

**FRUITLAND PARK CITY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 12, 2009**

MEETING STATISTICS. A regular meeting of the Fruitland Park City Commission was conducted in the Commission Chambers of City Hall, 506 West Berckman Street, Fruitland Park, Florida on Thursday, March 12, 2009 beginning at 7:00 p.m.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE. Leesburg Boy Scout Troop 1 presented the colors of the flags and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag. A member of the troop then gave the invocation.

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

ELECTED OFFICIALS PRESENT. Commissioner Albert O. Goldberg, Commissioner John L. Gunter, Jr., Commissioner Darrel E. Martin, Vice Mayor Sharon Kelly, and Mayor Christopher J. Bell.

MUNICIPAL OFFICIALS/OTHERS PRESENT. City Manager (CM) Ralph O. Bowers, City Treasurer (CT) Elizabeth P. Palmer, Public Safety Director (PSD) J. M. Isom, Sr., Public Works Director (PWD) John Bostic III, and City Clerk (CC) Diane Gibson Smith.

01. PROCLAIMED APRIL 2009 AS WATER CONSERVATION MONTH – Mayor Bell proclaimed April 2009 as Water Conservation Month by reading a proclamation in its entirety. Mayor Bell noted this proclamation was very timely as conserving water is the cheapest water that can be provided was discussed at the Water Alliance meeting on Wednesday evening.

02. APPROVED THE CONSENT AGENDA AS PRESENTED.

Vice Mayor Kelly moved and Commission Goldberg seconded to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. The motion carried unanimously with all Commission Members voting aye.

03. AGENDA UPDATE. – Mayor Bell stated he will be reporting on the Water Alliance meeting and the County Parks and Recreation meeting. CM Bowers stated he distributed a priority list of projects.

04. CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT. CA Gerken apologized for being late as there was an accident on US Highway 441. CA Gerken stated the City received a new proposed gas franchise agreement which will be reviewed. Mayor Bell questioned if the agreement was one-sided. CA Gerken stated no, the agreement is similar to the previous one without the right to purchase. CA Gerken noted the city of Leesburg did not want to continue with a month to month agreement.

Vice Mayor Kelly questioned the term of the proposed agreement. CA Gerken stated the agreement term is for 25 years – same as the previous agreement. Until the agreement is approved, the City will continue on a month to month basis.

Mayor Bell questioned if there was a mandate to sign a new agreement. CA Gerken stated there is no mandate, but Leesburg could stop supplying gas.

Commissioner Gunter questioned if Fruitland Park could purchase the system after 25 years. CA Gerken stated this could be done.

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Commissioner Martin questioned if this agreement was set up similar to the electric contract where the City has the right to evaluate purchasing every five years. CA Gerken stated it could be set up that way. He also noted there may be some economies of scale.

Mayor Bell stated he would like to see Fruitland Park have some type of representation when improvements, upgrades, etc are considered.

05. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT. CM Bowers reported on the following:

- a. Priority list – CM Bowers stated the items are listed in no specific order. He further noted the day to day items are not included. CM Bowers stated Planet 5 has hit a snag as the Dairy trustees want to know what the County is going to give them before giving Fruitland Park right of way. CM Bowers noted we have a good relationship with the County ROW staff, but the County Public Works Director and County Attorney have different ideas on ROW.
- b. Police Department report – Chief Isom presented his annual report. He noted crime rate is down slightly from last year. On a 5-year comparison, crime rate appears flat. Chief Isom stated he is looking into grants for the Public Safety Complex and hopes to get the building 100% funded. EMS is also looking into grants for their bay and sleeping quarters. He is also looking into a COP FAST Grant for new officers.
- c. Fire Department - Chief Isom presented his annual report. He noted the average response time is 4.3 minutes. He noted the brush truck was built with donations last year and a new pump and motor was just installed on Brush 56. Lake County is giving us \$1000 towards these repairs.

Mayor Bell stated he received a call regarding the Coleman prison problem today and was assured an ambulance would still be available to the City. Mayor Bell wondered the location of the closest ambulance. Chief Isom noted the closest ambulance was at Leesburg Regional. He also noted the city had two first responders here working on a truck. Chief Isom stated we had coverage in the area.

Vice Mayor Kelly questioned the County response time. Chief Isom stated County Fire response time is 8 to 10 minutes.

