



**CITY OF PUNTA GORDA, FLORIDA
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, JULY 9, 2008 9:00 A.M.**

COUNCILMEMBERS PRESENT: Friedman, Wallace, Goldberg, Smith-Mooney

COUNCILMEMBERS EXCUSED: Albers

CITY EMPLOYEES PRESENT: Dave Drury, Finance; Rick Keeney, Public Works; Tom Jackson, Utilities; Phil Wickstrom, Human Resources; Dennis Murphy, Growth Management; Kathy Dailey, City Manager's Office; Butch Arenal, Police; Robert Hancock, Fire; City Attorney Levin; City Manager Kunik; City Clerk Foster

Mayor Friedman called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.

Invocation was given by Mr. Oscar Dorr, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

PROCLAMATIONS/PRESENTATIONS

National Night Out

Mayor Friedman presented the proclamation, which was accepted by Acting Police Chief, Butch Arenal.

Introduction of Board / Committee Nominees

Mr. Bill Hughes advised Ms. Claire Phelen asked to be recognized as a nominee for the Revitalization Committee.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

CP-02-07 - An Ordinance of the City of Punta Gorda, Florida, Amending the City of Punta Gorda Comprehensive Plan Future Land Use Map changing the current designation from Commercial Corridor / County (CC/County) to Commercial / City (C/City) on Property described as Parcel Nos. 0071944-000000-0, 0071936-000000-0, 0071936-000100-9, 0071937-000000-9, 0071939-000000-7, and 0071940-000000-4, also known as 1603, 1605, 1621, 1725, 1801, 1825 and 1901 Tamiami Trail and more particularly described on Exhibit "A" attached to the Ordinance and from High Density Residential / County (HDR/County) to Commercial / City (C/City) on property described as Parcel No. 0071943-000000-1, also known as 24136 Shreve Street and more particularly described on Exhibit "B" attached to the Ordinance, all properties collectively known as "Palm Automotive"

and generally bound to the North by West Henry Street, to the East by Tamiami Trail, and to the West by Shreve Street; providing for conflict and severability and providing an effective date.

SECOND READING

Continued From May 21, 2008 to August 20, 2008

Mayor Friedman announced the continuance.

Councilmember Wallace **MOVED** to continue CP-02-07 to August 20, 2008, **SECONDED** by Councilmember Goldberg.

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

CP-02-08 - An Ordinance of the City of Punta Gorda, Florida, Amending the City of Punta Gorda, Florida, Local Comprehensive Plan Future Land Use Map from Public to Professional Office on Property commonly known as "The City of Punta Gorda Public Works Campus" and further described as:

A portion of Trabue Subdivision, Blocks 51, 52, 53, 55, 56 & 78 as recorded in Plat Book 1, Page 1, Section 12, Township 41 South, Range 22 East, of the Public Records of Charlotte County, Florida, being more particularly described as follows: Commencing at the Southeast Corner of Block 78, also being the Point on the North Right-of-Way of Henry Street and the Southwest Right-of-Way of Shreve Street; thence N. 88° 59'38" W., along the North Right-of-Way of Henry Street, a distance of 749.14 feet to the point of beginning; thence continue along said Right-of-Way N. 88° 59'38" W., a distance of 800.66 feet; thence run perpendicular to said Right-of-Way, N. 1° 00'22"E., a distance of 320.0 feet; thence parallel with said Right-of-Way, N. 88° 59'38" W., a distance of 145.0 feet; thence S. 1° 00'22" W., a distance of 320.0 feet, to the North Right-of-Way Line of Henry Street; thence N. 88° 59'38" W., along said Right-of-Way a distance of 203.39 feet to the Northeast Right-of-Way of Maude Street; thence N. 42° 28'05" W., along said Right-of-Way of Maude Street a distance of 320.33 feet, to the Northwest Corner of Block 53, Lot 1, also being the Southerly Right-of-Way of West Olympia Avenue; thence N. 47° 29' 18" E., along said Right-of-Way a distance of 143.86 feet; thence S. 88° 59'38" E., a distance of 237.41 feet, to the South Line of the Seaboard Coastline Railroad (formerly the Atlantic Coastline Railroad); thence N. 64° 42'47" E. along the South Line of said Railroad a distance of 552.90 feet to the Southwest Right-of-Way of Pittman Street; thence S. 42° 30' 29" E., along said Right-of-Way, a distance of 75.96 feet to the Northeast Right-of-Way of Virginia Avenue; thence N. 47° 29'13" E. along said Right-of-Way, a distance of 245.0 feet, returning to the South Line of the Seaboard Coastline Railroad (formerly the Atlantic Coastline Railroad); thence N.

