

**FRUITLAND PARK CITY COMMISSION REGULAR  
MEETING MINUTES  
September 28, 2017**

A regular meeting of the Fruitland Park City Commission was held at 506 W. Berckman Street, Fruitland Park, Florida 34731 on Thursday, September 14, 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 Attorney Anita Geraci-Carver; City Treasurer Jeannine Racine; Captain Eric Luce; Interim Fire Chief Don Gilpin; 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., Pastor Aaron Hornsby, Eagles' Nest 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. CONSENT AGENDA**

**Approval of Minutes**

**On motion of Commissioner Lewis seconded by Commissioner Ranize and unanimously carried, the city commission approved the September 14, 2017 regular meeting minutes as submitted.**

**4. REGULAR AGENDA**

**(a) Resolution 2017-033 – City Treasurer Appointment**

Ms. Geraci-Carver read into the record proposed Resolution 2017-033 the substance of which is as follows:

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF FRUITLAND PARK,  
APPOINTING A CITY TREASURER, PROVIDING FOR THE  
TERM OF OFFICE; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Bell and seconded by Commissioner Lewis that the city commission adopt Resolution 20170-033 as previously cited.**

There being no public comments, **Mayor Cheshire called for a roll call vote on the motion and declared it carried unanimously.**

**(b) Resolution 2017-034 – City Attorney Appointment**

Ms. Geraci-Carver read into the record proposed Resolution 2017-034 the substance of which is as follows:

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF FRUITLAND PARK,  
APPOINTING A CITY ATTORNEY, PROVIDING FOR THE  
TERM OF OFFICE; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Ranize and seconded by Commissioner Lewis that the city commission adopt Resolution 2017-034 as previously cited.**

There being no public comments, **Mayor Cheshire called for a roll call vote on the motion and declared it carried unanimously.**

**(c) Resolution 2017-035 – City Clerk Appointment**

Ms. Geraci-Carver read into the record proposed Resolution 2017-035 the substance of which is as follows:

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF FRUITLAND PARK,  
APPOINTING A CITY CLERK, PROVIDING FOR THE TERM  
OF OFFICE; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Bell and seconded by Commissioner Ranize that the city commission adopt Resolution 2017-035 as previously cited.**

There being no public comments, **Mayor Cheshire called for a roll call vote on the motion and declared it carried unanimously.**

**(d) Resolution 2017-036 – Second Amendment – Sumter Landing Community Development District Water and Wastewater Main Line Extension - Villages of Lake Sumter Inc.**

Ms. Geraci-Carver read into the record proposed Resolution 2017-036 the substance of which is as follows:

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY  
OF FRUITLAND PARK, FLORIDA, APPROVING THE  
SECOND AMENDMENT TO AGREEMENT FOR THE  
CONSTRUCTION OF WATER PLANT IMPROVEMENTS AND  
THE EXTENSION OF WATER AND WASTEWATER LINES  
BETWEEN THE VILLAGES OF LAKE-SUMTER, INC.  
FLORIDA, AND THE CITY OF FRUITLAND PARK;  
PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Mr. La Venia referred to the corrected change order showing *The Villages of Lake-Sumter Inc.* and the representative's signing of same and mentioned the requirement

for signature them to execute the subject agreement. (A copy of the corrected change order is filed with the supplemental papers to the minutes of this meeting.)

In response to Commissioner Ranize' inquiry, Ms. Geraci-Carver advised that the city commission can proceed to approve the subject item contingent upon execution of the agreement.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Lewis and seconded by Commissioner Bell that the city commission adopt Resolution 2017-036 as previously cited, as requested by the city attorney.**

There being no public comments, **Mayor Cheshire called for a roll call vote on the motion and declared it carried unanimously.**

**(e) Resolution 2017-039 – EOY FY 2016/17 BA – Hurricane Irma Cleanup**

Ms. Geraci-Carver read into the record proposed Resolution 2017-039 the substance of which is as follows:

