



**CITY OF PUNTA GORDA, FLORIDA  
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2008 9:00 A.M.**

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

**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 9:00 a.m.

Invocation was given by Mr. John Burrage, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**PROCLAMATION/PRESENTATIONS**

**America Business Women's Day**

Councilmember Smith-Mooney presented the proclamation.

Ms. Andrea Carroll accepted same.

**Constitution Week**

Councilmember Albers presented the proclamation to Ms. Sidney Tatom.

**National Estuaries Day**

Councilmember Wallace read the proclamation and accepted same on behalf of the Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program (CHNEP).

**Ronald Logan, Fire Department – 20 Years of Service**

City Manager Kunik presented the award to Mr. Logan.

Mr. Rob Hancock, Fire Chief, spoke of Mr. Logan's years with the City.

**NOTE: City Council recessed and reconvened as the Community Redevelopment Agency. (See corresponding minutes)**

**PUBLIC HEARINGS**

**SV-02-08 - A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Punta Gorda, Florida, vacating a portion of a 15 feet wide alley lying between Lots 9, 10, 11, 12, 13 and 14, Block 4, City of Punta Gorda, according to the plat thereof as recorded in Plat Book 1, Page 21, of the public records of Charlotte County, Florida; being more specifically described in Exhibit "A".**

City Attorney Levin read the resolution by title.

Ms. Teri Tubbs, Zoning Official, explained the request was a portion of a three part project, recalling a variance request had been approved to provide parking and a two way alley between the Wyvern Hotel and Dean's South of the Border restaurant. She noted a dedication to the City of adjacent property would provide for the alley widening.

Mr. Rob Berntsson, agent, advised a temporary construction easement had been provided, adding a deed dedicating the property to the City would be provided following the vacation.

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

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

**MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.**

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

**MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.**

**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 Highway Commercial Corridor/City (HCC/City) on property generally described as 1603, 1605, 1621, 1725, 1801, 1825 and 1901 Tamiami Trail as more particularly described on Exhibit “A” attached to the Ordinance and from High Density Residential/County (HDR/County) to Highway Commercial Corridor/City (HCC/City) on property generally described as 24136 Shreve Street as 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; and amending the City of Punta Gorda, Florida 1997 Comprehensive Plan Future Land Use Element to include a “Highway Commercial Corridor (HCC)” land use designation; providing for conflict and severability and providing an effective date.**

**SECOND READING**

City Attorney Levin read the ordinance by title.

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

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

**MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.**

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

**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” generally located between Maud Street, West Olympia Avenue, Shreve St, and West Henry Street, more particularly described on Exhibit “A” attached hereto; and amending the City of Punta Gorda Florida 1997 Comprehensive Plan Future Land Use Element; providing for conflict and severability and providing an effective date.** **SECOND READING**

City Attorney Levin read the ordinance by title.

Mayor Friedman called three times for public comment.

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

**MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.**

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

**MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.**

#### **QUASI-JUDICIAL PUBLIC HEARINGS**

**V-07-08 – Request for a variance to the Land Development Regulations per Section 26-16.10., Page 26-196 of the City Code to allow a LED, static, changeable message sign on the north wall of the Charlotte Harbor Event and Conference Center instead of individual letters attached directly to the building street frontage as required per Section 26-11.4.(a)(1) and (a)(4), page 26-124; and that the LED, static, changeable message sign extends 9.5 inches from the building face instead of 6 inches as required per Section 26-11.4.(a)(4), page 26-124; and that the copy on the LED, static, changeable message sign may change electronically, instead of individual letters and numbers attached to the sign as required per Section 26-11.3.(c)(1) on page 26-119, and that the electronically changing sign message will be permitted, instead of prohibited per Section 26-11.6.(d), page 26-127. And, Request for a variance to the Land Development Regulations per Section 26-16.10., Page 26-196 of the City Code to allow a ground sign for the Charlotte Harbor Event and Conference Center that is located in the City Center zoning district and is less than 15 feet from the fronting right-of-way as required per Section 26-11.4.(7), on page 26-126, and that the sign be permitted in conjunction with a facade sign instead of prohibited per Section 26-11.4.(7)c., page 26-126.**

City Attorney Levin presented the signage request.

City Clerk Foster swore in all participants.

