

**FRUITLAND PARK CITY COMMISSION SPECIAL
MEETING MINUTES
September 18, 2017**

A special meeting of the Fruitland Park City Commission was held at 506 W. Berckman Street, Fruitland Park, Florida 34731 on Thursday, September 18, 2017 at 6:00 p.m.

Members Present: Mayor Chris Cheshire, Vice Mayor John L. Gunter, Jr., Commissioners Christopher Bell, Ray Lewis, and Rick Ranize.

Also Present: City Manager Gary La Venia, City Treasurer; Jeannine Racine; Police Chief Michael A. Fewless, Captain Eric Luce; Interim Fire Chief Don Gilpin; Deputy Fire Chief, Madison Leary, Fire Department; Community Development Director Charlie Rector; Public Works Director Dale Bogle, and City Clerk Esther B. Coulson.

1. CALL TO ORDER

After Mayor Cheshire called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m., the Reverend Dr. George A. Mulford, III, Grace Bible Baptist Church, gave the invocation and Chief Fewless led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

2. ROLL CALL

At Mayor Cheshire's request, Ms. Coulson called the roll and a quorum was present.

3. HURRICANE IRMA CLEANUP OPTIONS

After Mr. La Venia referred to the Logan Sitework Contractors Inc.'s invoice for \$24,600 for hurricane cleanup for four days, Mr. Bogle explained that the debris were hauled away to the city's water wastewater treatment plant (WWTP). (A copy of the invoice is filed with the supplemental papers to the minutes of this meeting.)

Mr. La Venia reported that he contacted Mr. Brady Sellers, Agri-Timber Inc., a contractor specializing in storm debris management services who resides in the city. He relayed his plans to tour the city on September 19, 2017 and provide an estimate on the cost of cleanup, and later noted that his previous offer -- discussed with him on September 15, 2017, has since been significantly reduced. Mr. La Venia referred to the prices received on the Kubota and a six-by-six dump trailer for approximately \$5,100. He recommended a cleanup joint effort between the contractor for the larger items and the public works department staff for the smaller debris and recognized the presence of Mr. Doug McCoy, Waste Management Inc., at this evening's meeting who plans to request what services could be offered to the city.

At Mr. La Venia's request, Chief Fewless referred to the previous staff briefing on aftermath of Hurricane Irma and relayed the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA's) response to his inquiries that a FEMA contractor personnel is not required to perform the cleanup work and that a FEMA line of credit would not be issued. He addressed his plan to contact the State of Florida Division of Emergency Management on September 19, 2017 for additional information.

After discussion, Mr. La Venia mentioned the city's plan to acquire a burn authorization (permission to burn debris) from the State of Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Florida Forest Service Office. He addressed the intent to find a location to burn noting the possibility of utilizing, at no cost, the Savannah Oaks site at CR 466A and Micro Race Track Road -- adjacent to J. C. Burke's property near The Villages -- provided the city executes an agreement to clean the ashes and mentioned the likelihood of viewing other sites. Mr. La Venia gave a report of the debris placed at the city's WWTP which is currently at capacity; recognized other locations noting that the adjacent municipalities are conducting their own cleanup efforts, and suggested that the city commission inform him of any other possible sites.

Mr. La Venia suggested dividing the work to be implemented by the proposed contractor and city staff using its equipment and addressed the imminent plan to purchase a Kubota with the grapple, bucket motors and dump truck totaling approximately \$67,337 (piggyback contract utilized by Lake County Sheriff's Office).

After Mr. Bogle described the features of the 2017 Ford F650 67 dump trailer truck, Mr. La Venia conveyed his conversations with Lake County staff earlier this day on its plans to collect debris on its roadways whereby a decision would be made on picking up everything in front of residents' homes on county roadways.

At Mr. La Venia's request and in addressing Waste Management's efforts and resources under the current solid waste disposal contract, Mr. McCoy reported on the additional collection of combined bagged garbage (yard and food waste) in tonnage at no extra cost earlier this day in comparison to the normal service; addressed the ability to provide extended clam shell services at a per-hour rate (consistent with other contractors' charges) equated to the once a week service provided, and relayed his conversations earlier this day with Mr. La Venia on the efficient costs and methods in using end loader heavy equipment to pickup debris;

In response to Vice Mayor Gunter's inquiry, Mr. McCoy agreed, in the affirmative, to provide roll off dumpsters -- 30 yards material capacity -- located throughout the city for \$100 per haul to the city's designated site for burning and addressed his intent to communicate with Mr. La Venia in this regard.

Based on the city commission's consideration of the strategies previously described, the resources available to utilize the clearing of debris, and the option to utilize temporary personnel; Mr. La Venia addressed his intent to send a letter to city residents requesting their indulgence on the city's plans and anticipated time on the debris removal process and indicated that said letter would be uploaded on to the city's website, posted on its social media pages, and mailed separately with the utility bills. He noted the successful restoration of power from the City of Leesburg to the majority of City of Fruitland Park residents as compared with other service providers in the area.