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF FRUITLAND PARK, FLORIDA, AMENDING THE 2016/2017 FISCAL YEAR BUDGET PURSUANT TO SEC. 6.07 OF THE CITY CHARTER TO INCREASE THE GENERAL FUND BUDGET \$118,512, INCREASE THE UTILITIES FUND BUDGET \$6,400, AND MOVE VARIOUS BUDGET LINE ITEM AMOUNTS TO COVER OVERAGES AND SHORTAGES FOR THE END OF YEAR REVIEW; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

After discussion, **a motion was made by Vice Mayor Gunter and seconded by Commissioner Bell that the city commission adopt Resolution 2017-039 as previously cited.**

Ms. Racine addressed the purpose of the increase in the general fund due to Hurricane Irma.

Mr. La Venia explained, in response to an inquiry posed by Ms. Pamela Hinchberger, The Villages of Fruitland Park resident, the revenue sources and the transfer of funds for FY 2016/17.

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

## SECOND BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING

- (f) **Public Hearing - Resolution 2017-037 – Final Millage Rate FY 2017-18**  
Mayor Cheshire announced the city's preparedness to set the tentative millage rate of 3.9863, an 8.63% increase over the roll back rate of 3.6696 – an increase of over sixty four percent increase in taxable assessed value of 192,233,050 value generated by The Villages.

After Ms. Geraci-Carver read into the record proposed Resolution 2017-037 the substance of which is as follows, Mayor Cheshire called for the public to be heard:

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF FRUITLAND PARK, LAKE COUNTY, FLORIDA, ADOPTING A FINAL MILLAGE RATE OF 3.9863 LEVYING OF AD VALOREM TAXES FOR LAKE COUNTY FOR FISCAL YEAR 2017-2018; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE. (The first public hearing was held on September 14, 2017.)

**A motion was made by Commissioner Lewis and seconded by Commissioner Ranize that the city commission adopt Resolution 2017-037 as previously cited.**

After Mr. Larry Gibson, The Villages of Fruitland Park resident, questioned the increase in the roll back rate, Commissioner Lewis and Mr. La Venia gave an explanation in that regard and the total ad valorem revenue.

Mr. La Venia and Chief Fewless explained, in response to an inquiry posed by Ms. Nancy Miller, The Villages of Fruitland Park resident, the city's source of revenue from property taxes with the increase on the millage rate to be the same as FY 2016/17; noted the increase in population which addresses the need to retain additional law enforcement personnel, and referred to the FY 2017/18 budget.

Mayor Cheshire responded to a question raised by Mr. Tom Thunderberg, The Villages of Fruitland Park resident, on the millage rate being the same amount of taxes paid in comparison to FY 2016/17.

Mr. La Venia explained in answer to an inquiry posed by Mr. Peter J. Hurtt, City of Fruitland Park resident, that a substantial percentage of coverage by The Villages is as a result of new homes construction.

Mr. La Venia explained the FY 2016/17 roll back millage rate and the city commission addressed the increased expenses and services due to The Villages population growth to Mr. David Starke, The Villages of Fruitland Park resident.

Ms. Marlene Pollack, The Villages of Fruitland Park resident, questioned the development of the City of Fruitland Park to which Mr. Rector gave a report on additional permits to be issued for residential homes which are almost being completely built out and predicted the number of commercial businesses growth in the city.

After discussion and in response to concerns raised by Mr. Robert Swimm, The Villages of Fruitland Park resident, on the increase of the county's assessment of property taxes, Commissioner Ranize suggested that he contact Carey Baker, Property Appraiser, as he establishes the property values. and would have the matter reviewed.

In response to question posed regarding the bond by Mr. Miles Federoah, The Villages of Fruitland Park resident, Mr. La Venia indicated that it is the responsibility of The Villages.

