

**FRUITLAND PARK CITY COMMISSION REGULAR  
MEETING MINUTES  
October 26, 2017**

A regular meeting of the Fruitland Park City Commission was held at 506 W. Berckman Street, Fruitland Park, Florida 34731 on Thursday, October 26, 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; Police Chief Michael Fewless, Captain Eric Luce; Interim Fire Chief Don Gilpin; Deputy Fire Chief Tim Yoder; Firefighters Madison Leary and Chris Lewis, Fire Department; Michelle Yoder, Parks and Recreation Director; Community Development Director Charlie Rector; Public Works Director Dale Bogle, and City Clerk Esther B. Coulson.

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

After Mayor Cheshire called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m., Pastor Chuck Padgett, Trinity Assembly of God, 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. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS**

**(a) Proclamation –Former Commissioner Reverend Robert D. Harden**

At Mayor Cheshire's recommendation and **by unanimous consent, the city commission agreed to present the proclamation honoring former Commissioner Reverend Robert D. Harden at the next meeting when his family member would be present.**

**(b) Local Schools Recognition – Florida City Government Week – October 23 to 29, 2017 “My City: I’m Part of It, I’m Proud of It”**

**Mayor Cheshire Fruitland Park Elementary School**

On behalf of the city commission, Mayor Cheshire read into the record a proclamation supporting the Florida League of Cities' initiative in sponsoring October 23 through 29 as *Florida City Government Week*. The city commission encouraged all citizens to volunteer to improve lives in this community.

Mayor Cheshire recognized the presence of Ms. Sophia Hurtt, 12 year-old 7<sup>th</sup> grader who attends The Villages Charter Middle School and is on its honor society and the dean's list.

Mayor Cheshire also acknowledged Ms. Tammy Langley, Fruitland Park Elementary School Principal, at this evening's meeting who introduced the Fruitland Park National Elementary Honor Society (FP NEHS) 2017-18 students

who earned and maintained a 3.5 grade point average, showed leadership, community service and good citizenship. She introduced FP NEHS President Carson Miller who, on behalf of the society, described the NEHS and defined the importance of leadership and welcomed NEHS Secretary Jessica Dawson who highlighted *the world without leadership*.

The city commission thanked the students for their involvement in the community.

**4. LOCAL PLANNING AGENCY**

**By unanimous consent, the city commission recessed its meeting at 6:15 p.m. to convene the Local Planning Agency meeting, and reconvened the regular meeting at 6:24 p.m.**

**5. CONSENT AGENDA**

**On motion of Commissioner Ranize, seconded by Commissioner Bell and unanimously carried, the city commission approved the following consent Agenda items:**

**(a) Approval of Minutes**

**i. September 18, 2017 special meeting and**

**ii. September 28, 2017 regular meeting minutes as submitted**

**and**

**(b) Munis Three-Year Contract Renewal**

**the three-year contract renewal from Tyler Technologies for the City of Fruitland Park's Munis accounting software.**

**6. REGULAR AGENDA**

**(a) Resolution 2017-043 Lake County League of Cities' Appointments**

Ms. Geraci-Carver read into the record proposed Resolution 2017-043 the substance of which is as follows:

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF FRUITLAND PARK, FLORIDA, APPOINTING A MEMBER AND ALTERNATE TO THE LAKE COUNTY LEAGUE OF CITIES, INC.; PROVIDING THE TERM EXPIRATION DATE; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

**A motion was made by ice Mayor Gunter and seconded by Commissioner Ranize that the city commission adopt Resolution 2017-043 as previously cited.**

After discussion and following Commissioner Bell's remarks that he will be serving as the Lake County League of Cities; President for the third time, **Mayor Cheshire called for a roll call vote on the motion and declared it carried unanimously.**

**(b) Resolution 2017-045 - Planning and Zoning Board Chair and Vice Chair Approval**

Ms. Geraci-Carver read into the record proposed Resolution 2017-045 the substance of which is as follows;

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF FRUITLAND PARK, FLORIDA, APPROVING THE PLANNING AND ZONING BOARD CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIRMAN SELECTION FOR FISCAL YEAR 2017/2018; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Bell and seconded by Vice Mayor Gunter that the city commission adopt Resolution 2017-045 as previously cited.**

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

Vice Mayor Gunter encouraged the public to volunteer in the community and identified the city's boards and committees where application forms are available for those interested in applying.