64°42'47" E., along said Railroad Line a distance of 245.44 feet to the Southwest Right-of-Way Line of Shreve Street; thence S. 42° 20'48" E. along said Right-of-Way a distance of 478.85 feet to the Southwest Right-of-Way Line of Charlotte Avenue, thence S. 47° 39'12" W. along said Right-of-Way a distance of 411.54 feet; thence S. 1°00'22" W., a distance of 194.01 feet to the point of beginning containing 16.47 acres +/- as described on Exhibit A attached hereto; providing for conflict and severability and providing an effective date.

SECOND READING

Continued From May 21, 2008 to August 20, 2008

Mayor Friedman announced the continuance.

Councilmember Wallace **MOVED** to continue CP-02-08 to August 20, 2008, **SECONDED** by Councilmember Goldberg.

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Punta Gorda, Florida, Authorizing Transmittal to the Florida Department of Community Affairs for Review the "City of Punta Gorda Comprehensive Plan 2025".

City Attorney Levin read the resolution by title only.

Mr. David Hilston, Urban Design Manager, thanked members and City management for providing the resources to complete the task. He complimented Ms. Joan LeBeau, Chief Planner, Mr. Mitchell Austin, Planner, and Ms. Cherry Prewitt, Planner for their work on the project.

Ms. LeBeau explained the document was a requirement by the State of Florida and served to identify the goals and objectives as well as the policies to obtain same. She provided a brief review of the process utilized to compile the document, noting the intent was to update the Evaluation and Appraisal Report (EAR), provide a user friendly plan and to satisfy concurrency. She noted concurrency was a requirement to have adequate capacity available to support the impact of residential development. She provided a listing of the ten elements, offering to answer questions.

Mayor Friedman complimented staff for the work toward completion of the document.

Councilmember Smith-Mooney **MOVED** to close the public hearing, **SECONDED** by Councilmember Wallace.

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

Councilmember Smith-Mooney **MOVED** approval, **SECONDED** by Councilmember Wallace.

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

CP-08-08 - An Ordinance of the City of Punta Gorda, Florida adopting the Evaluation and Appraisal Report based Amendments including the Goals,

Councilmember Wallace inquired if it was possible to relocate the lift to the middle so as not to have the piling outside of the 45 degree angle. He inquired if the lift on lot 5 was under different ownership.

Mr. Keeney responded affirmatively, noting each owner had a different slip.

Mr. Albert Chapman stated he was the adjacent property owner and had no objection to the proposal, noting all of the properties in the area utilized finger docks and moored straight in, thus navigation would not be impeded.

Councilmember Goldberg **MOVED** to close the public hearing, **SECONDED** by Councilmember Wallace.

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

Councilmember Wallace **MOVED** approval, **SECONDED** by Councilmember Goldberg.

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

Z-04-07 – An Ordinance of the City of Punta Gorda, Florida, Rezoning from Commercial Intensive / County (CI / County) to Highway Commercial / City (HC / City) On Property Described As Parcel Nos. 0071936-000000-0, 0071937-000000-9, 0071939-000000-7, 0071940-000000-4 and, also known as, 1603, 1605, 1801, 1825, and 1901 Tamiami Trail as more particularly described on Exhibit “A” attached to the Ordinance and from Planned Development / County (PD / County) to Highway Commercial / City (HC/City); on Property described as Parcel Nos. 0071944-000000-0 and 0071943-000000-1 and, also known as 24136 Shreve St more particularly described on Exhibit “B” attached to the Ordinance and from Commercial General / County (CG / County) to Highway Commercial / City (HC / City); on property described as Parcel 0071936-000100-9 and, also known as 1621, 1725 Tamiami Trail as more particularly described on Exhibit “C” attached to the Ordinance; all properties collectively known as “Palm Automotive” and generally bound to the North by West Henry Street, to the East by Tamiami Trail, and to the West by Shreve Street; providing for conflict and severability and providing an effective date.

