

**FRUITLAND PARK CITY COMMISSION REGULAR
MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 12, 2026**

A regular meeting of the Fruitland Park City Commission was held at 506 W. Beckman Street, Fruitland Park, Florida on Thursday, March 12, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.

Members Present: Mayor Chris Cheshire, Commissioners Martina Williams, and Michael Raysin

Members Absent: Vice Mayor Patrick DeGraves and Commissioner Joseph Cosenza III

Also Present: City Manager Karen Manila, City Attorney Anita Geraci-Carver, Interim Police Chief Henry Rains, Human Resources Director John Klein; Deputy Finance Director Kim Gehrke; Community Development Administrative Manager Sharon Williams, Interim Community Development Director Michael Rankin, Director of Community Services Barbara Fields, and Gwen Johns, City Clerk.

Total Attendance: 17

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

After Mayor Cheshire called the meeting to order, an Invocation was given by Chuck Padgett of Trinity Assembly, followed by Interim Police Chief Rains who led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

2. ROLL CALL

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

3. PRESENTATION

(a) Presentation of Proclamation re: Irish American Heritage Month

Mayor Cheshire announced the Proclamation, and no one was present to accept it.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

(a) Approval of Minutes.

February 26, 2026, Regular City Commission Meeting
March 4, 2026, Special City Commission Meeting

(b) Resolution 2026-018, Calling for 2026 Regular Election and Qualifying Period
A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF FRUITLAND
PARK, FLORIDA, CALLING FOR A REGULAR ELECTION TO FILL

VACANCIES ON THE CITY COMMISSION; SETTING AN ELECTION DATE; NAMING THE VACANCIES TO BE FILLED; ESTABLISHING A POLLING LOCATION; ESTABLISHING A QUALIFYING PERIOD; ESTABLISHING ELECTION PROCEDURES; PROVIDING FOR ELECTION ARRANGEMENTS; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

A motion was made by Commissioner Raysin and seconded by Commissioner Williams to approve the Consent Agenda, as presented.

Mayor Cheshire called for a vote on the motion and declared it carried unanimously, 3-0.

5. REGULAR AGENDA

- (a) Resolution 2026-019, Approval of Engineering and Development Review 2026 Hourly Rate Schedule – Halff Associates Inc.**

Ms. Geraci-Carver read Resolution 2026-019 by title only.

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF FRUITLAND PARK, FLORIDA, APPROVING THE 2026 STANDARD HOURLY RATE SCHEDULE FOR ENGINEERING SERVICES AND THEREBY AMENDING THE ENGINEERING AND SURVEYING SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH HALFF ASSOCIATES INC TO INCLUDE SAID SCHEDULE; REPEALING ALL FEES IN CONFLICT HEREWITH; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

A motion was made by Commissioner Williams and seconded by Commissioner Raysin to approve the Consent Agenda, as presented.

Mayor Cheshire called for a vote on the motion and declared it carried unanimously, 3-0.

- (b) Resolution 2026-020, Approval of Staff Recommendation and Authority to Negotiate a Contract between Song + Associates, Inc. and the City of Fruitland Park, for Professional Design Services Related to the Construction of an Expansion to the Library**

Ms. Geraci-Carver read Resolution 2026-020 by title only.

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF FRUITLAND PARK, FLORIDA, APPROVING THE RANKING OF ARCHITECTURE FIRMS FOR PROFESSIONAL DESIGN SERVICES RELATED TO THE CONSTRUCTION OF AN EXPANSION TO THE EXISTING FRUITLAND PARK LIBRARY AS RECOMMENDED BY THE SELECTION COMMITTEE; AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO NEGOTIATE AND ENTER A CONTRACT; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

A motion was made by Raysin and seconded by Commissioner Williams to approve the Consent Agenda, as presented.

Mayor Cheshire called for a vote on the motion and declared it carried unanimously, 3-0.

6. PUBLIC HEARING

(a) Second Reading of Ordinance 2026-006, Waste Management CPI Adjustment

Ms. Geraci-Carver read Ordinance 2026-006 by title only.

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF FRUITLAND PARK, FLORIDA, ADOPTING RATES FOR THE PROVISION OF WASTE MANAGEMENT SERVICES TO THE RESIDENTS OF THE CITY OF FRUITLAND PARK; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS AND SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR INCLUSION IN THE CODE OF ORDINANCES; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

A motion was made by Commissioner Williams and seconded by Commissioner Raysin to approve the second and final reading of Ordinance 2026-006, as presented.

Mayor Cheshire called for public comments. There were none.

Mayor Cheshire called for a roll call vote on the motion and declared it carried unanimously, 3-0.

END OF PUBLIC HEARING

7. (a) City Manager

Ms. Manila reported she had been working with Robb Dicus and the City Engineer to address ponding issues along Lowe Court in Pine Ridge, the Villages. She advised that staff contact The Villages and continue identifying the issues to determine a resolution.

(b) City Attorney

i. Linda Herald v. City of Fruitland Park, Lake County Case No. 2025-CA-000116

Ms. Geraci-Carver reported that mediation had been scheduled in the Harold matter. There is no information at this time, but any settlement reached will be made contingent upon approval by the City Commission.

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

9. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Carl Yauk, 1023 Ritter Road, asked questions about the expansion project for the Library. He suggested the city look into building up on the existing building to accommodate future growth, since the property is landlocked. He also felt that \$123,000 was excessively high for overseeing the construction.

10. COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

- (a) **Commissioner Williams** – Nothing to report.
- (b) **Commissioner Cosenza** – Nothing to report.
- (c) **Commissioner Raysin** – Nothing to report.
- (d) **Vice Mayor DeGrave** – Nothing to report.

11. MAYOR'S COMMENTS

Mayor Cheshire announced the following important dates:

Thursday, March 26, 2026	Regular City Commission Meeting at 6:00 p.m.
Saturday, March 28, 2026	Fruitland Park Day

15. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:12 p.m.


Gwen Johns, MMC, City Clerk


Chris Cheshire, Mayor