**(c) Resolution 2017-044 Recreation Software Program Agreements R.C. Systems Inc.**

Ms. Geraci-Carver read into the record proposed Resolution 2017-044 the substance of which is as follows:

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF FRUITLAND PARK, FLORIDA, APPROVING THE END-USER LICENSING AGREEMENT; THE PURCHASE, SUPPORT AND MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT, AND THE CLOUD HOSTING AGREEMENT, ALL AMONG THE CITY OF FRUITLAND PARK AND R.C. SYSTEMS, INC.; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

At Mayor Cheshire's request, Ms. Yoder explained that the Rec Pro Software -- initial setup, signup and register, pay and reserve online -- was included in the FY 2017-18 budget accepted by the city commission at its July 12, 2017 workshop and relayed the city commission's previous request for staff to appear before the city commission for approval, if costs exceed \$4,000.

In response to Commissioner Ranize' inquiry, Ms. Yoder indicated that she would provide Ms. Coulson access to public records with a user name and password and described how payments would be processed through R.C. Systems and provided to Ms. Racine.



After Mr. La Venia referred to the second quote received from Maximum Solutions Inc. to set up and configure software for \$13,000, Ms. Yoder, in response to Vice Mayor Gunter's inquiry, identified R.C. Systems' initial costs, its coverage period and expiration date.

Following further discussion Vice Mayor Gunter referred to Exhibit B, 10-Year Cost of Ownership and the suggested implementing the software program for one year.

After some discussion, **a motion was made by Commissioner Ranize and seconded by Commissioner Bell that the city commission adopt Resolution 2017-044 as previously cited.**

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

**(d) August 2017 EOM Finance Report**

The city commission considered its action on the financial report reflecting revenues and expenses for all funds through August 31, 2017.

After Ms. Racine reviewed the end-of-month financial report, and **on motion of Commissioner Ranize, second by Commissioner Bell and unanimously carried, the city commission accepted the report as previously cited.**

**(e) First Reading - Ordinance 2017-029 Floodplain**

Ms. Geraci-Carver read into the record proposed Ordinance 2017-029 the substance of which is as follows:

AN ORDINANCE BY THE FRUITLAND PARK CITY COMMISSION AMENDING THE FRUITLAND PARK LAND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS CHAPTER 161.090 TO MAKE MODIFICATIONS TO BRING THE REGULATIONS INTO AGREEMENT WITH THE MOST CURRENT FEMA-APPROVED, CODE-COMPANION FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT ORDINANCE FOR FLORIDA COMMUNITIES; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE. (The second reading will be held on November 9, 2017.)

**A motion was made by Commissioner Lewis and seconded by Commissioner Ranize that the city commission approve the local planning agency's recommendation of approval on Ordinance 2017-029 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.**

## PUBLIC HEARING

**By unanimous consent, Mayor Cheshire opened the public hearings at this evening's meeting.**

**(f) Public Hearing Resolution 2017-041 Final Millage Rate FY 2017-18**

It now being the time advertised to hold a public hearing, 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 and over 64% increase in taxable assessed value of \$192,233,050 value generated by The Villages.

After Ms. Geraci-Carver read into the record proposed Resolution 2017-041 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 OPERATING 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, and the final public hearing was held on September 28, 2017.)

Ms. Racine referred to a telephone call she recently received from the Florida Department of Revenue, General Tax Administration Program where she was informed that the figure featured in the September 24, 2017 newspaper publications reflected the FY 2016-17 actual tax levy instead of the actual tax proceeds received, an error on her part that needed to be re-advertised.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Lewis and seconded by Commissioner Bell that the city commission adopt Resolution 2017-041 as previously cited.**

In response to an inquiry posed by Ms. Julie Moterson, The Villages of Fruitland Park resident, Mayor Cheshire and Mr. La Venia described how the water and wastewater services, infrastructure, and costs are apportioned and that The Villages contract with a vendor to provide solid waste services to its residents.

After pointing out several emails received from The Villages residents, regarding their concerns on the subject issue, Commissioner Ranize explained the property tax charged. Copies of the respective emails are filed with the supplemental papers to the minutes of this meeting.

In answering a question posed by Ms. Sue Line (inaudible) regarding her property taxes, The Villages of Fruitland Park resident, Mr. La Venia and Vice Mayor Gunter explained how the fire assessment (fire protection) and water and



wastewater services are paid for by The Villages of Fruitland Park (Pine Ridge and Pine Hill Residents).