SECOND READING

Continued from May 21, 2008 to August 20, 2008

Mayor Friedman announced the continuance.

Councilmember Goldberg **MOVED** to continue Z-04-07 to August 20, 2008, **SECONDED** by Councilmember Wallace.

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

V-04-08 – Request for a variance to the Land Development Regulations per Section 26-16.10., Page 26-196, of the City Code for new construction to allow a 15 foot

rear yard water side setback for a pool and pool enclosure instead of 20 feet as required by City Code Section 26-3.13.(d) on page 26-26, for a new home and pool.
LEGAL: Block 0001, Lot 0011, Amended Plat of Punta Gorda Isles Section One, of the Public Records of Charlotte County, Florida. A/K/A 101 Donna Court, Punta Gorda Florida

City Attorney Levin presented the setback request.

Ms. Teri Tubbs, Zoning Official, displayed an overhead of the location, explaining the property was approximately 872 square feet smaller than the customary key lot within PGI. She displayed overheads of several such lots, noting they were deeper than the subject lot. She pointed out the request was for new construction, which did not allow for a hardship to be denoted. She displayed an overhead of the proposed construction, noting the pool was necessary for physical therapy. She advised the Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) and staff recommended denial based on the ability to construct a smaller home and pool on the lot.

Mr. Thomas Fero, applicant's agent, reiterated the small size of the property, advising the original structure was located with a 15' rear setback and had been grandfathered. He concluded the house would be within the required setbacks, noting a small portion of the pool area would not. He then displayed an overhead denoting the difference of the proposed construction on a regular lot and the subject lot. He mentioned correspondence from neighboring properties denoting support.

Councilmember Smith-Mooney questioned the square footage of the home.

Mr. Fero responded 2188 square feet.

Councilmember Smith-Mooney confirmed the applicant contended there was no method of constructing a pool on the property.

Mr. Fero responded a pool of adequate size could not be constructed, adding the applicants had a letter from a doctor requiring physical therapy.

Councilmember Goldberg inquired if the Millers were the original owners.

Mr. Fero responded they had purchased the lot two months prior.

Councilmember Goldberg inquired if they were aware of the substandard size.

Mr. Fero acknowledged same.

Discussion ensued with regard to the criteria for granting of a variance.

Councilmember Smith-Mooney inquired if the applicant was aware of the lot size when it was purchased.

Mr. Fero responded affirmatively.

Councilmember Goldberg **MOVED** to close the public hearing, **SECONDED** by Councilmember Smith-Mooney.

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

Councilmember Smith-Mooney noted the medical need and support of the neighbors.

Councilmember Wallace concurred with regard to the medical need.

Councilmember Goldberg pointed out the applicant was aware of the problems with the property prior to purchase, adding he did not find anything within the criteria to support approval of the request.

Mayor Friedman concurred, adding members were bound by the criteria. He recalled many past requests that were not approved due to the same criteria.

Councilmember Wallace agreed approval could set a precedent.

NOTE: The public hearing was reopened.

Mr. Fero recalled a previous request he had been involved in where a setback variance had been granted.

City Attorney Levin explained each variance request was considered on its own merits, adding unique circumstances may have been evident in the previous request.

Councilmember Goldberg **MOVED** to close the public hearing, **SECONDED** by Councilmember Smith-Mooney.

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

Councilmember Goldberg **MOVED** denial, **SECONDED** by Councilmember Smith-Mooney.

VOTING AYE: Goldberg, Wallace, Friedman.

VOTING NAY: Smith-Mooney.

MOTION CARRIED.

