



**CITY OF PUNTA GORDA, FLORIDA
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15, 2009 9:00 A.M.**

COUNCILMEMBERS PRESENT: Friedman, Albers, Wallace, Goldberg, McCormick

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.

PROCLAMATIONS/PRESENTATIONS

National Telecommunications Week

Mayor Friedman presented the proclamation to Ms. Nancy Morris who accepted it on behalf of the communications division.

Parliamentary Law Month

Councilmember McCormick presented the proclamation, which was accepted by Mr. Gene Coy.

Water Conservation Month

Councilmember Wallace presented the proclamation.

Mr. Rufus Lazzell accepted same on behalf of the Peace River Basin Board.

Autism Awareness Month

Councilmember Albers presented the proclamation to Ms. Maureen Morris.

Arbor Day

Councilmember Goldberg presented the proclamation, which was accepted by Mr. Dennis Murphy, Growth Management Director.

25 Year Service Award – Pat Francis, Police Department

City Manager Kunik presented the award to Ms. Francis.

Police Chief Butch Arenal spoke of Ms. Francis' years with the City.

National Institute of Governmental Purchasing Outstanding Agency Accreditation Achievement Award

City Manager Kunik presented the award.

Ms. Marian Howe, Procurement Manager, accepted same on behalf of the entire division.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

ZA-03-09 – An Ordinance of the City of Punta Gorda, Florida, amending Chapter 26 of the City Code of Ordinances known as “The Land Development Regulations”, Article 3, Regulating Districts, amending Subsection 3.13., SRO, Special Residential Overlay District, amending Subsection 3.13.(L) Storage of Vehicles; providing for allowance for watercraft to be temporarily parked in residential driveways or public right-of-way; providing for temporary parking permits; providing for conflict and severability; and providing an effective date. **FIRST READING**

City Attorney Levin read the ordinance by title.

Ms. Teri Tubbs, Zoning Official, explained the proposed amendment would allow watercraft owners to have their watercraft in the driveway for short periods of time to load or unload, or to wash and/or wax their watercraft as needed. She denoted proposed changes as follows: clarified watercraft could be stored on the dock, on a lift or davits or in the water; small watercraft such as kayaks or canoes could be placed on the roof rack of a vehicle for no more than two days; a single watercraft could be parked in the driveway or in the right-of-way (ROW) off of the paved road between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.; watercraft could not be kept at the premises between the hours of 7:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. unless entirely within the confines of a garage or carport, or upon obtaining a no charge permit from the City, such permit allowed no more than two times per calendar year. She stated the Waterfront Development Advisory Committee (WDAC) recommended increasing the permitted occasions from two per calendar year to six and to allow maintenance such as spark plug changes, flushings and propeller changes in the resident’s drive way. She advised the Planning Commission recommended approval as written with the word “watercraft” to be included in the code section title. She concluded staff recommended approval as recommended by the Planning Commission.

Mayor Friedman added the proposed ordinance was precipitated by northern residents who wished to perform minor maintenance on their boats upon arriving to Punta Gorda.

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

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

Councilmember Wallace stated he concurred the permit should be allowed more than two times per year.

Councilmember Albers suggested three or four occurrences.

Councilmember Wallace **MOVED** approval as amended to provide for a permit on four occasions and to amend the verbiage of the title, **SECONDED** by Councilmember Goldberg.

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

ZA-04-09 – An Ordinance of the City of Punta Gorda, Florida, amending Chapter 26 of the City Code of Ordinances known as “The Land Development Regulations”, Article 3, Regulating Districts, amending Subsection 3.13 Special residential Overlay District, Subsection (o), Water Wells, providing for permitting requirements for wells installed for irrigation purposes; providing for buffering requirements; providing for conflict and severability; and providing an effective date.

FIRST READING

City Attorney Levin read the ordinance by title.

Ms. Tubbs stated the proposed amendment would allow wells to be drilled with the proper permit, adding same must use a submersible pump to limit the amount of above ground piping and equipment. She further stated any above ground piping or equipment must be landscaped so as not to be visible from streets or adjoining properties. She noted pump location would be determined by Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) and the Charlotte County Health Department, with final approval by the City Zoning Division, noting in no case would same be located closer than 20 feet from the center of a seawall cap. She advised the proposed amendment would reduce the use of potable water for irrigation, acknowledging same would reduce income for City utilities, but would also reduce the need to construct new water plants. She pointed out SWFWMD encouraged the use of lower quality water for irrigation, thus saving potable water. She concluded staff recommended approval; however, the Planning Commission recommended denial by a 4 to 3 vote.

