy candle holders that won't tip over
- ✓ Keep children, pets, and anything that can burn at least three feet away from open flames
- ✓ Use battery-operated flameless candles and solar powered patio torches in place of open flame

Some statistics on outdoor entertaining:

- ✓ Outside fire pits/places cause nearly 3,700 grass and brush fires annually
- ✓ Patio heater and fire pit injuries nearly tripled from 2006-2012, rising from 1,330 to 3,608
- ✓ More than half of all candle fires start when things that burn are too close to the candle
- ✓ In 2012, sparklers, fountains and novelties accounted for 25% of emergency room fireworks-related injuries.

## Police Department

- **Public Safety Awards** – The Public Safety Appreciation Night was held on Aug. 3. Administrative Services Supervisor Lt. Dylan Renz, Accreditation and Administrative Specialist Kaylee Licata, and Accreditation Volunteer Sue Thibault received awards for their outstanding work on the department's 2019 reaccreditation process.
- **Safety Tip** – Please remember that vehicles may not block any part of a sidewalk for the safety of pedestrians and bicyclists.



## Utilities Department

### Groundwater R.O. Construction Update

- **Week 58** – Installing the water line from well ASR4 to the R.O. Plant



### Water Treatment Plant Operations

- 43.8 MG of water was delivered to the distribution system with a 6.3 MG daily average
- Peace River Manasota Regional Water Supply Authority Emergency Interconnect – Sending water at a rate of 2.0 million gallons per day, started Jul. 16.
- Rainfall in Jul. 2018 6.80” and Jul. 2019 9.20” Aug. 2018 15.1” and Aug. 2019 2.30”
- Hardness is a measurement of calcium and magnesium ions naturally occurring in the raw water. Current Condition “moderately hard” – Grains of Hardness 9 ppm – Total hardness 154 ppm
- TDS for Aug. 8 – Current 263 ppm, Low 263 ppm, High 459 ppm, Year Avg. 370 ppm
- Reservoir Aug. 8 – Current 6.12, Record Low 4.93’, Record High 6.26’, Year Avg. 5.55’

### Water Distribution

- City of Punta Gorda Water Distribution forces have completed changing out the last few meters. Crews encountered some interesting challenges on the last few. This week they found a meter that was installed right over the top of a non-working meter. Fortunately, with the help of some mechanical power both prior meters were able to be removed and the state of the art new meter was installed. The customer portal whereby utility customers can monitor their account online is in testing mode prior to rolling it out to the public.



## City Clerk

### Election Information

- Candidate Campaign Treasurer’s Reports for all 2019 General Election reporting periods through Aug. 2 (due date Aug. 9) are available by contacting the City Clerk’s Office at (941)575-3369 or [pgclerk@cityofpuntafordafl.com](mailto:pgclerk@cityofpuntafordafl.com).

### Current Board & Committee Vacancies ([Volunteer Appointment Information Form](#))

- Code Enforcement Board – (Two vacancies) Meets the 4th Wednesday at 9 a.m. in City Council Chambers. Must be City resident. Seven member board with two alternate members. Three year terms – maximum of three terms. Hears and decides alleged violations of the City Code of Ordinances.

- Historic Preservation Advisory Board – (One alternate vacancy) Meets the 4th Thursday at 9 a.m. in City Council Chambers. Must be City resident. Seven member board with two alternate members. Three year terms – maximum of three 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.
- Punta Gorda Housing Authority – (One resident Commissioner vacancy) Meets the third Thursday at 8:30 a.m. at the PGHA Community Room, 340 Gulf Breeze Avenue, Punta Gorda. Must be a resident of Charlotte County. At least one commissioner shall reside within the Housing Authority’s jurisdiction and receive rent subsidy through a program administered by the Authority. Seven member board. Four-year terms – no maximum. Financial disclosure required. The mission of the Housing Authority is to provide decent, safe and sanitary affordable housing.
- Utility Advisory Board – (One vacancy) Meets the fourth Monday at 9 a.m. in City Council Chambers. Must be City resident. Seven member board. Three-year terms, maximum of two terms. Makes recommendations to City Council with regard to, but not limited to, revisions to the utility construction standards, alleged billing discrepancies and review of utility drawings.
- Board of Zoning Appeals – (One vacancy) Meets the 4th Tuesday at 4 p.m. in City Council Chambers. City residency required. Seven member board with two alternate members. Three year terms - maximum of three terms. Financial disclosure required. Makes recommendations to City Council on variances to City Code.