V-05-08 – Request for a Variance to the Land Development Regulations by Eileen Cavanaugh, Agent for Plaza Camille, per Section 26-16.10., Page 26-196, of the City Code to allow non-conforming signs be re-established on an existing non-conforming sign structure that is 19 feet in height and 106 square feet in area, instead of 5 feet in height and 16 square feet in area, as is required in the City Center Zoning District per Section 26-11.4.(e)(7)(a) on page 26-126. LEGAL: Block 0035, Lots 2,3,4,5 and 6, PUG. A/K/A 205-225 Wood Street, Punta Gorda Florida

City Attorney Levin presented the request for variance.

Ms. Tubbs explained the request was to replace individual sign faces that had been destroyed by Hurricane Charley. She advised the sign faces had originally been approved under one permit; however, under the current code, a like approval was not permitted. She displayed an overhead of the sign structure and the individual sign faces, adding due to the location, visibility was hindered. She noted the desire for the

businesses to have exposure to area roadways. She then attested to the staff report, as delineated in the agenda material, noting staff and the BZA recommended approval. Councilmember Wallace **MOVED** to close the public hearing, **SECONDED** by Councilmember Goldberg.

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

Councilmember Wallace **MOVED** approval with the recommendations by the BZA, **SECONDED** by Councilmember Goldberg.

City Attorney Levin confirmed the sign would be removed if the building were ever demolished.

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

Z-02-08 - An Ordinance of the City of Punta Gorda, Florida, Rezoning from Public to Neighborhood Center on Property commonly known as “The City of Punta Gorda Public Works Campus,” providing for conflict and severability, and providing an effective date and further described in the metes and bounds description below:

A portion of Trabue Subdivision, Blocks 51, 52,53,55,56 & 78 as recorded in Plat Book 1, Page 1, Section 12, Township 41 South, Range 22 East, of the Public Records of Charlotte County, Florida, being more particularly described as follows: Commencing at the Southeast Corner of Block 78, also being the point on the North Right-of-Way of Henry Street and the Southwest Right-of-Way of Shreve Street; thence N. 88° 59’38” W., along the North Right-of-Way of Henry Street, a distance of 749.14 feet to the point of beginning; thence continue along said Right-of-Way N. 88° 59’38” W., a distance of 800.66 feet; thence run perpendicular to said Right-of-Way, N. 1° 00’22”e., a distance of 320.0 feet; thence parallel with said Right-of-Way, N. 88° 59’38” W., a distance of 145.0 feet; thence S. 1° 00’22” W., a distance of 320.0 feet, to the North Right-of-Way Line of Henry Street; thence N. 88° 59’38” W., along said Right-of-Way a distance of 203.39 feet to the Northeast Right-of-Way of Maude Street; thence N. 42° 28’05” W., along said Right-of-Way of Maude Street a distance of 320.33 feet, to the Northwest corner of Block 53, Lot 1, also being the Southerly Right-of-Way of West Olympia Avenue; thence N. 47° 29’ 18” E., along said Right-of-Way a distance of 143.86 feet; thence S. 88° 59’38” E., a distance of 237.41 feet, to the South Line of the Seaboard Coastline Railroad (formerly the Atlantic Coastline Railroad); thence N. 64° 42’47” E. along the South Line of said Railroad a distance of 552.90 feet to the Southwest Right-of-Way of Pittman Street; thence S. 42° 30’ 29” E., along said Right-of-Way, a distance of 75.96 feet to the Northeast Right-of-Way of Virginia Avenue; thence N. 47° 29’13” E. along said Right-of-Way, a distance of 245.0 feet, returning to the South Line of the

Seaboard Coastline Railroad (formerly the Atlantic Coastline Railroad); thence N. 64°42'47" E., along said Railroad Line a distance of 245.44 feet to the Southwest Right-of-Way Line of Shreve Street; thence S. 42° 20'48" E. along said Right-of-Way a distance of 478.85 feet to the Southwest Right-of-Way Line of Charlotte Avenue, thence S. 47° 39'12' W. along said Right-of-Way a distance of 411.54 feet; thence S. 1°00'22" W., a distance of 194.01 feet to the point of beginning from Public to Neighborhood Center; providing for conflict and severability and providing an effective date.

SECOND READING

Continued from May 21, 2008 to August 20, 2008

Mayor Friedman announced the continuance.