Councilmember Albers pointed out the deed restrictions did not allow wells, asking if any of the district associations had been contacted.

Ms. Tubbs responded in the negative.

Councilmember Goldberg inquired why same was not presented to the Utility Advisory Board (UAB).

City Manager Kunik responded staff was concerned the UAB would view same as only an impact on revenues rather than considering the conservation aspects.

Councilmember Goldberg stated he felt the UAB should review same.

Mr. Ken Struzik, Punta Gorda Isles (PGI) Section 14 Property Owners Association, explained rather than having canals, their community had greenbelts which were

maintained by the association. He noted with the increasing cost of water, they wished to refurbish an existing well to be utilized for irrigation.

Mayor Friedman pointed out if the ordinance was approved, everyone would be allowed to apply for a permit to install an irrigation well. He opined the variance approach was preferable than changing the ordinance.

Councilmember Goldberg asked if the well would be utilized for residential areas.

Mr. Struzik responded in the negative, adding a rain gauge would be utilized to ensure the common areas were only watered when necessary.

Councilmember Goldberg confirmed watering would be restricted to one day as per the current watering restrictions.

Mr. Steve Fabian, UAB Member, stated he felt the board could have concern the proposed change may have an effect on the long range planning being performed at this time.

Mayor Friedman recommended if members wished to move forward with the ordinance rather than a variance, same should be reviewed by the UAB.

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

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

City Attorney Levin advised the variance criteria would prove difficult to gain approval should requests be considered on a case by case basis, thus a special exception or permit would be the method of considering same.

Mayor Friedman inquired if the proposed ordinance could be amended to accomplish same.

Councilmember McCormick concurred the special exception process would be appropriate.

Consensus of members was to agree.

City Attorney Levin advised the ordinance would require redrafting and readvertising.

Councilmember Albers stated if members were not in favor of granting appropriate requests, there was no need to move forward.

Consensus of members was to direct staff to redraft the ordinance.

City Attorney Levin inquired if individual home owners would be allowed to request a special permit.

Mayor Friedman stated his reason for suggesting a variance was to limit individual residences from meeting the criteria.

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

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

ZA-05-09 – An Ordinance of the City of Punta Gorda, Florida, amending Chapter 26 of the City Code of Ordinances known as “The Land Development Regulations”, Article 10, Parking and Loading, amending Subsection 10.3.(f) and (h), Parking Specifications; providing for parking space standards; providing for maximum driveway widths; providing for required driveway materials; providing for minimum distance from intersecting right-of-way lines; providing for maximum number of ingress and egress points per property; providing for conflict and severability; and providing an effective date.

FIRST READING

City Attorney Levin read the ordinance by title only.

Ms. Tubbs explained staff had encountered instances where the proposed sections of the code were applicable to only commercial or multi-family, thus the amendment would include all of the provisions within one section and be applicable to all uses. She stated same would provide the Right-of-Way (ROW) Division the ability to determine the best location for driveway aprons. She stated the Planning Commission recommended approval with motorcycle parking limited to two contiguous spaces while staff recommended approval as written.

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

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

Councilmember Albers questioned the recommendation regarding motorcycle parking.

Ms. Tubbs explained the Planning Commission voiced concern that motorcycle parking might take up too much of the available parking; however, staff did not believe same would occur.

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

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

An Ordinance of the City of Punta Gorda, Florida amending Ordinance 1496-07, for property commonly know as 24500 Airport Road, more particularly described in Exhibit “A”, amending the affordable housing restriction contained in said Ordinance to allow a senior affordable housing rental neighborhood of no less than 120 units and no more than 176 units to provide public housing and tax credit housing for seniors and related amenities; providing for conflict and severability; and providing an effective date.

FIRST READING

City Attorney Levin read the ordinance by title, stating the ordinance included within the agenda material was not the correct ordinance. He noted the correct ordinance had been distributed and was correctly advertised.

Ms. Tubbs stated the property was annexed into the City in 2007 with plans for 176 housing units with 130 of them to be designated affordable housing restriction; however, under the current economic conditions, the owner is selling the property to the Punta Gorda Housing Authority to allow reconstruction of public housing and tax credit housing which fills a current need. She stated the original ordinance required the owner to provide affordable housing to moderate income households for ten years, while the proposed amendment would provide housing opportunities to senior residents of the City, thus ensuring affordability of those units in perpetuity. She concluded staff and the Planning Commission recommended approval.

