

**FRUITLAND PARK CITY COMMISSION BUDGET WORKSHOP MINUTES  
AUGUST 9, 2010**

MEETING STATISTICS. A budget workshop 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 9, 2010 beginning at 6:34 p.m.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE. CT Palmer delivered the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Public Safety Director Chief Isom.

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

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

MUNICIPAL OFFICIALS/OTHERS PRESENT. City Manager (CM) Ralph O. Bowers, Public Safety Director (PSD) J. M. Isom, Sr., Public Works Director (PWD) John Bostic III, City Treasurer (CT) Elizabeth Palmer, Community Development Director (CDD) Charlie Rector, Recreation Director (RD) Sherry Bechtel, Library Director (LD) JoAnn Glendinning, and City Clerk (CC) Diane Gibson Smith.

Mayor Bell presented a Library Leadership certificate to Library Director JoAnn Glendinning.

**BUDGET REVIEW.**

CM Bowers stated the budget was balanced with a \$29,000 contribution from reserves with the millage set at \$4.36 mills per thousand. CM Bowers noted he is proposing millage be set at \$5 mills to allow "some breathing room." Two non-productive full time positions (Recreation and Sewer) were eliminated and a half time position was removed from the Library.

Forecasted revenues are very conservative. CM Bowers stated he will be distributing a report that will allow easier tracking of all the accounts – revenues and expenditures. CM Bowers stated the worksheets presented show his recommendations for the coming year.

**Swimming Pool**

CM Bowers stated he spoke with Commissioner Richardson who is in favor of keeping the swimming pool open. Commissioner Richardson suggested increasing the police and fire service fees.

Mayor Bell stated funds for the pool come from several areas. The main discussion needs to be to decide whether or not the pool will be kept open or not. To maintain the pool, the cost is approximately \$60,000. The pool is currently open for open-swim Monday from Saturday from 11 to 8.

RD Bechtel stated the pool does not close for daycares. She presented the stats for the pool thus far this year.

Mayor Bell questioned the cost of swimming instruction. RD Bechtel stated residents pay \$25 and non-residents pay \$35.

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Commissioner Kelly questioned if we checked into anyone taking over the pool. RD Bechtel stated she contacted the YMCA and they were not interested.

Mayor Bell stated he has received a few calls from people wishing to keep the pool open. Several letters were distributed.

Mayor Bell questioned the cost to repair the pool. PWD Bostic stated the estimated cost to resurface and repair the cracks is \$25,000 to \$35,000. This can be taken from CRA funds.

Mayor Bell stated he would like to see some additional special events. CM Bowers stated the Recreation Department is now one person so there will be limited time to work on special events during summer hours.

LD Glendinning suggested the Library and Recreation Department could work together to come up with some special events during the summer. Mayor Bell noted perhaps the churches could become involved also – add \$5,000 income for special programs. Commissioner Goldberg also suggested working with the Griffin State Park.

Mayor Bell stated at this point the swimming pool will be added back into the budget.

**Recreation Department**

Commissioner Gunter questioned the chip timing for the Fruitland Park race as this is not a sanctioned rate. RD Bechtel stated the timing is covered by the amount of money brought in for the race.

Commissioner Gunter stated we should get the advertisements all donated. RD Bechtel stated we receive a large amount of free advertisement from the Daily Commercial.

Commissioner Goldberg questioned the Senior Social cost. RD Bechtel stated we have 22 Senior Socials during the year.

**Recreation Fund Revenues**

No questions were asked.

**Recreation Fund Expenditures**

Commissioner Kelly questioned soccer. RD Bechtel stated we have handed this over the Upwards program through the church.

**General Fund Revenues**

CM Bower stated this is based on 4.36 mills and at 95% ad valorem.

The Police and Fire service fees were discussed. Mayor Bell questioned if everyone would agree to increase these fees.

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After much discussion the tentative millage was set \$4.50 mills per thousand.

The Police and Fire service fees were increased by \$1 each. (Note: a later discussion moved the Police fee by \$2 and the Fire fee by \$1.)

Commissioner Kelly questioned legal fees for the Wick's lawsuit, MPO invoice, etc. She noted she doesn't want to get to mid-year and find out we need to add money for many different things.

**Legislative**

Commissioner Richardson questioned the charge for code book online. CC Gibson Smith stated this makes the code available on our website.

Commissioner Kelly stated new shirts could be removed. This line item was removed.