Councilmember Goldberg **MOVED** to continue Z-02-08 to August 20, 2008, **SECONDED** by Councilmember Wallace.

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

Ms. LeBeau advised a motion would be required to schedule the second public hearing on CP-08-08 at 9:00 a.m. on November 19, 2008.

Councilmember Wallace **MOVED** to reopen the deliberations on CP-08-08, **SECONDED** by Councilmember Smith-Mooney.

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

Councilmember Smith-Mooney **MOVED** to hold the second hearing on CP-08-08 at 9:00 a.m. on November 19, 2008, **SECONDED** by Councilmember Goldberg.

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

ORDINANCE/RESOLUTION

No Public Hearing Required

A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Punta Gorda, Florida, approving modification to the Airspace Agreement dated November 3, 2005; authorizing the Mayor to sign the Agreement and providing an effective date.

City Attorney Levin read the resolution by title.

Councilmember Smith-Mooney **MOVED** approval, **SECONDED** by Councilmember Goldberg.

Councilmember Wallace commended staff for their work in pursuit of gaining the agreement.

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

An Ordinance of the City of Punta Gorda, Florida, amending Chapter 23 of the City Code of Ordinances, "Traffic", Article II, "Parking Areas", Section 23-13, "Parking in Laishley Park and Ponce De Leon Park", by adding a new subsection (b) establishing fees on an annual or daily basis for boat trailer parking throughout

Laishley Park and Ponce de Leon Park, amending Section 23-14(a), providing a penalty for violation of boat trailer parking fee requirements; providing for conflict and severability and providing an effective date. **SECOND READING**

City Attorney Levin read the ordinance by title, drawing members' attention to the revised effective date of October 1, 2008.

Mayor Friedman recalled the previous vote and noted the absence of one member, suggesting a motion to continue the reading to the following meeting.

Councilmembers Wallace and Smith-Mooney recommended members proceed.

Councilmember Wallace voiced objection to the methodology as it placed a burden on the citizens.

Councilmember Smith-Mooney referenced an email from Mr. Gene Kingery, as delineated in the agenda material, which noted only the boaters were being charged for parking and questioned why all parking was not being charged. She mentioned the registration fees and taxes already paid by the boaters.

Councilmember Goldberg pointed out the funds would be utilized in part to maintain the boat ramps, adding many people utilizing the boat ramps were not County residents and did not pay taxes in the area.

Councilmember Wallace reiterated his opposition to the manner of payment addressed in the ordinance, stating same was unfair to the boaters.

Discussion ensued.

Mayor Friedman stated a benefit of approving same was to remove the incentive for many people who utilized the City's facilities solely based on there being no charge for same.

Councilmember Goldberg **MOVED** to continue to August 9, 2008.

Motion **DIED** for lack of **SECOND**.

Councilmember Smith-Mooney **MOVED** approval, **SECONDED** by Councilmember Goldberg.

VOTNG AYE: Goldberg, Friedman.

VOTING NAY: Wallace, Smith-Mooney.

MOTION FAILED.

City Attorney Levin advised the failed motion meant there was no affirmative action on the ordinance, adding no additional motions were required at this point.

Mayor Friedman stated he understood the City Clerk would advertise the ordinance to be heard at the next meeting.

City Attorney Levin recommended waiting until the next meeting to see if Councilmember Albers made a motion to bring the matter brought back to the City

Council as a new item, explaining if same was approved, staff would be authorized to advertise the ordinance for public hearing.

CONSENT AGENDA

Councilmember Goldberg **MOVED** approval of the consent agenda, **SECONDED** by Councilmember Smith-Mooney.

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

A. CITY CLERK

1. Approval of Minutes: Regular Meeting of July 2, 2008
2. A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Punta Gorda, Florida in support of an Air Traffic Control Tower at the Charlotte County Airport; and providing an effective date.