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

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

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

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

QUASI-JUDICIAL PUBLIC HEARINGS

City Clerk Foster swore in all participants for the following quasi-judicial proceedings.

PD-01-09 - An Ordinance of the City of Punta Gorda, Florida amending Ordinance 1498-07, rezoning property commonly known as 24500 Airport Road, more particularly described on Exhibit "A", from Neighborhood Center (NC) to Planned Development Neighborhood/Neighborhood Center (PDN/NC) for the development of a senior affordable housing rental neighborhood to provide no less than 120 units and no more than 176 units of public housing and tax credit housing for seniors and related amenities, and for commercial/office mixed use development; providing for conflict and severability; and providing an effective date.

FIRST READING

City Attorney Levin read the ordinance by title.

Ms. Tubbs stated this related to the above mentioned property, noting rezoning a portion of the property to Planned Development Neighborhood/Neighborhood Center (PDN/NC) allowed the Housing Authority the flexibility to adapt the parcel to their specific needs while ensuring that PD regulations were met. She explained the PD would provide for three habitable floors below the tie beam with a maximum height of 40' as in multi-family construction, parking in front of the principle building and the building would maintain a 25' setback from the pond, with the patio area permitted to the water's edge. She advised the proposed zoning would provide for public and tax credit housing, reporting staff and the Planning Commission recommended approval.

Mayor Friedman inquired if property taxes would be paid.

Mr. Dave Drury, Finance Director, responded they paid Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) which was a portion of their rental revenues.

Mayor Friedman inquired why parking was not being provided behind the buildings.

Mr. David Hilston, Urban Design Manager, explained a secondary street had been created which would allow parallel parking.

Councilmember Albers pointed out construction on this property was in lieu of reconstructing public housing on the East Marion Avenue property which was a very important commercial location.

Discussion ensued with regard to ownership of the entire property that was annexed into the City.

Mr. Rick Cavalieri, Norstar Development, advised the Punta Gorda Housing Authority did purchase the entire parcel; however, the intent was to sell the portion not to be developed.

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

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

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

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

SE-04-09 – A Special Exception request by Klint and Rachael Keesling, per Section 26-16.8., of the City Code of Ordinances to allow artificial turf to be installed on private property, as permitted by Special Exception approval per City Code Section 26-12.3.(n), at 850 Bimini Lane, in a General Single Family (GS) zoning district. Legal Description: Block 98, Lot 34, Punta Gorda Isles, Section 11 Replat

Ms. Tubbs presented the request for artificial turf, stating the artificial turf had been installed with the misunderstanding the ordinance had been adopted to permit same. She noted letters of support from the neighboring property owners had been provided. She displayed photographs, as delineated in the agenda material, stating same demonstrated the code requirements had been met or exceeded. She concluded staff and the Planning Commission recommended approval with the understanding the City bore no responsibility should work be required in the ROW or along the seawall.

Councilmember McCormick inquired if there was documentation as to the ecological benefit to the canal, such as no drainage of fertilizer.

Ms. Tubbs responded same allowed adequate drainage of rainwater, adding adequate live plant material was required to support wildlife.

Mr. Klint Keesling, applicant, noted there were municipalities that provided an incentive to utilize artificial turf as an ecological benefit. He suggested the City consider a reduction of the Special Exception fee in order to promote the use of artificial turf.

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

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

Councilmember Goldberg mentioned the water management boards supported the use of artificial turf.

Councilmember Goldberg **MOVED** approval conditioned on the front being completed, **SECONDED** by Councilmember McCormick.

Councilmember Wallace inquired as to the request for a reduced fee.

Mayor Friedman advised same was possible, inquiring if members wished to do so.

Councilmember McCormick stated he was not in favor of same based upon the cost savings to the property owner over time.

Councilmember Goldberg recommended same be reduced by half based on the benefit to the City.

Councilmember Albers countered the fees were based upon the actual cost of processing the request.

Mayor Friedman reiterated the benefit to the City.

Councilmember Goldberg **AMENDED** the **MOTION** to reduce the fee by 50%.

Councilmember McCormick **AMENDED** the **SECOND**.

Councilmember Albers stated he did not see it as such a benefit to the City, reminding members of the loss of utility revenue.

VOTING AYE: Goldberg, McCormick, Wallace, Friedman.