**By unanimous consent, Mayor Cheshire closed the public hearing.**

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

**(g) Public Hearing Resolution 2017-038 Final Adoption Budget FY 2017-18**

After Ms. Geraci-Carver read into the record proposed Resolution 2017-038 the substance of which is as follows, Mayor Cheshire called for the public to be heard:

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF FRUITLAND PARK, LAKE COUNTY, FLORIDA, ADOPTING THE FINAL BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2017-2018; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE. (The first public hearing was held on September 14, 2017.)

**A motion was made by Commissioner Lewis and seconded by Vice Mayor Gunter that the city commission adopt Resolution 2017-038 as previously cited.**

There being no comments from the public and **by unanimous consent, Mayor Cheshire closed the public hearing.**

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

**END OF PUBLIC HEARING**

**SUPPLEMENTAL AGENDA**

- (h) **Resolution 2017-040 - Local State of Emergency Declaration – Storm Debris**  
Ms. Geraci-Carver read into the record proposed Resolution 2017-040 the substance of which is as follows:

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF FRUITLAND PARK, FLORIDA, DECLARING A LOCAL STATE OF EMERGENCY EFFECTIVE AS OF SEPTEMBER 6, 2017.

Due to the many contracts relating to storm debris, Ms. Geraci-Carver explained that the subject resolution would allow the city to waive its procurement rules and proceed without adhering to its stringent policies.

**On motion of Commissioner Bell, seconded by Commissioner Ranize that the city commission adopt Resolution 2017-040 as previously cited.**

There being no comments from the public, **Mayor Cheshire called for a roll call vote on the motion and declared it carried unanimously.**

- (i) **Storm Debris Management Services Contracts**  
The city commission considered its action to approve a contract between Brady Sellars, Agri-Timber Inc., and the City of Fruitland Park, a political subdivision of the State of Florida for the removal of storm debris.

Reason for Supplemental Agenda Items: Declaring a state of emergency – preservation of health, safety, and welfare of the citizens.

Mr. La Venia referred Logan Sitework Contractors Inc's invoice at \$24,600 for initial hurricane cleanup work performed and noted the company's obligations with other clients. He recalled a telephone call he had with a company from Ocala whose estimated charge is between \$750,000 to \$1.25 million. Mr. La Venia referred to the quote of \$379,500 from Mr. Sellers whereby a recent meeting was held where the proposal was reduced to one pass through (to remove the debris) instead of two at a base price of \$375,000. (Copies of the respective documents are filed with the supplemental papers to the minutes of this meeting.

Mr. La Venia addressed the city commission's actions at its September 18, 2017 special meeting authorizing the transfer of funds for staff to purchase equipment for the public works department's use which was recently carried out; anticipated the completion of repairs for the Kubota Wheel Loader, and mentioned the attempts to acquire the Bobcat; however, he noted the city commission's discretion for staff to review other contractors.

After Mr. La Venia outlined the monitoring services to be utilized and his recent discussions with Ms. Geraci-Carver, she referred to the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA's) Claims Emergency Preparedness Response Claims Checklist and relayed its preference for such services to be procured; otherwise, she interpreted the agency's requirement giving reasons for the contractor's time and material.

In response to Mr. La Venia's statements regarding public works collecting the small debris, Ms. Geraci-Carver addressed the need for same to be outlined in the monitoring services contract; indicated that the initial cost would be time and material with a guarantee of \$100,000, and explained why the contractor would invoice the city weekly if it is over \$100,000; thus, Mr. La Venia noting that it would not exceed the limit of \$250,000.

After Ms. Racine identified the actual funding and the available monies after deducting the hurricane expenses, she referred to her conversations with Ms. Kelly Leary, McDirmit Davis CPA, auditors retained by the city, and relayed her suggestions to not expend restricted funds; however, it is acceptable to allow said fund balance to reach negative and review the budget next FY 2018-19. Ms. Racine referred to the email dated September 27, 2017 in this regard; a copy of which is filed with the supplemental papers to the minutes of this meeting.