Ms. Tubbs displayed an overhead of the location and proposed sign, as delineated in the agenda material, explaining the location and design of same. She reported both Team Punta Gorda (TPG) and the Main Street Punta Gorda (MSPG) both recommended the sign be framed in the same color as the roof. She advised TPG had also recommended the top of the sign be changed to a darker color and the letters be cut out so the words were lit rather than the background. She noted TPG had concern the palm trees would block the sign, suggesting a relocation, while MSPG felt the proposed location was appropriate. She then stated both TPG and MSPG recommended the sign be limited to events and conferences at the center and to not allow any commercial advertising, adding both requested assurances the sign would be dimmed at night. She then addressed the request for a ground sign, displaying a drawing of same and the proposed location, stating same would be helpful to pedestrians and traffic. She advised staff concluded the requested variances were necessary for the reasonable use of the event and conference center, reporting the Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) recommended approval conditioned upon the following: messages be limited to events at the center; the non-changeable portion be designed with white letters on a black background and that the LED sign be designed to blend into the wall without detracting from the functionality of the sign. She then displayed a rendering prepared by Charlotte County which included the conditions required by BZA and in response to citizens comments.

**Mayor Friedman** stated that although he rarely involved himself in aesthetics, he felt that based upon the attention placed on the exterior of the building by groups such as TPG and the fact that the City had expended \$1,200,000 to improve on the initial exterior style, he felt consideration should be given to removing the sign from the building façade. He added the funding had been intended to provide a historic mission style building, questioning why approval should be granted to locate an ultra modern, lighted sign in the middle of the building. He maintained same would detract from the appearance that was desired. He suggested the County maintain the appearance of the building as it was and relocate the sign on a pole at the northernmost corner of the property. He stated same would prevent the sign from being seen from any location except the bridge or the water.

**Councilmember Smith-Mooney** concurred, adding the City had invested \$1,200,000 on the exterior appearance of the building. She pointed out the sign would be the only thing visible at night. She stated when driving on the bridge, the proposed location

was not visible for a very long period of time. She stated a suggestion had been made to locate a sign on the Charlotte Harbor side of the bridge indicating Event Center parking should utilize the left lane.

**Councilmember Albers** concurred the sign was a distraction to the building, voicing surprise same was approved by the various groups after all the discussion regarding the exterior design. He inquired if they were aware other options were available.

**Councilmember Goldberg** responded MSPG referenced only the variance request.

Mr. David Milligan, Charlotte County, explained the proposed location had been anticipated from the beginning of building design as it was the highest point of visibility for southbound traffic. He stated they had also designed same to not be seen from other parts of the City, adding the sign had been designed in a low key nature so as to not stand out from the building. He reported changes to the design had been made in response to citizens' comments to provide the black background with white letters and a black frame surrounding same. In reference to the suggestion for a pole sign, he stated they did not consider same as it would attract attention away from the building and would present a separate element on the site. He pointed out the cost of a simple pole sign with a box on top was approximately \$24,000, noting it would not be architecturally acceptable on the site. He pointed out the back of same would be blank. He concluded with the costs of repairing the sign should it experience wind damage.

**Mayor Friedman** reiterated the northern corner of the property offered the most visibility from US 41.

**Councilmember Wallace** inquired if a study had been performed as to the most visible location.

Mr. Milligan responded they wished to have the most visibility from southbound traffic. He acknowledged there would be no difference in visibility with a pole sign.

Discussion ensued with regard to lettering color and style.

Mr. Don McCormick reminded members the sign would also be used for Amber Alerts. He then stated he felt a pole sign would detract people from looking at the building, adding the sign was more unobtrusive on the building wall.

**Mayor Friedman** stated he felt the first thing viewed from the bridge would be the building, adding when exiting the building, the sign would become visible.

Ms. Christel Schmidt agreed locating the sign on the building detracted from the aesthetics of same. She then presented a sketch of a sign design she felt was appropriate, as delineated in the agenda material.

**Councilmember Wallace** voiced concern with delaying the project, inquiring if the County Commission had discussed and approved the sign.

Mr. Milligan responded the sign had been included in the event center design.

**Mayor Friedman** opined there was adequate time to redesign the sign prior to the opening of the event center. He reiterated his objection to expending \$1,200,000 for the sake of appearance to have it spoiled by the sign.

Mr. Milligan reiterated the sign was designed for the proposed location to be as unobtrusive as possible, adding same belonged on the building to identify the building. He advised there was no funding left in the budget to redesign the sign.