VOTING NAY: Albers.

MOTION CARRIED.

ORDINANCE/RESOLUTION

No Public Hearing Required

An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Punta Gorda, Florida establishing a new Chapter 11B of the Code of Punta Gorda, Florida, titled the Punta Gorda Economic Development Incentives; establishing an impact fee and connection fee installment payment program for qualifying development that furthers the City's economic development goals; providing a sort title; providing findings; providing authority; providing definitions; providing for applicability; establishing economic development installment payment program criteria, requirements and owner obligations; providing for collection of impact fees and connection fees in the

event of default; providing for reporting on and suspension of economic development impact fee and connection fee incentives; providing for severability; providing for conflicts; and providing for an effective date. **SECOND READING**

City Attorney Levin read the ordinance by title.

Ms. Susan Schoettle-Gumm provided a brief review of changes made since the first reading of the proposed ordinance, as delineated in the agenda material.

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

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

A Resolution of the City of Punta Gorda, Florida identifying qualified economic development for participation in the City of Punta Gorda Economic Development Incentives Program as authorized pursuant to Chapter 11B of the City Code, providing for conflicts, and providing an effective date.

City Attorney Levin read the resolution by title, stating same identified the businesses that would qualify for the impact fee payment program.

Ms. Schoettle-Gumm stated elimination of the quantitative requirements would provide for easier application of the program.

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

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

SV-01-09 - A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Punta Gorda, Florida, declaring its intent to consider changing the name of that portion of the street known as West Retta Esplanade lying between Taylor Street and U.S.41 Northbound in the City of Punta Gorda, to Harborside Avenue in the City of Punta Gorda; fixing a public hearing thereon; requesting a recommendation from the Planning Commission; and providing an effective date.

City Attorney Levin read the resolution by title.

Mr. Murphy explained same declared the City's intent to rename the above mentioned street, adding same was necessary due to the extension of the unnamed roadway through The City Marketplace (TCM) property which would connect to East Retta Esplanade on the other side of US 41 north.

Councilmember McCormick asked about residents of the Charlevoix Condominiums who had a Retta Esplanade address.

Mr. Murphy advised each resident had been notified of the proposed change.

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

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

SV-02-09 - A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Punta Gorda, Florida, declaring its intent to name the unnamed sixty six foot (66') wide right-of-way lying in Parcel "D", Plat of Punta Gorda Harbor, as recorded in Plat Book 18, Pages 1A and 1B, of the Public Records of Charlotte County, Florida, as Laishley Court; fixing a public hearing thereon; requesting a recommendation from the Planning Commission; and providing an effective date.

City Attorney Levin read the resolution by title.

Mr. Murphy explained the resolution declared the City's intent to name an unnamed ROW within Laishley Park, adding same would provide addressing for the marina building and the Crabshack restaurant.

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

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

SV-03-09 - A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Punta Gorda, Florida, declaring its intent to consider naming the unnamed sixty-six foot (66') wide platted right-of-way lying between Taylor Street and U.S. Highway 41 northbound in Block 5 of the Plat of Trabue, as recorded in Plat Book 1, Page 1, of the Public Records of Charlotte County, Florida, as West Retta Esplanade; fixing a public hearing thereon; requesting a recommendation from the Planning Commission; and providing an effective date.

City Attorney Levin read the resolution by title.

Mr. Murphy stated this was the intent to name the extension of roadway through the TCM property.

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

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

NOTE: A short break was called at 10:34 a.m.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Friedman announced the City Manager had withdrawn item B.2 and would go out for sealed bid on same.

Councilmember Albers pulled items F-1 and F-2.

Councilmember Goldberg **MOVED** approval of the remainder of the consent agenda, **SECONDED** by Councilmember Albers.

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

A. CITY CLERK

1. Approval of Minutes: Regular Meeting of April 1, 2009

2. A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Punta Gorda, Florida, approving amended bylaws governing the function and procedures of the Utility Advisory Board.

B. FINANCE DEPARTMENT

1. Award of Amendment #12 – Specific Authorization #19 – Wastewater Treatment Plant Permit Renewal, and Operation and Maintenance Manual in accordance with Agreement #U06094/Water and Wastewater Master Planning with Carollo Engineers, P.C.
2. Award of Agreement for Lot Mowing Services for Program and Non-Program (Exempt) Lots to Gulf Trail Corporation of North Port, FL.
3. Local Consideration Program for subjective solicitations; which include Request for Proposals, Request for Qualifications and Invitations to Negotiate.

C. PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

1. A Resolution of the City of Punta Gorda, Florida, approving the Amended Interlocal Agreement between Charlotte County and the City of Punta Gorda for the Aqui Esta Drive Widening Project; authorizing Mayor to execute the agreement; and providing an effective date.

D. LEGAL DEPARTMENT

1. Statement of Allen, Norton & Blue, P.A. for services rendered through February 28, 2009

E. CITY MANAGER

1. Letter of Support for the widening of U.S. Highway 17

F. UTILITIES DEPARTMENT

1. A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Punta Gorda, Florida, approving the Developer's Agreement between the City of Punta Gorda and 17-75, LLC; approving termination of Developer's Agreement between the City of Punta Gorda and Palmetto Plantation, LLC; authorizing the Mayor to execute the agreements; and providing an effective date
2. A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Punta Gorda, Florida, approving the Developer's Agreement between the City of Punta Gorda and Punta Gorda of Charlotte County, LLC; authorizing the Mayor to execute the agreement; and providing an effective date

ITEM F-1: Councilmember Albers stated the agreement indicated existing residential properties would not be allowed to connect to the line; however, he felt anyone wishing to connect to the line at their expense should not be precluded.

Mr. Tom Jackson, Utility Director, stated the line being installed was a force main which would require a pumping station to overcome the pressure in the line. He added any residential property could connect to the line; however, same would be quite costly.

Mr. Mike Hatfield, Weiler Engineering, explained the intent was to serve the mobile home parks; however, additional capacity existed.

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

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

ITEM: F-2: Councilmember Albers stated the Utility Advisory Board (UAB) had questions related to this agreement, thus he felt same should be discussed.

Mr. Jackson explained the agreement addressed the former golf course property on US 17, noting the UAB had reviewed the agreement on two occasions. He stated their concern related to including language requiring a warranty or surety bond, explaining the City did not require same because a manufacture's warranty was turned over to the City at the time of dedication. He then stated the UAB had also expressed concern with regard to the repayment time limit, adding the time had been extended based upon the phased development of the project.

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

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Approval of a Letter of Support for Marina at Best Western

Mayor Friedman advised the City had agreed to provide the letter to support their application for a marina, as delineated in the agenda material.

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

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

Fiscal Year 2010 Water and Sewer Rates

City Manager Kunik explained a long range financial plan had been prepared utilizing projections; however, following same, budget reductions and capital outlay eliminations had occurred which changed the projected gap to the good. He provided a brief review of projected revenues and expenses, explaining only the priority capital projects had been included in the long range plan. He then displayed various scenarios that should be considered by members, pointing out each scenario was prepared with and without possible grant funding. He noted staff recommended a 3% rate increase in 2010 to assist with future years, adding same had been presented to the UAB. He explained one scenario proposed no rate increases in 2010 and 2011 followed by a larger increase in following years. He detailed a scenario proposing no increase in

2010 followed by an increase in the following two years. He concluded staff and the UAB recommended a 3% increase in 2010.

Mayor Friedman opined the projections for later years were not meaningful as same was subject to change. He stated the choice was whether to increase the rates for the following year or not. He stated he supported not increasing the rates this year, acknowledging same may require a 5% or 6% increase in 2011.

Councilmember Wallace concurred with waiting another year.

Councilmember McCormick stated he preferred a 3% increase.

Councilmember Goldberg stated a 3% increase was not very significant on the resident's monthly bill; however, same was significant when considering capital improvements.

Councilmember Albers voiced support for the 3% increase, pointing out he did not see any changes in revenue or expenses for 2010 and 2011. He recommended a 3% increase be approved for both years at this time so residents would be informed in advance.

Mayor Friedman reiterated he preferred to wait until 2011.

Councilmember Wallace inquired if the costs had been reduced as much as possible, adding he also preferred not to raise rates for 2010.

Councilmember McCormick **MOVED** approval of a 3% increase for 2010

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

Councilmember Albers **MOVED** approval of a 3% increase for 2010 and 2011, **SECONDED** by Councilmember Goldberg.

Councilmember Wallace countered members should be attempting to do everything they can to reduce costs and taxes to the citizens during the present economy.

Councilmember Goldberg stated he didn't disagree; however, he felt smaller increases would smooth out the budget deficit. He stated the previous 15% increase was due to taking no action for so many years.