Ms. Geraci-Carver recommended that Mr. La Venia not use unrestricted funds other than for what it was designated and suggested that he communicates with the auditor as it was agreed that it would be an accounting issue.

Ms. Racine addressed the plan to communicate with the city's financial institutions on September 29, 2017 to open a line of credit to which Mr. La Venia interjected, if the city commission is agreeable to pursuing same.

Subsequent to further discussion, Ms. Racine noted the option of utilizing the transfer of general funds (investment account).

Following Commissioner Ranize's suggestion to seek another resource, if FEMA does not reimburse the city, Mr. La Venia pointed out his contact with different monitoring companies; namely, Mr. Andre Duarte, CDR Maguire in Miami and Eisman & Russo Inc., consulting engineers, and stated that he anticipates costs of \$800,000 or \$32,000 to \$42,000 weekly for the monitoring process, over and above hauling and burning.

Mr. Mark Isom, former Public Safety Director/Police Chief, recalled the city not utilizing monitoring services during the aftermath of the 2004 hurricane and indicated that he and former Police Department Captain Rob Parrish were FEMA certified where they conducted the work themselves to which Mr. La Venia recognized the city's current FEMA certified employee who does not have the required credentials.

After discussion and with reference to FEMA's checklist, Ms. Geraci-Carver pointed out her recent communication with the disaster assistance team's emergency management representative, provided by Mr. La Venia. She explained that the State of Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) does not review contracts or provide guidance; addressed FEMA's preference, advantageous to the city, for the contractor to not enhance the project unless it is procured by the city which is another option, and addressed -- in response to Mayor Cheshire's inquiry -- the requirements for larger items collected to be a lump sum which is the revised contract with Agri-Timber Inc. that she provided to Mr. La Venia.

Mayor Cheshire addressed the city's option to negotiate the costs and the removal of debris with Mr. Brady and to borrow funds to implement same.

After Ms. Geraci-Carver identified the gas tax and discretionary funds earmarked for capital improvement projects (CIP), Mr. La Venia addressed the plan to negotiate down the quoted costs for pickup and the hauling of vegetative storm debris, management and administration but not the costs to burn and reduce yard at \$47,400; mentioned the intent to find out the timeframe to conduct same, and noted the need for another city commission meeting to consider the subject contract.

Mr. La Venia concurred with Commissioner Ranize's statements on the likelihood for Agri-Timber's timeframe for hauling the debris to be quicker; that there have been no complaints on a smoke curtain burning the debris faster, and noted the First Baptist Church of Leesburg allowing the use of its property as a disposal site at Pine Ridge Dairy Road.

In recognizing the debris currently located at the wastewater treatment plant, Mr. La Venia concurred with the request for Mr. Sellers to make arrangements to dump the debris at said location as soon as possible.

After discussion, Mr. Bogle anticipated the process to be complete by the end of October early November 2017 and referred to Vice Mayor Gunter's suggestion regarding dump trailers where he plans to address before the city commission, the need to purchase another to which Commissioner Lewis indicated he would endorse if the cleanup was performed by the public works department.

Commissioner Ranize explained the need for two dump trailers to prepare for the next inevitable weather-related event with CIP funds to be utilized as needed.

Following extensive discussion, Mr. La Venia reported on staff's monitoring of its hours and the use of appropriate FEMA forms and referred to FDEP's recent authorization letter (claims to FEMA for public assistance) for specific locations.

**Upon Mayor Cheshire's suggestion and by unanimous consent, the city commission recessed its meeting at 7:22 p.m. and reconvened at 7:24 p.m.**

After discussion and following Commissioner Lewis' inquiry, Mr. La Venia relayed the recent telephone conversation he had with Lake County Manager Jeff Cole regarding the storm debris collection on county roadways regardless of city limits; Commissioner Bell conveyed the assurance he received from a county commissioner on September 27, 2017 that he would follow-up on the county collection of debris on Dixie Avenue, and Mr. Bogle referred to his recent contact with Ms. Lori I. Koontz, Lake County Public Works Department, Road Operations Division, on the subject issue.

