

**FRUITLAND PARK CITY COMMISSION SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
AUGUST 1, 2011**

MEETING STATISTICS. A special meeting of the Fruitland Park City Commission was conducted in the Commission Chambers of City Hall, 506 West Berckman Street, Fruitland Park, Florida on Monday, August 1, 2011 beginning at 6:00 p.m.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE. CM Bowers delivered the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Commissioner Richardson.

ROLL CALL. Mayor Bell asked City Clerk Diane Gibson Smith to call the roll.

ELECTED OFFICIALS PRESENT. Commissioner John L. Gunter, Jr., Commissioner Sharon Kelly, Commissioner Jim Richardson, Vice Mayor Albert O. Goldberg, Mayor Christopher J. Bell

MUNICIPAL OFFICIALS/OTHERS PRESENT. City Manager (CM) Ralph O. Bowers, Police Chief (PC) Terry Isaacs, Assistant Police Chief (APC) David Borst, City Treasurer (CT) Jeannine Racine Michaud, Community Development Director (CDD) Charlie Rector, and City Clerk (CC) Diane Gibson Smith.

01. NEW BUSINESS

a.) Set proposed millage at 5.562 mills, established current year rolled-back rate at 3.9134 mills, and scheduled first public hearing on the tentative millage rate and budget for fiscal year 2011-2012 for September 08, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. in the Commission Chambers of City Hall and final hearing September 22, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. in the Commission Chambers of City Hall

CM Bowers requested the millage rate be set at 5.5620 so adjustments can be made later. He noted setting the proposed millage high is better as it is easier to come down in the millage later, but going up with the millage later is difficult. CM Bowers stated this is a starting place. To not lose any employees and give a \$0.50 raise, this would require the millage be set at 5.835. CM Bowers stated many things are being looked at including a local code for traffic. CM Bowers also noted a health insurance premium increase is included in the budget. CM Bowers stated one option to look at is to defer half of his pay for a year.

Mayor Bell requested input from the Commissioners.

Commissioner Richardson stated deferring CM Bowers' salary does not mean we do not still owe the money. He stated he doesn't think we should consider this option. Commissioner Richardson noted he is not sure right now what the proposed millage should be. He stated the most he may consider (and he is not sure he would do this) would be 4.777.

Commissioner Kelly stated the one item to keep in mind is the proposed millage is the number we cannot go over. She suggested setting the proposed millage at 5.00.

Commissioner Gunter stated he is leaning towards the millage of 4.777. Commissioner Gunter stated he is okay with setting the proposed millage higher tonight because we can always go down.

Vice Mayor Goldberg stated this millage is not carved in stone. He suggested setting the proposed millage at 5.00.

**FRUITLAND PARK CITY COMMISSION SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
AUGUST 1, 2011**

Mayor Bell stated he is leaning towards the proposed millage of 5.00.

CM Bowers stated the things that are obvious that can be done to change the proposed budget. CM Bowers suggested to set the millage at whatever and we will bring in the proposed budget at the figure.

Mayor Bell noted there is a problem if you set it low and then try to raise it up.

After much discussion, Commissioner Kelly moved to set the proposed millage at 5.5620 mills. Vice Mayor Goldberg seconded the motion. The motion carried with Mayor Bell, Vice Mayor Goldberg, Commissioner Kelly, and Commissioner Gunter all voting aye. Commissioner Richardson voted nay.

CM Bowers asked what number to bring the budget back. By consensus the decision was made to bring budget documents back at 5.00 mills so then some cuts can be made.

Commissioner Richardson asked if anyone had reviewed the result of the ad valorem numbers on the Commissioners' properties. Mayor Bell noted he currently pays well over \$2,000 to Fruitland Park so any change affects him greatly as well.

Mayor Bell announced the date for the first public hearing on the tentative millage rate and budget as September 8, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. in the Commission Chambers at City Hall with the final hearing to be held September 22, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. in the Commission Chambers at City Hall.

02. CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT - none

03. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

a.) CM Bowers gave an update on the CDBG. He stated Change Order #1 is read but still leaves \$118,000 unfunded CDBG needs. CRA Funds are available but will require a meeting of the CRA Board. If the Commission does not want to move the funds, then the project should be stopped immediately.

Commissioner Gunter questioned cutting back on the project. Duane Booth, BESH Engineering, stated if one qualified house was removed, we may no longer qualify for the grant.

Commissioner Gunter questioned the possibility of not paying the over-the-limit income impact fees. CM Bowers stated we must pay the impact fees for the low income residents. CM Bowers stated we could survey the over-the-limit income people to see how many want the service. This would affect the amount of the CRA money going into the Utility Fund.

CM Bowers noted he is looking for the following items: A motion to transfer the \$118,000 pending CRA Board approval; Execution of the contract and Change Order #1; and authorization to send out the Notice to Proceed.

CA Gerken stated execution of the contract, Change Order #1, and authorizing the Notice to Proceed is all that are necessary.

**FRUITLAND PARK CITY COMMISSION SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
AUGUST 1, 2011**

Commissioner Richardson moved and Commissioner Kelly seconded to execute of the contract and change order #1 and authority to send out the Notice to Proceed. The motion carried unanimously with Commissioner Gunter, Commissioner Richardson, Mayor Bell, Vice Mayor Goldberg, and Commissioner Kelly all voting aye.

04. PUBLIC HEARINGS – None

05. UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None

06. CITIZENS' COMMENTS

- a) Rick Ranize, citizen of Fruitland Park, questioned if Mrs. O'Toole had gotten back to the City regarding the CUP. CM Bowers stated her legislative aide is working with our attorneys and consultants to get answers. St John's is being a bit more receptive.

Mr. Ranize stated he has heard the City is in a financial dilemma, but would like to know when the drainage ditch on Valley road will be done so he can put sod in. CM Bowers stated he will check into this and get answer for him.

Mr. Ranize noted reserves are down, ad valorem is down, and expenses are going up and questioned why the City is still looking to buy an antiquated and outdated electric. Mr. Ranize suggested putting this decision out to the voters so there is no further waste of time and efforts looking at it.

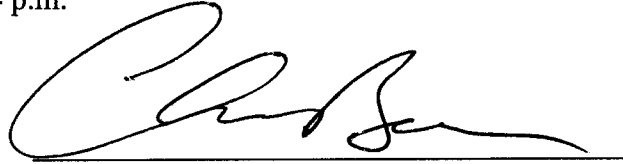
07. COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

- a) Commissioner Richardson – questioned the location of the lift station for the CDBG project. He noted he thought the discussion had been to look at possibly moving it. CM Bowers noted this had not been revisited yet. This will be revisited before the ordering of the wet well.
- b) Commissioner Kelly – None
- c) Commissioner Gunter – stated he read there are 14,598 people unemployed in Lake County. He added it is now 14,599 as he is now unemployed.
- d) Vice Mayor Goldberg - stated our governor says he added 89,000 jobs, Vice Mayor Goldberg wondered where. Looking forward to a great budget meeting.

08. MAYOR BELL'S COMMENTS. Mayor Bell noted the EMS Board is being redefined by Lake County due to Sumter County no longer being involved. He received information on meeting dates. Mayor Bell noted he informed them the meeting dates being suggested conflict with his work so they have replaced him on this Board. Mayor Bell stated he understood the Mayor of Lady Lake would be asked to serve on the Board.

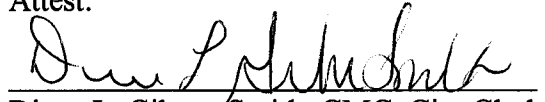
**FRUITLAND PARK CITY COMMISSION SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
AUGUST 1, 2011**

09. ADJOURNMENT. There being no further business to discuss, Commissioner Richardson moved to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 7:14 p.m.



Christopher J. Bell, Mayor

Attest:


Diane L. Gibson Smith, CMC, City Clerk