FRUITLAND PARK CITY COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
April 10, 2025

A regular meeting of the Fruitland Park City Commission was held at 506 W. Beckman Street, Fruitland Park, Florida 34731 on Thursday, April 10, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.

Members Present: Mayor Chris Cheshire, Vice Mayor Patrick DeGrave, Commissioner Joseph "Joey" Cosenza

Members Absent: Seats for Districts 2 and 5 are currently vacant.

Also Present: City Manager Karen Manila, City Attorney Anita Geraci-Carver, City Treasurer Gary Bachmann; Interim Police Chief Henry Rains; Interim Community Development Director Michael Rankin, Permit Tech II Kelli Fielder; Public Works Director Robb Dicus; Recreation Director Michelle Yoder; and City Clerk Gwen Johns

Total Attendance: 22

1. CALL TO ORDER, INVOCATION, AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

After Mayor Cheshire called the meeting to order, Associate Pastor Ben Spangler, from Community United Methodist Church, gave the Invocation and Interim Police Chief Rains led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

ACTION: No action was taken.

2. ROLL CALL

After the Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance, Mayor Cheshire called the meeting to order and announced the decorum for this evening's meeting. He then requested that Ms. Johns call the roll where a quorum was declared present.

ACTION: No action was taken.

3. PRESENTATIONS

(a) Proclamation Presentation to the Family of Commissioner Chris Bell (mayor/city manager/city clerk)

Mayor Cheshire read and presented a proclamation to the family of late Commissioner Chris Bell. The Proclamation was presented to Commissioner Bell's wife, Joyce, who was joined by their son Jeff, their daughter Jackie and son-in-law Josh Blake. Chris Bell Jr. and his family were unable to attend the meeting.

Jeff Bell thanked the City Commission for the Proclamation and stated that his dad would be happy to know that a day was named after him.

Mayor Cheshire shared that Commissioner Bell was the person who encouraged him to run for a City Commission seat. He expressed kind sentiments and commended Commissioner Bell for his advocacy for the City and stated it would not be the same without him on the Commission. Vice Mayor DeGrave and Commissioner Cosenza agreed.

ACTION: The Proclamation was presented to the family of Commissioner Bell.

3. CONSENT AGENDA

(a) Approval of Minutes – March 27, 2025, Regular Meeting.

(b) Resolution 2025-023, Approval of the Purchase of a Sewer Utility Crane Truck from Rush Truck Center Using Sourcewell Purchasing Cooperative Contract #032824-RTG for $128,860

ACTION: **A motion was made by Vice Mayor DeGrave and seconded by Commissioner Cosenza that the City Commission approve the consent agenda, as presented. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.**

4. REGULAR AGENDA

(a) Resolution 2025-019 Variance of Minimum Lot Width on Property Located at 1108 Lake Myrtle Breezes

Ms. Geraci-Carver read into the proposed Resolution 2025-019, the substance of which is as follows:

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF FRUITLAND PARK, FLORIDA, GRANTING A VARIANCE TO THE LAND DEVELOPMENT REGULATION (LDR) REQUIREMENTS TO REDUCE THE MINIMUM LOT WIDTH FROM 80 FEET TO 70 FEET AS MEASURED ALONG THE BUILDING SETBACK LINE ON THE SUBJECT PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1108 MYRTLE BREEZES COURT AND OWNED BY CRYSTAL LAKE LAND HOLDINGS, LLC, PROVIDING FOR AN EXPIRATION DATE; PROVIDING FOR SCRIVENER'S ERRORS; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

ACTION: **A motion was made by Commissioner Cosenza and seconded by Vice Mayor DeGrave that the City Commission adopt Resolution 2025-019 as previously cited.**

Mayor Cheshire called for a roll call vote on the motion and declared it carried unanimously.

(b) Resolution 2025-024 Agreement Between The Dive Place II, LLC, and the City of Fruitland Park for the use of Gardenia Park Swimming Pool for Scuba Diving Lessons

Ms. Geraci-Carver read into the proposed Resolution 2025-024, the substance of which is as follows:

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF FRUITLAND PARK, FLORIDA, ADOPTING THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE DIVE PLACE II, LLC, AND THE CITY OF FRUITLAND PARK FOR USE OF THE GARDENIA PARK SWIMMING POOL FOR SCUBA DIVING LESSONS; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

ACTION: **A motion was made by Vice Mayor DeGrave and seconded by Commissioner Cosenza that the City Commission adopt Resolution 2025-024 as previously cited.**

Mayor Cheshire called for a roll call vote on the motion and declared it carried unanimously.

5. **PUBLIC HEARING – There were none.**

6. **QUASI-JUDICIAL PUBLIC HEARING – There were none.**

7. **(a) City Manager**

   i. **Discuss Naming a City Park in Honor of the late Commissioner Chris Bell**

Karen Manila, City Manager, suggested rehabilitating and renaming Olive Park after Commissioner Bell to commemorate his support of parks and recreation. The Commissioners supported the idea, which would be considered as part of the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 budget process.

Vice Mayor DeGrave asked if Olive Park was within the CRA and if CRA funds could be used. Attorney Geraci-Carver confirmed it would be an appropriate use if the park was within the CRA boundary.

Parks and Recreation Director Michelle Yoder stated that staff had discussed the idea of adding pickleball courts at Olive Park, but access issues between Parks and Public Works needed to be resolved. She clarified it was an informational discussion only.

(b) City Attorney

i. **Goodridge and Tammy Goodridge v. City of Fruitland Park, Lake County Case No. 2022-CA-1628** – Ms. Geraci-Carver stated that the plaintiffs in the Goodridge case filed a joint motion with the attorney representing the City to extend the deadline for disclosing their experts. No order had been entered yet.

ii. **Linda Harold v. City of Fruitland Park, Lake County Case No. 2025-CA-000116** – Ms. Geraci-Carver stated that discovery was ongoing in the Harold case.

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business to come before the city commission at this time.

ACTION: No action was taken.

10. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

11. COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

(a) Commissioner Cosenza

ACTION: Nothing to report.

(b) Vice Mayor DeGrave

ACTION: Nothing to report.

12. MAYOR'S COMMENTS

a. Dates to Remember

Mayor Cheshire announced the following events:

Thursday, April 10th	City Commission Meeting
Saturday, May 3rd	Fruitland Park Cleanup Day 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon

13. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

Gwen Keough-Johns, City Clerk

Chris Cheshire, Mayor

City of Fruitland Park, Lake County, Florida
Official Seal
Incorporated 1925
Established 1966