

**CITY OF PUNTA GORDA, FLORIDA  
CITY COUNCIL BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES  
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2017, 5:01 P.M.**

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

**CITY EMPLOYEES PRESENT:** Sharon Knippenberg, Dave Drury, Finance;  
Rick Keeney, Public Works; Tom Jackson,  
Utilities; Jason Ciaschini, 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**

**Fiscal Year 2018 Budget Hearing Presentation – Millage Rate and All Funds Operating Budget.**

Ms. Sharon Knippenberg, Controller, explained the FY 2018 General Fund ad valorem tax revenue increase was needed to better match current revenues to current expenditures to continue funding the City's paving program, to establish funding for an ongoing drainage improvement program, to continue providing the expected level of service, to provide funding for emergency vehicles and fleet equipment replacements and to improve the General Fund operating reserves. She displayed a comparison of millage rates, noting the proposed rate of 3.1969 mills would result in revenues of \$8,847,000 while a rollback rate of 3.0473 mills would result in the same revenues generated the previous year, approximately \$8.4 million.

**Mayor Keesling** announced the calculated rollback rate for the City of Punta Gorda, Florida, was 3.0473 mills, and the final millage rate was 3.1969 mills, which is 4.91% higher than the calculated roll back rate.

**A Resolution Adopting a Final Millage Rate for the Levying of Ad Valorem Taxes for the City of Punta Gorda, Florida, for Fiscal Year 2017/2018.**

City Manager Kunik read the resolution by title.

Mr. Gerry Riseley opined there were areas in which the City could spend less such as park upgrades.

Mr. Bob Cole acknowledged Councilmembers' hard work and the difficulty involved in attempting to please their constituency; however, any increase in taxes was difficult for many residents. He opined there were a number of areas where expenses could be cut.

Ms. Anne Lowe asked if the millage rate typically increased each year or if same tended to stay level.

Ms. Knippenberg replied the City strove, whenever possible, to match current revenues with current expenditures; however, the economy impacted budgeting significantly, particularly due to assessed property values. She pointed out staffing was reduced over several years from approximately 335 to the current level of 260.

**Mayor Keesling** called three times for public comment.

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

**MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.**

Councilmember Wein **MOVED** approval of the resolution, **SECONDED** by Councilmember Prafke.

**MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.**

**An Emergency Ordinance of the City of Punta Gorda, Florida, Adopting a Budget for Fiscal Year 2017/2018; Making Appropriations; Providing for Conflict and Severability; and Providing an Effective Date.**

City Manager Kunik read the ordinance by title.

**Mayor Keesling** called three times for public comment.

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

**MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.**

Councilmember Cummings **MOVED** approval of the emergency ordinance, **SECONDED** by Councilmember Prafke.

**MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.**

#### **COUNCILMEMBER COMMENTS**

There were none.

#### **CITIZENS COMMENTS**

Mr. Riseley commented the issue of medical marijuana could impact the City's budget, noting the Charlotte County Sheriff was opposed to same.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:21 p.m.

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Mayor

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City Clerk