After Commissioner Lewis suggested the need to identify a site for residents to bring their yard waste and in concurrence with Mayor Cheshire's remarks on situating dumpsters at designated locations during specific times for collection, Mr. McCoy addressed his willingness to comply with same. He cautioned the city commission on the problems with co-mingling materials with yard waste and emphasized the need for the site to be monitored.

Commissioner Lewis acknowledged the capacity of storm debris at the WWTP and the need to burn same and suggested sending materials to said location which ought to be cordoned for the residents.

After Commissioner Bell recognized the number of volunteer youth groups at local churches providing assistance and in response to Mr. La Venia's reference to the concerns recently addressed to him by Ms. Rita Ranize, City of Fruitland Park resident, on the need to use high school students, she referred to the September 15, 2017 email from Ms. Coulson regarding student volunteers.

Mayor Cheshire noted how part of the problem would be resolved if the city determines the location of dumpsters; provides instructions for individuals to bring debris for disposal, and recommends a site for burning of same.

Commissioner Ranize referred to the location of CR 466A, between Dixie Avenue and US Highway 441/27, where the trees were removed; identified the options to rent from various local contracting companies and individuals, and recognized the adjacent church property at the rear of Windy Acres Festivities Inc.'s site. He pointed out his September 17, 2017 email regarding the clean up where he addressed the need for possible locations for residents to bring their debris and the monitoring of same on the type of debris permitted.

In response, Commissioner Bell suggested the requirement for specific instructions to be given to residents by mail which identifies Lake County areas; namely, the North West Lake Community Park near Dixie Avenue and CR-466A and the likelihood of placing debris by Veterans' Park to be cleared in the afternoons, the proposed Fruitland Park Library site, the Lake County School District site at Urick Street and Wilder Street, and the possibility to request from Pastor Dennis Langford, Covenant Life Church of God, the use of the church property at Urick Street.

After discussion, Mayor Cheshire suggested the use of Veterans' Park as a drop off site for city residents only which ought to be monitored and where the park's gates can be locked to which Mr. Bogle concurred. Mayor Cheshire recommended that the streets to be cleared ought to be identified on the city's website.

Following Commissioner Ranize's reference to his previous discussions with Mr. Sellers recognizing that he possesses a belt chipper which could be used as a method of debris disposal, Mr. La Venia addressed his plan to meet with him on September 19, 2017.

In response to Commissioner Ranize' illustrations which accompanied his September 17, 2017 email to Mr. La Venia highlighting dump trailers and noting that staff could utilize same daily, Mayor Cheshire voiced his concurrence with same as well as the use of the Kubota Wheel Loader by city staff.

After Mr. Bogle pointed out brochure on the Kubota Wheel Loader R630 and described its uses, after the initial phase, to which Commissioner Ranize indicated that trailer would not complete the work, the city commission discussed the approximate costs to acquire the Bobcat Equipment and Kubota Wheel Loader and the allocation of approximately \$771,040 from the public works department budget set aside for equipment to the capital improvement program. (A copy of the brochure is filed with the supplemental papers to the minutes of this meeting.)

In response to Vice Mayor Gunter's inquiry, Mr. La Venia mentioned the pursuit of a monitoring company (a piggyback company) which would ensure that the city remove and dispose debris within city limits; apply the cost as a FEMA expense, and oversee handle the necessary paperwork. He advised that the city's maps would be provided to the company and Chief Fewless would be communicating with the emergency operations center.

Mr. La Venia addressed the need to establish a site and contact the state for the burn authorization and explained, in response to Commissioner Ranize' statements that Mr. James I. Rainey, Rainey Construction Company, met with him earlier this day addressing same.

Mr. La Venia and Ms. Racine mentioned, in response to an inquiry posed by Commissioner Ranize, the review of the end-of-the-year FY 2016-17 budget; referenced previous discussions held with financial institutions on the line of credit, and noted the seeking of an opinion from City Attorney Anita Geraci-Carver requesting from the Florida League of Cities Inc., the use of unrestricted funds. Ms. Racine recognized that there is \$62,000 remaining in contingency funds.

After discussion, Mayor Cheshire determined that it would be helpful if residents participate by bringing their debris to the respective site; if the city purchases the appropriate equipment to allow the public works department staff to perform work on clearing the smaller debris; if the contractor removes the larger debris; if staff communicates with Mr. Sellers in order to execute a contract, and if Lake County clears its roadways.

Vice Mayor Gunter suggested that the letter to city residents ought to reflect that the haulers would make the first collection after the storm; the second collection approximately three weeks' later, and if larger storm debris are not cleared after that time, code enforcement activities resume to which Mayor Cheshire recommended establishing a time limit.

Commissioner Ranize suggested that the contractor to be retained by the city allows residents to dispose their debris at the city's site location, seven days week and 24 hours a day (at no charge) without paying any tipping fee.