06. UNFINISHED BUSINESS - none

07. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Consideration of proposal for street lighting on Rose Avenue – Mayor Bell stated he was given information that the proposal for Rose Avenue was still valid and can be used for College Avenue instead. PWD Bostic stated the vendor did state College Avenue could be used instead.

Vice Mayor Kelly questioned if the lights would be the same height as proposed for Rose Avenue. PWD Bostic stated yes, the lights are also the same height as those on Berckman Street.

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Vice Mayor Kelly stated we will want the same lights at the proposed Community Center. CM Bowers stated those will be included in the facility preparation.

Vice Mayor Kelly questioned the amount budgeted for this project. The total amount budgeted was \$170,000 though a \$38,995 has already been used for the stop/street signs on Berckman. A budget amendment may still be needed.

Commissioner Gunter questioned if a panel could be installed similar to that installed at the Casino Building to provide service for vendors during City events. All were in agreement that this should be done when the new poles are being installed. PWD Bostic will look into having this done.

Commissioner Gunter suggested not doing the parking lot at this time. Mayor Bell agreed.

Vice Mayor Kelly moved and Commissioner Goldberg seconded to approve the proposal from Himes Electric to complete the street lights on College Avenue and the three poles on the left side of City Hall. The motion carried with Commissioner Gunter, Vice Mayor Kelly, Commissioner Martin, Mayor Bell, and Commissioner Goldberg all voting aye.

08. CITIZENS' COMMENTS - none

09. COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

a. Vice Mayor Kelly – Stated Gainesville is in the news for residents using solar panels. The residents are then selling back energy they don't use. The city of Gainesville is apparently buying the solar panels. There is a Regional Transportation Summit meeting on April 8 from 9:30 until 2 at the Mission Inn – CM Bowers stated he and Vice Mayor Kelly will be attending. Mayor Bell will check his calendar to see if he can attend. Vice Mayor Kelly requested an update on the schools outlook. A member of the audience stated Lake County School Board is looking at reducing 65 teachers, moving 50 assistant principals into some of the teaching positions, and laying off 50 service workers. PWD Bostic stated Rhymes Learning Center is being turned back to a preschool early learning center.

b. Commissioner Gunter - none

c. Commissioner Martin - none

d. Commissioner Goldberg - none

10. MAYOR BELL'S COMMENTS. Mayor Bell reported on two meetings he attended this week

a. County Parks and Recreation – Mayor Bell stated the North Lake Community Park was developed, an East Lake Community Park is being developed, a South Lake Community Park is in the works, and now a Central Regional Community Park is

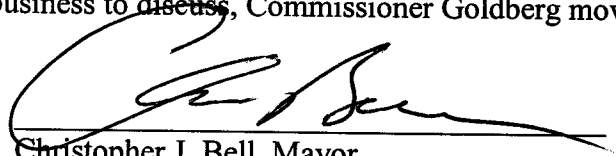
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being proposed for the City of Tavares. Vice Mayor Kelly stated perhaps a request for a West Lake Community Park is in order. Mayor Bell agreed. A lot of money is going out for parks in the next few years.

- b. Water Alliance meeting – Mayor Bell stated the Water Alliance is talking about becoming an actual body. Having the Water Resource Agency do a full blown visioning workshop is being suggested. A visioning survey was put together and the Alliance is requesting a list of important projects from the members. An example question would include looking into a county wide CUP. This could mean a Lake County Utilities. Mayor Bell stated he questioned the governance of the board. The board members have many different ideas. The Mayor of Minneola is pushing for an MPO. Mayor Bell noted he is not confident in handing over the authority of our water to this group. A request has been made to collect ideas from each commissioner and put into one document to be submitted from each city. Mayor Bell suggested a water authority may be the answer where everyone pays – county wide ad valorem fee, impact fees, and metering of all wells in the county.


CM Bowers stated Lake County Commissioner Elaine Renwick is finally recognizing domestic self supply as an issue. He noted the Water Alliance is an organization called a water management district which is requesting members to commit to a \$1 billion project before a plan is in place. CM Bowers noted he would be willing to agree to a project if there was a plan in place. CM Bowers stated he will be attending a meeting tomorrow to let them know those thoughts.

11. ADJOURNMENT. There being no further business to discuss, Commissioner Goldberg moved to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 7:54 p.m.



Christopher J. Bell, Mayor

Attest:



Diane L. Gibson Smith, CMC, City Clerk