Ms. Schmidt then voiced objection the Revitalization Committee had not been offered an opportunity to review the sign.

Mr. Milligan reported they had previously provided the concept to City Council.

**Councilmember Albers** questioned the size.

Mr. Milligan responded 10' X 20' was the total size which included the name of the event center.

**Councilmember Albers** opined placing a sign of that size on a pole would amount to a billboard type sign, adding the County would most like still want some type of sign on the building when funding was available. He stated he was unsure if a billboard size pole sign was preferable.

**Mayor Friedman** reiterated the pole location would not be seen by other areas within the City.

Ms. Nancy Prafke, TPG, advised when they reviewed the sign, it had been presented as a foregone conclusion it would be located on the building. She reported they had discussed the fact they preferred it in a different location; however, under the conditions had attempted to provide recommendations to improve the design at the proposed location.

Mr. Ray Rose stated a pole sign would look the same as the one located at the liquor store south of the City limits.

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

**MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.**

City Attorney Levin suggested the two variance requests be considered separately.

**Mayor Friedman** asked Councilmember Goldberg's opinion on the sign location.

**Councilmember Goldberg** stated he saw the merits of both locations, adding with the cost considerations he would not object to approving the variance.

**Councilmember Wallace** suggested the County be given the opportunity to consider other alternatives and funding.

**Councilmember Albers** asked if members all agreed conceptually the sign size was appropriate, that a 10' X 20' sign would be located either on the building or a pole or if members felt a pole sign should be smaller. He concluded if the size were to remain, he was hesitant to request a pole sign.

**Councilmember Goldberg** opined the liquor store sign was totally objectionable and would not wish to see a similar sign at this location.

**Councilmember Smith-Mooney** inquired as to the code regulation on free standing signs.

Ms. Tubbs responded the City Center zoning district prohibited free standing signs, but rather permitted ground signs limited to 5' in height and 16 square feet (sf) in area. She advised the largest sign permitted by code was within the Highway Commercial zoning district and allowed 15' in height and 64 sf in area. She noted a variance would be required for the suggested pole sign.

Discussion ensued with regard to whether a 10' X 20' pole sign was desirable.

Councilmember Albers **MOVED** approval.

**Councilmember Wallace** asked if the motion could be conditioned on the County revisiting the design.

Councilmember Albers **AMENDED** the **MOTION** to condition it upon the sign containing only event messages and Amber Alerts and not to allow commercial advertising, non-changeable portion be white letters on a black background, and be constructed as the displayed rendering this date, **SECONDED** by Councilmember Goldberg.

**Councilmember Smith-Mooney** voiced concern the City had an employee with extreme architectural knowledge, asking if members had asked his opinion of the sign location.

**Councilmember Goldberg** pointed out if staff had any architectural knowledge, same should have been included in the staff report.

Mr. David Hilston, Urban Design Manager, explained his comments were considered during staff's review, adding the end result was what staff felt was the best solution for all involved parties.

City Manager Kunik inquired as to specific comments.

Mr. Hilston responded with uncertainty due to the many various reviews.

**Councilmember Smith-Mooney** reported he was more in favor of a sign detached from the building. She asserted once the sign was placed on the building, it would remain.

Councilmember Goldberg pointed out this was a quasi-judicial proceeding, thus the decision must be made on the testimony heard this date.

VOTING AYE: Goldberg, Albers, Wallace.

VOTING NAY: Smith-Mooney, Friedman.

MOTION CARRIED.

**ORDINANCE/RESOLUTION**

**No Public Hearing Required**

**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 Street 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**

City Attorney Levin read the ordinance by title.

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

**MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.**

**NOTE: Councilmember Albers left the meeting at 11:10 a.m. and returned at 11:13 a.m.**

**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

City Attorney Levin read the ordinance by title.

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

**MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.**

#### CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Friedman pulled item B-4.

Councilmember Albers pulled item D-1.

Mayor Friedman commented while he felt the lease agreement was more equitable than in the past, the YMCA was not paying rent thus he felt a percentage of the monies they made renting the City's property should be returned to the City.

**Councilmember Albers** concurred.

**Councilmember Goldberg** commented the lease period was for two years, opining around that time, the Public Works and Utilities departments would be moving out of the Bayfront Center. He mentioned the desire to utilize the building for waterfront type events, thus the lease should be reconsidered as well.