B. LEGAL DEPARTMENT

1. Statement of Allen, Norton & Blue, Esqs., dated June 24, 2008, in the total amount of \$1,028.01 for services rendered through May 31, 2008

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Revisions to Impact Fee Ordinance related to Affordable Housing and Commercial Projects

Ms. Susan Schoettle-Gumm stated she would like direction from members as to what issues they wished to address, noting mixed-use development appeared to require a certain number of affordable housing units. She questioned whether it would be restricted to certain zoning districts. She recommended consideration be given to an installment payment approach on rental units due to the accounting difficulty based upon tenant turnover. She explained an installment plan provided assistance to the developer while providing the City with assurances the fees would be paid within a period of time. She mentioned this type of development was more likely to face foreclosure than owner occupied units, thus the risk of the City not being paid would be greater. She added it was possible to require each request to obtain City Council approval prior to being granted relief. She then listed certain criteria that might be included such as requiring same to provide a certain number of jobs or requiring a low income business owner.

Councilmember Smith-Mooney questioned the statement regarding financial risk.

Ms. Schoettle-Gumm responded commercial impact fees were higher than residential, adding mixed-use development was also more likely to be foreclosed upon if not financially successful.

Councilmember Smith-Mooney inquired if it was possible to encumber the next owner with any unpaid portion of the impact fees.

Ms. Schoettle-Gumm responded a condition causing the certificate of occupancy to become invalid could be included.

Discussion ensued with regard to payment of fees when the use of the unit changed to less of an impact.

Councilmember Wallace suggested a five year installment period.

Ms. Schoettle-Gumm advised same would increase the risk and administrative burden. She recommended no longer than three years.

City Attorney Levin inquired if it was feasible to prepare a listing of options for consideration by members, adding doing so would enable members to provide more specific direction.

Ms. Schoettle-Gumm stated she hoped to gain enough direction to draft an ordinance. She requested direction as to whether rental and owner occupied units would be considered on the affordable housing portion of the development.

Consensus of members was to require the entire project to be considered.

Councilmember Smith-Mooney inquired if the Bernice Russell Community Development Corporation (BRCDC) project would be up in the air until an ordinance was adopted by City Council.

Mr. Hilston responded the residential units could not be leased until payment of the impact fees.

Discussion ensued with regard to establishment of a program to address affordable housing, mixed-use and an economic development credit for commercial construction.

Ms. Schoettle-Gumm stated the economic development program would require criteria denoting the City's goals. She inquired if the City had an economic development plan.

City Manager Kunik responded Enterprise Punta Gorda, Team Punta Gorda (TPG) and the City contracted with the Chesapeake Group to develop an economic strategy report which denoted the types of businesses and industries that should be targeted based upon need.

Ms. Schoettle-Gumm inquired if there were criteria related to location.

City Manager Kunik responded Enterprise Punta Gorda was City-wide.

Councilmember Smith-Mooney opined the focus was more business development rather than economic development.

Further discussion ensued with regard to affordable housing impact fee deferrals and related criteria.

City Manager Kunik clarified a draft ordinance would be prepared to include both commercial units and affordable housing rentals with a three year installment plan.

Ms. Schoettle-Gumm reported she could provide an outline prior to the August 6, 2008 meeting.

Councilmember Smith-Mooney recommended a covenant on the property deed be required to receive the deferral.

Mr. John Murphy, BRDC, commented their project had been underway for over one year, adding they understood the impact fees for their project had been waived based upon the project being for affordable housing. He added they had only recently been informed of over \$40,000 due in impact fees, commenting on the many additional costs they had encountered. He pointed out every month they were delayed resulted in a loss of \$7,000 in income. He thanked members for any assistance that could be provided.

City Attorney Levin inquired if a temporary certificate of occupancy could be issued for the residential units.

Mr. Dave Drury, Finance Director, responded same was held up due to the utility impact fees that were due as the bonds required payment of same and offered no method of relief.

Ms. Schoettle-Gumm advised she felt she could provide a draft ordinance to the City Attorney for review in time to be advertised for the August 6, 2008 meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion on Merits of an Electronic Sign at the Charlotte Harbor Event and Conference Center

Mr. Dennis Murphy, Growth Management Director, explained the County had requested a discussion on a sign to advertise events. He displayed an overhead denoting the proposed location of the sign, noting the type of sign did not meet the criteria in the code. He requested direction whether a variance application should be submitted.