Mayor Cheshire suggested that the city commission permit Mr. La Venia to report back with various scenarios; identifying what was collected with the negotiated price, and the purchase of a second dump trailer to expedite the debris removal process.

After Commissioner Lewis requested that the city commission take separate actions on the issues addressed and suggested borrowing \$380,000 to resolve same, Commissioner Ranize expressed concerns recognizing the costs expended in the aftermath of the hurricane in 2004 and the time it took to cleanup. He believed that attempts ought to be made to obtain reimbursement under FEMA to which Mayor Cheshire voiced his concurrence.

In response to Vice Mayor Gunter's inquiry, Mr. La Venia addressed FEMA's criteria for reimbursement from the Declaration of State Emergency and pointed out the September 27, 2017 email from Ms. Leary where she cited municipalities - - with expenses from Hurricane Matthew, over a year ago -- have not received approval of their FEMA request.

Following further discussion and **by unanimous consent, the city commission directed the city manager to pursue the line of credit with the city's financial institutions and negotiate with Mr. Brady Sellers, Agri-Timber Inc., the removal of storm debris excluding the elimination of large tree debris on Dixie Avenue, CR 468, Pine Ridge Dairy Road, Cutoff Road, and Shiloh Avenue, if Lake County is performing storm debris collection at a reduced cost.**

After discussion, Mayor Cheshire requested that information to the residents be uploaded on to the city's website

In response to a question regarding the city's surplus funds posed by Mr. Howard Hooves, The Villages of Fruitland Park resident, Commissioner Ranize explained the restrictions placed on the city's expenditures earmarked for certain projects; questioned the Declaration of State Emergency and the need to spend approximately \$3 million, and addressed the purpose of the CIP. In concurring

with Mr. Hooves' concerns, he referred to his previous requests at the September 18, 2017 special meeting to ask the state legislature and Florida League of Cities Inc. (FLC) on the need for the restrictive funding to be released which has not been implemented.

After much discussion and based on the city commission's direction, Mr. La Venia's addressed his plan to renegotiate with Mr. Brady to reduce the costs of debris removal to one pass for \$200,000 with the option of requesting that Agri-Timber cease and desist the collection and removal of larger items on county roadways or allow him to identify the items and related costs to fulfill same. After he acknowledged the extended period the process is expected to take, Ms. Geraci-Carver addressed the need to revise the storm debris contract.

Subsequent to further discussions and after Ms. Racine recognized a line item in the FY 2017-18 reserves of \$150,000 including the purchase of the additional equipment, she concurred with Commissioner Bell's suggestion to adjust the general fund budget. She recognized that the reserves would change at the end of September 31, 2017 and questioned the amount after October 1, 2017 after Agri-Timber is retained.

**After considerable discussion, a motion was made by Commissioner Ranize and seconded by Vice Mayor Gunter that the city commission approve entering into a contract with Agri Timber Inc. for the removal of storm debris within the city for \$300,000 and directed staff to cease its operations in cleaning up the small debris.**

There being no comments from the public, **Mayor Cheshire called for a roll call vote on the motion with the city commission members voting as follows:**

<b>Commissioner Bell</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Vice Mayor Gunter</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Commissioner Lewis</b>	<b>No</b>
<b>Commissioner Ranize</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Mayor Cheshire</b>	<b>Yes</b>

**The motion was declared carried on a four to one (4-1) vote.**

**By unanimous consent, the city commission agreed with the Mayor Cheshire's suggestion to authorize the city manager to pursue the line of credit.**

Mr. Rector indicated that he will speak with Ms. Kelly Buchanan, Community Development Department, who is has a FEMA Student Identification System Certification Managing Floodplain Development through the National Flood Insurance Program with The Villages, Florida.

Mr. La Venia addressed his plan to communicate with Mr. Brady by September 29, 2017 and determine whether the contract is acceptable to decrease the costs and whether he would be amenable to remove the larger debris especially on major arterials.