Mr. Carroll commented on the decision made toward not providing a discount to the museum at the parking structure, recommending same be an across the board policy to gain fair competitive value for all City owned properties.

Mr. Brian Seay, YMCA, voiced appreciation to being able to use the Bayfront, adding due to the size of the room they leased, the only use at this time was the bridge program. He advised there had been some discussion to utilizing same for daycare during the summer months. He advised at this time the only income being derived from the Bayfront Center location was \$4,500 - \$5,000 per year.

**Mayor Friedman** explained he was not talking about fees paid for YMCA programs, but rather for outside rentals to other groups. He inquired if members were comfortable with 25% of non-YMCA fees that were collected.

Consensus of members was to agree.

**Councilmember Albers** then mentioned the state of emergency pay policy being proposed, explaining there was overtime paid to employees for performing their usual work. He stated the policy was written in such a manner that the overtime pay would continue until the City Manager stopped same. He suggested the City Manager review the policy to bring it back for approval at a later date. He further voiced objection to exempt employees being paid overtime, noting salaried employees should not be paid overtime except in rare instances.

**Councilmember Wallace** expressed surprise that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) did not have guidelines.

**Mayor Friedman** stated he also was opposed to the policy, adding if the emergency lasted a certain number of days, it was reasonable, but not from the first hour of the emergency.

**Councilmember Goldberg** agreed with members' concerns, adding he felt the definition section should define which employees are exempt and nonexempt.

**Mayor Friedman** mentioned J-5 in the definition section was poorly worded.

City Manager Kunik explained the extra pay did not start when the state of emergency was declared, but rather when a core set of people were required to be at the City following regular working hours. He added there was also an end time to that period.

**Councilmember Smith-Mooney** reminded members that during Hurricane Charley there were employees who had to ignore their family's situation in order to perform the work required of them, adding she felt that was the reason for providing additional pay.

**Councilmember Albers** stated he felt the employees who were required to stay at work when City Hall was closed should be compensated at a higher rate than those who were being paid at home.

Consensus of members was to defer this item to a future meeting.

In reference to the YMCA lease, City Attorney Levin proposed the following verbiage be added to 4A: "At such times as the Center is available, the agent may lease or rent the premises to the public at the rates set forth in Exhibit A, attached hereto and made a part hereof. As consideration of this agreement, the YMCA shall provide to the City an amount equal to 25% of such rental fees collected. Said fees shall be provided to the City on a quarterly basis."

**Mayor Friedman** then confirmed the consent agenda would include the modification to item B-4 and the removal of item D-1.

Councilmember Goldberg **MOVED** approval of the consent agenda as amended, **SECONDED** by Councilmember Wallace.

**MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.**

**A. CITY CLERK'S OFFICE**

1. Approval of Minutes:
  - a. Regular Meeting of September 3, 2008
  - b. Budget Public Hearing of September 3, 2008

**B. LEGAL DEPARTMENT**

1. Statement of Allen, Norton & Blue, P.A., for services rendered through July 31, 2008.
2. Statement of the Farr Law Firm for services rendered through July 31, 2008.
3. Statement of Icard, Merrill, Cullis, Timm, Furen & Ginsburg, P.A., for services rendered by David M. Levin, Esq., through September 10, 2008
4. A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Punta Gorda, Florida, approving the Management Agreement between the City of Punta Gorda and the Charlotte County Family YMCA, authorizing the Mayor to sign the agreement and providing an effective date.

**C. GROWTH MANAGEMENT**

1. A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Punta Gorda, Florida, approving the Interlocal Agreement for Coordinated Planning and School Concurrency

between the City of Punta Gorda (City), the Charlotte County Board of County Commissioners (County), and the School Board of Charlotte County (School Board), Florida, and authorizing the Mayor to sign the agreement on behalf of the City of Punta Gorda.

2. Request by Fishermen's Village to add a 72 square foot storage area for Bella Luna.
3. A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Punta Gorda, Florida, approving the Local Agency Program Supplemental Agreement and authorizing the City Manager to sign the Supplemental Agreement
4. A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Punta Gorda, Florida, approving the Local Agency Program Supplemental Agreement and authorizing the City Manager to sign the Supplemental Agreement

**D. HUMAN RESOURCES**

1. A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Punta Gorda, Florida approving the City of Punta Gorda Declared State Of Emergency (D.S.E) Reporting and Pay Policy as amended and providing an effective date.