Following extensive discussions and **on motion of Commissioner Bell, seconded by Commissioner Ranize and unanimously carried, the city commission authorized staff to:**

- i. purchase the Kubota Wheel Loader, the 2017 Ford F650 67 dump trailer truck and the trailer with the thumb utilizing Capital Improvement Program funds;**
- ii. communicate with the debris monitoring services company;**
- iii. decide with Waste Management Inc. the placement of dumpsters at Veterans' Park;**
- iv. review the piggyback contracts capped at \$35,000, and**
- v. obtain the city attorney's opinion on the transfer of equipment funds from capital improvement and operating costs.**

After much discussion, Mr. McCoy outlined the period for normal residential/curbside collection services; addressed the plan to assign same on Saturday, November 20, 2017, and described how they would coordinate the collection and disposal of residential debris during the day with Mr. Bogle.

By unanimous consent the city commission:

- i. authorized the city manager to seek a contractor for debris monitoring services who would oversee the removal and disposal of debris, the handling of loading and hauling containers, and the provision of visible signage for city residents;**
- ii. identified Veterans' Park as the debris disposal site, and**
- iii. directed the city manager to send a letter by September 28, 2017 to city residents explaining the requirements and process and for said letter to be mailed with the utility bills, posted on the city's social media sites (Facebook pages), and uploaded on to the city's website.**

Following further discussion, Mr. La Venia addressed his plan to contact Mr. Sellers suggesting a reduction in his estimated price, inform Waste Management Inc. on the debris removal and disposition, and update the city commissioners in this regard.

After further discussion, Mr. Rector mentioned the plan to meet with the Frist Baptist Church of Leesburg's representatives regarding their pending project on

September 19, 2017 and suggested the option of entitling to the city to utilize its property as the burn debris site.

Mayor Cheshire referred to the plan for Mr. La Venia and Ms. Racine to discuss with Ms. Geraci-Carver the release and the use of unrestricted funds to pay for the costs resulting from Hurricane Irma and if the response is unfavorable, Mr. La Venia confirmed, that he would be working on pursuing the line of credit.

After discussion, Mayor Cheshire suggested Mr. La Venia inform the city commission if another meeting is required.

4. OFFICERS' REPORTS

(a) City Manager

Mr. La Venia confirmed the strategy to deal with the debris removal as a two-prong approach with the contractors handling the larger debris and staff managing the smaller items; the intent to purchase the equipment as previously cited, and the plan to send a letter to city residents regarding the city's arrangements explaining why the clean-up arrangements would be the most cost-effective method.

(b) City Attorney

The city attorney was absent from this evening's meeting.

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Michael Warren, City of Fruitland Park resident, personally welcomed the city's use of a truck or a trailer.

In response to an inquiry posed by Ms. Janet Goldberg, City of Fruitland Park resident, Mayor Cheshire indicated that the idea for residents to present a picture identification to drop off debris has been eliminated.

The Reverend Dr. George A. Mulford III, Grace Bible Baptist Church, referred to Commissioner Bell's comments regarding volunteer youth groups at local churches; questioned the organization of a designated cleanup day, and questioned the liability of collecting larger debris.

After discussion, Commissioner Lewis referred to and questioned the occupancy of a property located around the vicinity of Patricia Avenue and Lewis Street; recognized the downed tree limbs, and after questioning the city's decision in that regard to which Mayor Cheshire believed that more time ought to be given on the issue.

Mayor Cheshire concurred with Commissioner Ranize' suggestion that for individuals experiencing financial hardship or physical deficiencies, staff's letter to city residents ought to encourage them to call city hall to obtain information on available organizations (such as churches, boys and girls scouts) who would be able to help clean up yard debris.

Ms. Ranize recognized the need for local high school students (Leesburg High and The Villages Charter) to have a minimum requirement of accrued volunteer community service hours per semester before graduating and receiving a high school diploma, which she brought to the attention of Mr. La Venia. She referred to a recent Facebook posting citing an elderly resident's need for help where students would be able to the serve the community.

In response to Pastor Mulford's inquiry, Mayor Cheshire suggested that the groups' cleanup efforts ought to be concentrated at the residents' yards.

6. COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

- (a) **Commissioner Ranize**
Commissioner Ranize had no comments at this time.
- (b) **Commissioner Lewis**
Commissioner Lewis had no comments at this time.
- (c) **Commissioner Bell**
Commissioner Bell had no comments at this time.
- (d) **Vice Mayor Gunter, Jr.**
Vice Mayor Gunter had no comments at this time.

7. MAYOR'S COMMENTS

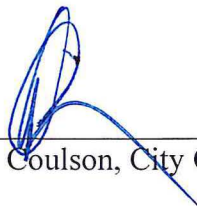
Mayor Cheshire had no comments at this time.

8. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:19 p.m.

The minutes were approved at the October 26, 2017 regular meeting.

Signed _____
Esther B. Coulson, City Clerk



Signed _____
Chris Cheshire, Mayor

