FRUITLAND PARK CITY COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
April 24, 2025

A regular meeting of the Fruitland Park City Commission was held at 506 W. Beckman Street, Fruitland Park, Florida 34731, on Thursday, April 24, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.

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

Members Attending Remotely: Vice Mayor Patrick DeGrave

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; Administrative Manager Sharon Williams and City Clerk Gwen Johns

Total Attendance: 17

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

After Mayor Cheshire called the meeting to order, Pastor Jamie Weathers, Village Park Baptist 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. CONSENT AGENDA

(a) Approval of Minutes – April 10, 2025, Regular Meeting.

(b) Resolution 2025-026, Approval of Agreement between the School Board of Lake County, Florida, and the City of Fruitland Park for School Resource Officer Program (2025-2026)

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

4. **REGULAR AGENDA**

(a) **Resolution 2025-025 Approval of Staff Recommendation and Authority to Negotiate a Legal Services Contract between Allen, Norton & Blue, Winter Park, Florida, and the City of Fruitland Park**

Ms. Geraci-Carver read into the proposed Resolution 2025-025, the substance of which is as follows:

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF FRUITLAND PARK, FLORIDA, APPROVING SELECTION FOR ALLEN NORTON & BLUE TO SERVE AS THE LABOR COUNSEL FOR THE CITY OF FRUITLAND PARK AND AUTHORIZING CITY STAFF TO NEGOTIATE A CONTRACT WITH ALLEN NORTON & BLUE; 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 2025-025 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. **Development Update**
ii. **Commission Vacancies**
iii. **Public Safety Building Update**

Ms. Manila, City Manager, provided an update regarding development projects in the city. She noted there are three residential subdivisions, a carwash and Advent Health that are under review. She also reported that Arbor Park had been sold, and the new owner was interested in smaller lot sizes. The CR468 Subdivision was approved by Planning and Zoning Board, conditioned upon larger lot sizes.

Ms. Manila advised that one application had been received for a City Commission seat. However, that applicant did not reside within the district that they wished to serve.

The crane has been delivered for the Public Safety Building and the walls will be erected beginning on Monday, April 28, 2025.

(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 has been entered.

ii. **Linda Harold v. City of Fruitland Park, Lake County Case No. 2025-CA-000116** – Ms. Geraci-Carver stated that on March 26th the City served interrogatories to Plaintiff to be answered in writing and served a Request to Produce to Plaintiff requiring production of documents.

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:

Saturday, May 3rd	Fruitland Park Cleanup Day 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon – Northwest Lake Complex Cales Memorial Soccer Fields 300 Shiloh Street - *Bulk Drop-Off* - *Household Hazardous Waste Drop-Off* - *Tire Drop-Off*
May 5th – 9th	Teacher Appreciation Week
Thursday, May 8th	City Commission Meeting

13. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:07 p.m.

Gwen Keough-Johns, City Clerk

Chris Cheshire, Mayor