

**FRUITLAND PARK CITY COMMISSION REGULAR
MEETING MINUTES
October 23, 2025**

A regular meeting of the Fruitland Park City Commission was held at 506 W. Beckman Street, Fruitland Park, Florida on Thursday, October 23, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.

Members Present: Mayor Chris Cheshire, Vice Mayor Patrick DeGrave, Commissioners Martina Williams, and Joseph Cosenza III

Members Absent: Commissioner Michael Raysin (Excused)

Also Present: City Manager Karen Manila, City Attorney Anita Geraci-Carver, Interim Police Chief, Henry Rains, Human Resources Director John Klein; Public Works Director Robb Dicus; Michael "Mike" Rankin, Interim Community Development Director, LPG Urban & Regional Planners Inc. (consultant retained by the city), Sharon Williams, Administrative Manager of Community Development, and Gwen Johns, City Clerk.

Total Attendance: 36

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

After Mayor Cheshire called the meeting to order, an Invocation was given by Interim Police Chief Rains who then 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. SWEARING-IN CEREMONY

Interim Police Chief Henry Rains administered the Oath of Office to the following newly hired Police Officers: Officer Joseph D'Imperio, Officer Erick Burland and Officer Brad Seley. He presented a brief biography for each officer and welcomed them to the City of Fruitland Park.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

(a) Approval of Minutes (city manager/city clerk)

October 9, 2025, Regular City Commission Meeting

ACTION: A motion was made by Vice Mayor DeGrave and seconded by Commissioner Cosenza to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

Mayor Cheshire called for a roll call vote on the motion and declared it carried unanimously, 4-0.

5. REGULAR AGENDA

(b) Resolution 2025-083, Accepting Financial Audit for the Fiscal Year Ending September 30, 2024.

Anita Geraci-Carver, City Attorney, read Resolution 2025-083 by title only.

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF FRUITLAND PARK, FLORIDA, ACCEPTING THE INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2024, WITH ACCOMPANYING FINANCIAL STATEMENTS; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Karen Manila, City Manager, suggested that this item be tabled since the final audit document was not yet available for the City Commission to review. Staff had anticipated having it prior to the meeting date when the agenda packet was published.

There were no public comments.

ACTION: A motion was made by Vice Mayor DeGrave and seconded by Commissioner Cosenza to TABLE Resolution 2025-083, until November 13, 2025. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

Mayor Cheshire called for a roll call vote on the motion and declared it carried unanimously, 4-0.

(b) Resolution 2025-080, Approval of a FDOT Grant for the Purchase of Equipment and Overtime Reimbursement for the Police Department.

Anita Geraci-Carver, City Attorney, read Resolution 2025-080 by title only.

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF FRUITLAND PARK, FLORIDA, APPROVING THE STATE OF FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION SUBGRANT AGREEMENT FOR HIGHWAY SAFETY FUNDS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$56,000.00; AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE THE SUBGRANT AGREEMENT; AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER OR DESIGNEE TO EXECUTE ALL OTHER NECESSARY DOCUMENTS; PROVIDING DIRECTIONS; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

There were no public comments.

ACTION: A motion was made by Commissioner Cosenza and seconded by Commissioner Williams to approve Resolution 2025-080, as presented. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

Mayor Cheshire called for a roll call vote on the motion and declared it carried unanimously, 4-0.

(c) Resolution 2025-081, Approval of a FDLE Grant for the Purchase of a Drone for the Police Department

Ms. Geraci-Carver read Resolution 2025-081, by title only.

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF FRUITLAND PARK, FLORIDA, APPROVING THE DRONE REPLACEMENT PROGRAM FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT AND THE CITY OF FRUITLAND PARK IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$25,000.00; AUTHORIZING THE INTERIM POLICE CHIEF TO EXECUTE THE AGREEMENT; DIRECTING THE CITY MANAGER OR DESIGNEE TO MEET ALL REQUIREMENTS SET FORTH IN THE AGREEMENT; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE

There were no public comments.

ACTION: A motion was made by Commissioner Cosenza and seconded by Commissioner Williams to approve Resolution 2025-081, as presented. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

Mayor Cheshire called for a roll call vote on the motion and declared it carried unanimously, 4-0.

6. PUBLIC HEARINGS

END OF PUBLIC HEARINGS

7. QUASI-JUDICIAL PUBLIC HEARING

END OF QUASI-JUDICIAL PUBLIC HEARING

8. (a) City Manager

Ms. Manila noted that city hall and other public offices would be closed for Veteran's Day on Tuesday, November 11, 2025.

Ms. Manila stated that an appraiser had been engaged to provide appraisal services for the property that the City would be purchasing for a water plant.

(b) City Attorney

Ms. Geraci-Carver stated that there had been a previous approval of site plan for Urick & Wilder, one of the conditions of that site plan being that no permits would be issued to perform any work until an agreement could be reached between the developer and Lake County. She stated that the site plan remains under Lake County review, which is holding the project up. The developer has requested that the City of Fruitland Park allow them to get started on the project while they await Lake County review. Mr. Christian Grabeman from Elmington Capital was present representing the developer. Ms. Geraci-Carver asked the City Commissioner if they would agree to change the condition to allow permits to be issued but not to allow any occupancy until compliance has been reached with Lake County.

Mr. Grabeman further explained the request. He noted that Lake County was not trying to extract anything additional from the contractor; this restriction being lifted would simply allow the contractor to move forward with preliminary work on the project.

ACTION: A motion was made by Vice Mayor DeGrave and seconded by Commissioner Cosenza to approve the request, with the condition that no certificates of occupancy or completion would be issued until the requirements of Lake County have been satisfied. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

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

Ms. Geraci-Carver had nothing additional to report.

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was none.

10. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were none.

11. COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

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

12. MAYOR'S COMMENTS

Dates to Remember

Mayor Cheshire announced the following events:

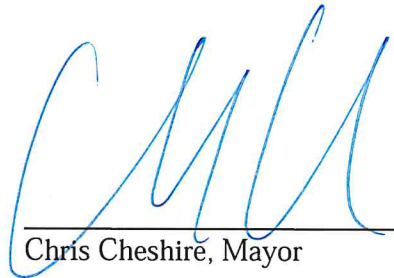
- October 24, 2025, Halloween Party at The Gardenia Center
- October 31, 2025, Trick or Treat at Shiloh Cemetery 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
- November 6, 2025, Time Capsule Interment at Library 6:00 p.m.
- November 13, 2025, City Commission Meeting 6:00 p.m.
- November 21, 2025, Comedy Night at The Gardenia Center 8:00 p.m.

For additional events, please visit [Calendar | City of Fruitland Park Florida](#).

13. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:18 p.m.


Gwen Johns, MMC, City Clerk


Chris Cheshire, Mayor