In response to Mayor Cheshire, Mr. La Venia addressed his intent to find out further information on Ms. Buchanan's FEMA certification status; otherwise, he would research further on seeking a FEMA monitor for the city to receive reimbursement, and explore the line of credit of more than \$500,000 in this regard.

Recognizing that the reserves will be expended and in response to Commissioner Lewis' recommendation, **by unanimous consent, the city commission directed staff to explore a larger line of credit with the financial institution.**

## 5. OFFICERS' REPORTS

### (a) City Manager

#### i. Proposed Personnel Policy Revisions

Mr. La Venia stated that he is not addressing the proposed personnel policy revisions at this time.

#### ii. Hurricane Irma Status Update

Mr. La Venia stated that the Hurricane Irma status update was already addressed (under regular agenda Item 4.(i)).

### (b) City Attorney

#### i. Lawsuits

- **Notice of Claim – Anthony Mancino**

Ms. Geraci-Carver explained that Mr. Anthony Mancino's case has been settled. She stated that he has executed the release of all claims and settlement agreement and the check has been sent to his attorney's office; therefore, said matter has been concluded.

- **Homonai v. City of Fruitland Park**

With reference to the Homonai case, Ms. Geraci-Carver reported that she is in the process of obtaining an updated settlement demand from the plaintiff as requested by the insurance company.

- **Green v. City of Fruitland Park, Hunnewell, Isom and Isaacs**

With respect to the James and Rita Homonai v. Foster, Crenshaw and Green v. City of Fruitland Park, Hunnewell, Isom and Isaacs cases, Ms. Geraci-Carver explained that the court set a motion to dismiss hearing which was held on September 21, 2017 which is unusual in federal court and indicated that she is waiting for the court's ruling.

- **George Fernandez v. City of Fruitland Park**  
In response to Commissioner Lewis' inquiry regarding the George Fernandez matter, Ms. Geraci-Carver explained that she will provide more information on the merit of a countersuit.

ii. **Notice of Claims**

There are no new developments on the notices of claims that were received.

6. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no comments from the public at this time.

7. **COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS**

(a) **Commissioner Ranize**

i. **Hurricane Irma Cleanup**

With respect to the Hurricane Irma cleanup, Commissioner Ranize reiterated the need for the city commission to direct Mr. La Venia to contact the FLC regarding unrestricting its funds to deal with the current emergency.

ii. **LSMPO**

Commissioner Ranize referred to his attendance at the September 27, 2017 Lake-Sumter Metropolitan Planning Organization (LSMPO) meeting and pointed out Mr. La Venia's September 5, 2017 email to Mr. T. J. Fish, former MPO Executive Director regarding the city's change of representation; a copy of which is filed with the supplemental papers to the minutes of this meeting.

Commissioner Ranize expressed his disappointment on his LSMPO membership status as the only nonvoting governing board member; addressed his attempts to communicate with the State of Florida Department of Transportation representative on the mowing of the city's grass, and pointed out the LSMPO's actions that effective October 6, 2017, T.J. Fish will no longer be the executive director as his employment was terminated; however, his contractual agreement will begin until January 6, 2018 or until the board can replace him.

(b) **Commissioner Lewis**  
**Lake EMS Inc.**

Commissioner Lewis referred to the recent Lake Emergency Management Services Inc.'s (EMS) Finance Committee meeting where its budget was approved; reported that on December 1, 2017 he was informed that the feasibility study of consolidating Lake County Fire Rescue and Lake EMS by Fitch & Associates, LLC has been resolved, and indicated that he would find out further on December 1, 2017 as, according to the study, it was requested that a report be made based from the directors' individual responses; thus, he pointed out his previous

conversations with Mr. La Venia regarding the city's need for an ambulance service, if the transition is made to the fire department.