**Executive**

CM Bowers stated the ICMA membership can be removed.

Commissioner Goldberg stated the telephone headset can be removed. He noted he may be able to obtain one from his office.

**Finance**

Reduce the scanner to \$1000.

Move the project accounting software to the electric department and do a transfer into this account.

**Legal Counsel**

No changes

**Other General Government**

Mayor Bell questioned the employment advertising. CC Gibson Smith stated we need to advertise to find workers when there is an opening. No changes were made.

Mayor Bell questioned the Fruitland Park Scholarship. The decision was made to contact the high schools regarding this scholarship.

CM Bowers stated air filters will be changed from \$600 to \$3000 and then will remove the \$20,000 off Capital Outlay. CT Palmer stated that \$20,000 was being transferred in from Infrastructure.

CT Palmer reminded everyone the Redevelopment taxes will change based on the proposed millage changes.

**Law Enforcement**

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Mayor Bell stated he had spoken with CM Bowers regarding possible major cuts in Law Enforcement. This would affect the lifestyle in Fruitland Park.

Mayor Bell stated he would like to cut \$30,000 - \$40,000. Chief Isom stated that means cutting a position. He noted he does have a plan but prefers not to speak about this in a public meeting. Chief Isom stated he has applied for a person under the COPS grant. Results won't be known until September or October.

Commissioner Kelly questioned if reserve officers were being used to cover most overtime. Chief Isom stated most of the overtime being paid is due to court time and working on cases. Very little shift differential overtime is paid.

CM Bowers explained personnel decisions in the Police Department are policy decisions.

Vice Mayor Gunter questioned the cost to allow officers to take vehicles home. He wondered if not allowing take home vehicles would be less expensive. Chief Isom stated very little cost is involved as there is a five mile range limit for take home vehicles. Cars do not last as long when they are "doubled up" due to wear and tear and double miles.

Commissioner Richardson questioned the salary incentives. Chief Isom stated those are authorized by State Statute but funded by the City. Officers earn an incentive for every 80 hours of training.

Commissioner Richardson questioned the internet service. CT Palmer noted the Police Department server must be on a different service and the Fire Department has a dial-up service.

Commissioner Kelly questioned the \$6000 for new uniforms. Chief Isom stated that could be cut down to \$5000.

**Fire Control**

Chief Isom stated fund raisers are being held to provide for the Explorers.

**Building and Zoning**

The administrative assistant position salary has been increased to \$11.50 per hour.

**Electric Utility**

CT Palmer stated she will add in the project accounting software

CM Bowers stated \$50,000 from fund reserves will be added into the contingency account.

**Solid Waste**

No changes

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**Stormwater**

PWD Bostic stated our WAV program is still uncertain. Our WAV administrator may contract with us directly which may be a cost savings.

Commissioner Kelly questioned the engineering. PWD Bostic stated the engineering mainly goes along with grants.

The travel and per diem charges were discussed. No changes were made.

**Roads and Streets**

Mayor Bell questioned the street signs. PWD Bostic noted there are some new regulations on some of the hazard signs. Decision was to move \$5,000 of this line item under the CRA budget.

**Library**

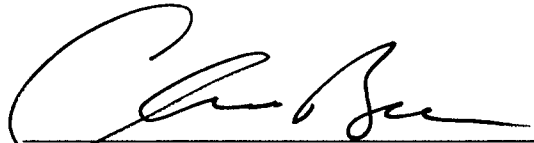
Due to the reduction in staff, LD Glendinning stated she cut the time the Library is open by six hours instead of cutting programming. The assistants then have time to prepare for the various programs.

Commissioner Goldberg questioned the phone system. Mayor Bell suggested looking into the IP phones. This will be done prior to ordering a new phone system.

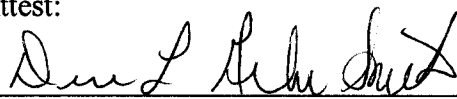
LD Glendinning stated she would like to charge for the use of her small community room. This charge will be established by resolution.

LD Glendinning stated a local film company would like to use the Casino building free of charge for the cast and crew party. Mayor Bell suggested a signed DVD copy would be nice.

Commissioner Richardson moved to recess the budget workshop until 6:30 p.m Tuesday. The workshop recessed at 9:50 p.m.

  
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Christopher J. Bell, Mayor

Attest:

  
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Diane L. Gibson Smith, CMC, City Clerk