



WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS REPORT SEPTEMBER 9, 2011

City Manager

- **City Council approved a FY 2012 tentative millage rate at 2.7462 mills**, which is below the rolled back/rolled forward rate of 2.8186 mills. The rolled back rate results in the same property tax revenues, sans new construction, as the previous year. This means the City will once again operate with less property tax revenues for general operations and still maintain the road resurfacing program at a level of \$600,000 per year (through a combination of property and gas taxes). **The tentative millage rate is .0211 mills or 0.8% higher than the current rate (2.7251).**
- Mayor Goldberg presented the City's three legislative requests for consideration before the Charlotte County Legislative Delegation. They all pertain to increasing local control of procurement and pension issues, as follows:
 - ✓ **Consultant's Competitive Negotiation Act** – support legislation to allow local and state agencies to procure professional services for Architects, Engineers, Surveyors and Mappers on a "best value basis" whereby they would have the discretion to competitively compare fees and make a selection that considers qualifications and price among pre-qualified firms.
 - ✓ **Excess Premium Tax Revenues** – Currently, under Section 175.351, Florida Statutes, for Municipal Fire Pension Plans and Section 185.35, Florida Statutes, for Municipal Police Pension Plans, any "excess" insurance premium tax revenues received must be used to increase the benefits of the members of the pension plans referred to above. We request that these two sections be amended so that a municipality with their own pension plans may use "excess" insurance premium tax revenues to pay down the unfunded actuarial accrued liabilities of the plans. This could be in the form of a one-time offer or ongoing.
 - ✓ **Choice of Pension Plan Types** – Currently under Chapters 175 and 185, Florida Statutes, for a municipality to receive insurance premium tax revenues the municipality is only allowed to have a defined benefit plan for Firefighters and Police Officers. We request these statutes be amended to allow a municipality to choose a defined contribution plan as a second option. With this change the municipality could have either one of the two types of plans, both types of plans or a hybrid utilizing portions of the two types of plans.
- **City Council retained water & sewer rates at their current level and by doing so, the City will use \$3 million cash reserves to pay for planned capital projects thereby reducing future interest costs associated with borrowing.**
- Community Redevelopment Agency approved the concept of a pool and entertainment deck in the public courtyard area between the Marina Building and the Crab House. By doing so, staff will enter into negotiations with Marina Park LLC regarding terms, conditions, uses, design, parking and other pertinent issues related to its construction and management. We welcome comments and suggestions from the public, in order for concerns to be considered during the negotiation process. Please communicate such suggestions to the City Manager by email hkunik@pgorda.us.

- City Council and County Commission held a joint meeting and received updates on the Burnt Store Road/Jones Loop Road construction project, road resurfacing on County streets near Aquí Esta and Murdock Village. The State will perform a traffic analysis study regarding the temporary signal at Acline Road & US 41 in January 2012 to determine if a permanent signal at that intersection is warranted. In addition, Council Members and County Commissioner expressed support for moving the resurfacing of Vasco Street up on the priority list of streets to be improved by the County in that area.

Public Works Department

Engineering:

- **Burnt Store Road Widening:** For information and updates, please visit <http://www.ci.punta-gorda.fl.us/depts/publicworks/engineering.html>.
- **Aquí Esta Road Handrails:** Sod replacement underway. Four of the seven handrails have been removed and two more will be removed within the next two weeks. The final handrail is scheduled to be removed mid-October, following approval from Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD).
- **Harborwalk West - Boat Ramp:** Contractor has commenced with removal of the old seawall, placing of sheet pile, receiving, storing and placing the new concrete seawall.
- **Henry St. Demolition & Debris Removal:** Staff mailed SWFWMD Close Out documentation transferring construction to maintenance operations.
- **U.S. 41 Roadway Light Repair Project:** The FPL Fiber Net contractor completed conduit placement necessary to complete the wiring repairs.
- **Streetscape of Olympia Ave. between US 41 N/S:** Work is nearing completion on Olympia Ave. between U.S. 41 North and South. A preliminary punch list is being developed. Travelers should still use extreme caution while workers and equipment are present.
- **Shreve St. Multi-Use Recreational Trail:** The sidewalk is being poured, asphalt driveways are being removed and planting of landscaping is underway.
- **San Rocco Drainage:** Work is completed with the exception of placing underground conduit for FPL. Anticipate work to be completed within 30 days.
- **Laishley Park Day Docks:** The welding and fabrication of the handrails has commenced. Anticipate completion in mid-October.

Punta Gorda Isles Canal Maintenance:

- The seawall has been removed with a new wall set at 3256 White Ibis, Building 2.
- Seawall cap work underway at 1024 Via Tripoli & 2524 Via Veneto. The seawall cap has been poured at 1105 & 1109 Appian Dr. Work continues at 701, 705 & 711 Via Formia.
- Backfill work was completed at 501 & 511 Matares. Work continues at Lot 16 Whippoorwill. At 1045 Via Formia, backfill work has commenced.
- Sod was installed at 1640 Casey Key & 1081 Coronado
- Sinkholes were filled at 16 locations.

Burnt Store Isles Canal Maintenance:

- The seawall cap work was completed at 752 Monaco Dr. Work continues at Lots 25, 103 & 104 Terin. Cap work has commenced at 335 Segovia.
- Sod was installed at 437, 440, 446, 452, 458 & 464 Panarea, in addition to 3513 Tripoli.