**(c) Commissioner Bell**

**i. Hurricane Irma Cleanup**

In answering Commissioner Bell's inquiry, Mr. La Venia announced that the letter to the residents regarding Hurricane Irma Cleanup will be distributed on September 27, 2017 with the utility bills, placed on the city's website, and on the city's respective social media pages.

Commissioner Lewis referred to Mr. La Venia's letter citing *on-site . . . . They will only be available to city residents who have this letter in hand along with a picture ID . . . .* He believed that the city commission determined not to request IDs due to the approved storm debris management services contract not unless the residents prefer to drop-off their debris. (A copy of the letter is filed with the supplemental papers to the minutes of this meeting.)

In concurring with Commissioner Lewis, Mr. La Venia explained that the city is implementing the collection process free of charge until October 6, 2017 to determine whether it works and noted that Waste Management Inc. is not charging for roll-off dumpsters.

**ii. Officers' Performance Evaluations**

Commissioner Bell referred to the officers' performance evaluation process and recognized the current personnel since he has been serving as an elected official. He he believes the level of professionalism with the city, at this point, far exceeds what the city had in the past and expressed his appreciation to the officers.

**(d) Vice Mayor Gunter, Jr.**

Vice Mayor Gunter stated that he has no comments at this time.

**8. MAYOR'S COMMENTS**

**(a) Wreaths Across America**

Mayor Cheshire referred to the September 26, 2017 letter from Ms. Lucy McCann, Unit 219, John Gella Memorial American Legion Auxiliary, to Mr. La Venia requesting permission to hold Wreaths Across America on December 16, 2017 at Shiloh Cemetery.

**By unanimous consent, the city commission agreed to the request as previously cited.**

**(b) Dates to Remember**

- October 4, 2017 – LCLC Sponsors Night, Lake Receptions 4425 N Highway 19-A, Mount Dora, Florida 32757 at 6:00 p.m.

- October 12, 2017 - Regular Commission Meeting at 6:00 p.m.
- October 13, 2017 – LCLC Lake Receptions 4425 N Highway 19-A, Mount Dora, Florida 32757 at 12:00 p.m.
- October 14, 2017 – *Trick or Trot 5k Family Fun Run*, Fruitland Park Elementary School, 304 W Fountain Street, Fruitland Park, Florida 34731 at 8:00 a.m.
- October 25, 2017 – Lake-Sumter Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Governing Board, 225 W Guava Street, #217, Lady Lake, Florida 32159 at 2:00 p.m.
- October 26, 2017 - Regular Commission Meeting at 6:00 p.m.
- November 3, 2017 — Back to School Movie Night *To Be Announced*, 506 W Berckman Street, Fruitland Park, Florida 34731 at 8:00 p.m.;
- November 9, 2017 Regular City Commission Meeting at 6:00 p.m.
- November 10, 2017 City Offices Closed – Veterans Day
- November 20, 2017 Lake EMS Employee Issues Committee Meeting, Lake Board of County Commission Chambers, 315 West Main St, PO Box 7800, Tavares, Florida 32778 at 2:00 p.m.
- November 21, 2017 Lake EMS Finance Committee Meeting, Lake Board of County Commission Chambers, 315 West Main St, PO Box 7800, Tavares, Florida 32778 at 3:00 p.m.
- November 21, 2017 Lake EMS Operations Committee Meeting, Lake Board of County Commission Chambers, 315 West Main St, PO Box 7800, Tavares, Florida 32778 at 2:00 p.m.
- November 13, 2017, Parks. Recreation Trails Advisory Board, Lake County Library Services Conference Room, 2401 Woodlea Road, Tavares, Florida 32778 at 3:30 p.m.
- November 23, 2017 Regular City Commission Meeting Cancelled
- November 23, 2017 –Thanksgiving - City Hall Closed, and
- November 24, 2017 – Day After Thanksgiving - City Hall Closed

9. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business and on motion made and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

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

Signed \_\_\_\_\_  
Esther B. Coulson, City Clerk



Signed \_\_\_\_\_  
Chris Cheshire, Mayor