Mayor Friedman stated he wasn't convinced there would be no changes for 2011, thus consideration should be given to those expenses at that time as it may be possible no increase was necessary.

Councilmember McCormick spoke in favor of the motion, opining same was a fair method of advising the property owners.

VOTING AYE: Albers, Goldberg, McCormick.

VOTING NAY: Wallace, Friedman.

MOTION CARRIED.

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM CITY OFFICERS

CITY MANAGER

City Manager Kunik reported Mr. John Perez, Wyvern General Manager, had been appointed to the Governor's Tourism Board to fill an unexpired term. He recommended the Mayor send a letter to the Governor supporting his reappointment.

Consensus of members was to agree.

BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

Announcement of Vacancies

Historic reservation Advisory Board (2)

City Clerk Foster announced the vacancies.

Waterfront Development Advisory Committee (4)

City Clerk Foster announced the vacancies.

Nominations

There were none.

Appointments

Utility Advisory Board (2)

Voting forms were distributed.

City Attorney Levin announced Messrs. Dauster and Sabatino had received the most votes and were therefore reappointed to the Utility Advisor Board.

POLICY AND LEGISLATION

FRIEDMAN: Mentioned an email he had received with regard to a scooter rental business south of the City, wherein the owner would like to have scooter rentals in the downtown area to include maps and touring suggestions. He explained the code did not currently allow same, thus the owner was seeking information as to whether it would be worth the cost of applying for a special exception in order to do so.

Consensus of members was to advise the owner to move forward with same.

Mayor Friedman recalled the economic summit hosted by the Charlotte Sun, adding as a result of that a meeting of Sarasota, Charlotte and Desoto Counties had transpired the previous week. He explained a board with this type of representation was envisioned to address issues of mutual benefit in that a larger group would provide some clout against large areas such as Miami. He recommended the City maintain their participation in the workgroup.

Consensus of members was to continue participation.

Mayor Friedman then asked members to advise him of any items that should be considered.

MCCORMICK: Referenced the Harborwalk design, suggesting members work toward approving the individual design aspects to be utilized throughout the project that would make it identifiable.

Councilmember Goldberg stated direction had been given to staff based upon previous input from numerous entities.

Councilmember McCormick requested same be compiled in a document to be approved by members.

Councilmember Albers concurred, opining same could be provided by staff. He acknowledged it would take longer than hiring an engineering firm; however, there was time to do same.

Consensus of members was to direct staff to compile a theme for all areas of the Harborwalk to include such things as benches, lights and railings in conjunction with the proposal by Team Punta Gorda (TPG).

City Manger Kunik advised doing so would require a reallocation of staff's workload.

Ms. Nancy Prafke, TPG, agreed specificity was required to round out their waterfront plan; however, she recommended the outside source be utilized to some extent.

Councilmember McCormick then commented the public hearings were listed at the beginning of the agenda due to people in attendance for same; however, he felt if no one was present, those items could be heard following unfinished and new business.

Mayor Friedman mentioned the advertising for public hearings. He explained in the past, items that drew a crowd were moved forward on the agenda.

ALBERS: Advised The City Marketplace (TCM) property owner had received permits to install "no parking" signs, noting the signs advised it was a tow away zone; however, they were not in compliance with State Statute for tow away zones. He stated much conversation had occurred in an attempt to arrive at a solution that would be beneficial to both parties; however, that had not happened.

International Business Opportunities Program

Councilmember Goldberg stated he had attended a group comprised of representatives of the City, County, Airport and Chamber of Commerce, adding Mr. John Wright of the Punta Gorda Chamber formerly worked in the British Consulate in Miami, which had the third largest consulates in the United States. He stated a function of the consulate was to promote import and export business from their countries. He explained Mr. Wright's suggestion was to invite the counsel general and business attaché of the various consulates to Punta Gorda for a day or two to tour the area in hopes of those businesses relocating to this area. He stated the visit was proposed for August 12-13, 2009, adding there were a few expenses such as meals and travel. He

stated each entity was being requested to contribute up to \$1,000, adding the City had funds remaining in the Economic Development account. He requested approval to advise the City would participate so long as the other entities did as well.

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

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

Mayor Friedman commented he felt a decision should be made with regard to the official name for the Harborwalk.

City Clerk Foster advised members had reached a consensus at their October 15, 2008 meeting to officially name it the Harborwalk, based upon a request for a decision from Councilmember Wallace.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:52 a.m.

Mayor

City Clerk