**E. PROCUREMENT**

1. Approval of draft agreement for the Cooper Street Recreational Facility Expansion to DeAngelis Diamond Construction, Inc. of Naples, FL.

**RECOMMENDATIONS FROM CITY OFFICERS**

**CITY CLERK**

City Clerk Foster advised she would be bringing back the Punta Gorda Housing Authority (PGHA) vacancy as the person appointed at Council's last meeting did not meet the residency requirements.

**BOARDS AND COMMITTEES**

**Announcement of Vacancies**

Board of Zoning Appeals - Alternate

City Clerk Foster announced the vacancy.

Revitalization Committee

City Clerk Foster announced the vacancy.

**Nominations**

Building Board - Alternate

Councilmember Smith-Mooney **MOVED** to nominate and appoint Mr. Wiker, **SECONDED** by Councilmember Goldberg.

**MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.**

Code Enforcement Board

Councilmember Smith-Mooney **NOMINATED** all interested parties.

## **Appointments**

Board of Zoning Appeals

Voting forms were distributed.

City Attorney Levin reported Mr. Ray Rose had received the most votes and was therefore appointed to the Board of Zoning Appeals.

## **POLICY & LEGISLATION**

**WALLACE:** Suggested a policy be considered with regard to nonprofits, adding he did not feel all should be treated the same. He further stated he felt there was some intrinsic value in cities providing assistance to museums. He acknowledged the proposed purchase price was not adequate; however, he did not feel all nonprofits should be considered in the same manner. He reiterated there was some value to helping locate a museum in the downtown area, thus some nonprofits should be considered differently.

**Mayor Friedman** agreed there was a difference in something like a decreased rent on an existing City-owned building such as was done with the YMCA lease this date; however, when City-owned property was to be purchased, it should be competitive due to the fact others may be interested as well.

**ALBERS:** Reported the PGHA had decided to sell their property on East Marion Avenue and were soliciting realtors as they would not redevelop the property. He advised there had been an attempt to arrange a land swap with The Avenues developer; however, same did not come to fruition.

- Mentioned the PGHA was seeking a 2-3 acre parcel near shopping areas, requesting anyone who was aware of same to please advise him. He noted same would be utilized for senior housing as there was a long waiting list.

- Commented on the proposed school redistricting which would affect residents of Burnt Store Meadows. He reported members had only recently heard of the proposal and had requested a meeting with school officials, wherein it was apparent they were not interested in discussing alternatives to the proposal to require residents of Burnt Store Meadows to attend East Elementary rather than Sallie Jones Elementary. He provided a detailed update on the proposed redistricting and unsuccessful attempts to convince the School Board to hold a workshop to discuss potential options. He mentioned his plans to attend the School Board meeting the following week, requesting the ability to express Council's objection and to ask for a 30 day continuance to hold a joint meeting to consider options.

**Mayor Friedman** added the School Board acknowledged they had not considered City boundaries and showed no willingness to consider any other alternatives, noting same was frustrating due to the fact there were 185 student reassignments at the present time. He stated within five years all 185 of those students would have graduated while all that was currently needed for Burnt Store Meadows residents was 65 places. He opined there was more than ample capacity through attrition, noting same should be considered by the School Board.

**Councilmember Smith-Mooney** expressed dismay that there had been no mention of the redistricting during their recent joint meeting with the School Board and County Commission, inquiring if the City had any leverage due to the City's agreement with their future plans.

**Councilmember Goldberg** added it was not mentioned during the City's development of the school concurrency portion of the Comprehensive Plan although City staff spent untold hours working with the School Board on same.

**Councilmember Albers** concluded the proposed plan did not consider the sense of community, adding he felt strongly the City should be addressed differently than the remainder of the County as it was the only City in the County.

**GOLDBERG:** Stated Enterprise Charlotte would be making some dynamic changes in the near future, requesting Mr. Don Root be scheduled for a presentation to City Council.

#### CITIZENS' COMMENTS

Mr. Steve Fabian spoke favorably toward the visit to Punta Gorda for the 21 veterans, stating Punta Gorda was the only City in the country to do so. He mentioned how he had warned the City Manager about the large turnout in the Historic District on Halloween; however, he had run out of candy in previous years. He then donated several bags of candy to the City Manager. He concluded his comments with compliments regarding the reconstruction of the PGHA, adding people were coming from all over the state to view same.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:59 a.m.

---

Mayor

---

City Clerk