City Manager Kunik stated staff felt signage should be allowed on a building of this type, inquiring how to do so.

Councilmember Goldberg concurred, adding he did not feel the code contemplated a building of this nature. He spoke in support of the sign, adding same was visible when crossing the US 41 bridge.

Mr. Murphy opined same was less obtrusive than a free standing sign.

Ms. Laura Kleiss-Hoeft, Charlotte County, stated this type of sign had been located at the previous auditorium for many years.

Councilmember Goldberg inquired if the County was comfortable with the location.

Ms. Kleiss-Hoeft responded affirmatively.

Mayor Friedman recommended a variance be requested as same was a unique request, noting the sign would not be seen from within the City.

Councilmember Smith-Mooney voiced opposition to locating the sign on the building wall as it detracted from the appearance of the building facade. She suggested TPG be consulted.

Mayor Friedman pointed out a stand alone sign would be visible from more places, reiterating a variance request would provide the opportunity for further discussion.

Councilmember Wallace inquired if fixed rates would be charged for events in the building.

Ms. Kleiss-Hoeft responded the fee schedule would be based on square footage and bench marks provided by other organizations. She added not for profit groups would be provided a lower rate than commercial ventures.

Councilmember Wallace inquired as to current bookings.

Ms. Kleiss-Hoeft responded bookings were going quite well, noting most weekends were already booked.

Councilmember Smith-Mooney inquired as to the on-site food provider.

Ms. Kleiss-Hoeft responded same was in the middle of the bidding process.

Councilmember Smith-Mooney inquired if all events would be required to utilize that vendor.

Ms. Kleiss-Hoeft explained multiple uses would be going on at the same time, noting there was only one commercial kitchen, thus multiple caterers would not be permitted. She stated a function renting the entire facility may be allowed to utilize their own caterer.

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM CITY OFFICERS

CITY MANAGER

City Manager Kunik reported members would receive the formal budget book upon their return from summer break.

CITY CLERK

City Clerk Foster advised she would present the revised bylaws relating to attendance for all boards and committees for approval at Council's next meeting, adding she had received several questions, thus the amended bylaws would be included in each board/committee's agenda packet for their August meetings. She explained the new procedures would become effective at that time.

BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

Announcement of Vacancies

Board of Zoning Appeals – Alternate

City Clerk Foster announced the continuing vacancy.

Building Board – Alternate

City Clerk Foster announced the continuing vacancy.

Revitalization Committee

City Clerk Foster drew members' to Ms. Claire Phelen's resume, received after compilation of the agenda material.

Councilmember Goldberg **MOVED** to nominate and appoint Ms. Phelen, **SECONDED** by Councilmember Smith-Mooney.

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

Building Board – 2

City Clerk Foster announced the vacancies.

Nominations

Planning Commission - Alternate

Councilmember Goldberg **MOVED** to nominate and appoint Mr. Stevens, **SECONDED** by Councilmember Wallace.

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

Appointments

There were none.

POLICY AND LEGISLATION

GOLDBERG: Commended the July 4th event held in Laishley Park, noting approximately 6,000 people attended same.

FRIEDMAN: Requested an update at the next meeting with regard to the mining permit related to the reservoir.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

Ms. Dianne Bettmann mentioned the many people moving into the Punta Gorda Housing Authority, speaking favorably regarding same.

Mr. Hughes, TPG, spoke with regard to the proposed sign for the Event Center, noting placing same on the building may not be preferred. He requested opportunity for the TPG Architectural Committee to consider possible locations.

Councilmember Goldberg added the Main Street committee would be afforded the same opportunity.

Mr. Dennis Clark spoke in opposition to the proposed parking fee for boat trailers based upon the increase in gas prices and decrease in economy. He opined it would cost the City more than they gained in revenue. He requested Punta Gorda remain unique and not charge for parking.

Mr. Steve Fabian pointed out County staff had been opposed to Dr. Barrudi's request

to place a flashing sign on his building, asserting they must feel it was alright for the City but not the County.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:21 a.m.

Mayor

City Clerk