Following an inquiry raised by Ms. Carol Shandy, The Villages of Fruitland Park resident, Mr. La Venia recognized the Villages Community Development District (VCDD) No. 11 as the one of communities The Villages of Fruitland Park residents joined. He indicated that District Manager Janet Y. Tutt's office can be reached at (352) 751-3939 who would provide information on VCDD's assessment of residents homes; the Lake County Tax Assessor who would submit the county's portion of the tax bill, and the city would answer anything regarding local taxes.

In response to an inquiry posed by Mr. Peter J. Hurtt., City of Fruitland Park resident, Mayor Cheshire relayed Ms. Coulson's statement identifying Lake County Value Adjustment Board as the appeals process for assessed property values.

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

**(g) Public Hearing - Resolution 2017-042 Final Adoption Budget FY 2017-18**

It now being the time advertised to hold a public hearing to consider proposed Resolution 2017-042 and after Ms. Geraci-Carver read into the record the title, 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, and the final public hearing was held on September 28, 2017.)

**A motion was made by Commissioner Ranize and seconded by Commissioner Lewis that the city commission adopt Resolution 2017-042 as previously cited.**

With respect to a question posed by Ms. Martha Rosenbaugh, The Villages of Fruitland Park, regarding funding for roads in the Pine Ridge area, the city commission explained how it borrowed funds to pay off the loan for roads belonging to the city which needed to be maintained and that the infrastructure is for The Villages.

Following Mr. Hurtt's explanation on the bond process and in response to Commissioner Bell's inquiry, Mayor Cheshire recognized the *Where Does Our Money Go?* presentation (for residents living north of CR 466) held on October 25, 2017 at The Villages Savannah Center; however, it was acknowledged that said presentation did not apply to residents residing south of CR 466A. Mayor

Cheshire requested that Mr. La Venia or Ms. Coulson contact Ms. Tutt to attend a future city commission meeting to give a presentation in this regard.

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

**(h) Second Reading and Public Hearing – Ordinance 2017-027 - Wastewater Rates Increase**

It now being the time advertised to hold a public hearing to consider the enactment of proposed Ordinance 2017-027, after Ms. Geraci-Carver read into the record the title the substance of which is as follows, Mayor Cheshire called for the public to be heard:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF FRUITLAND PARK, FLORIDA, AMENDING CHAPTER 99, SECTION 99.60 (B) OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES TO PROVIDE FOR AN INCREASE IN WASTERWATER RATES; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY, PROVIDING FOR INCLUSION IN THE CODE OF ORDINANCES; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE. (The first reading was held on September 14, 2017.)

**A motion was made by Commissioner Ranize and seconded by Commissioner Lewis that the city commission enact Ordinance 2017-027 to become effective October 1, 2017 as provided by law.**

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

**(i) Second Reading and Public Hearing – Ordinance 2017-028 – Water Rate Increase**

It now being the time advertised to hold a public hearing and after Ms. Geraci-Carver read into the record proposed Ordinance 2017-028 the substance of which is as follows, Mayor Cheshire called for the public to be heard:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF FRUITLAND PARK, LAKE COUNTY, FLORIDA ADJUSTING THE WATER UTILITY RATES BASED ON THE CIP IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 50.30(N) IN CHAPTER 50 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES; TO BE EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2017; PROVIDING FOR CODIFICATION; PROVIDING FOR REPEAL OF ALL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE. (The first reading was held on September 14, 2017.)



**A motion was made by Commissioner Ranize and seconded by Commissioner Bell that the city commission enact Ordinance 2017-027 to become effective October 1, 2017 as provided by law.**

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

## **END OF PUBLIC HEARING**

### **7. OFFICERS' REPORTS**

#### **(a) City Manager**

Mr. La Venia announced that he is not going anywhere, contrary to rumors heard.

#### **i. Proposed Personnel Policy Revisions**

Mr. La Venia referred to the proposed personnel policy revisions (Subsection 10.1, Education Reimbursement, Ordinance 2014-018 Personnel Policy and Procedures); requested that the city commission include the college credits provision beneficial to the employees position and pointed out the city's current reimbursement of \$250. He recommended the tuition rates and fees per credit hours -- with additional costs -- to be borne by the employee for certificate and associate and baccalaureate degree programs by Lake-Sumter State College and noted the University of Notre Dame's online programs.

In response to several questions posed by Vice Mayor Gunter, Mr. La Venia explained that if the employee leaves after one year, 50 percent would be pro-rated on the time the employee stays with the city and after two years, they would receive 100 percent after the course-work is completed, depending on the credits taken and the city's expended costs.

In answering Commissioner Ranize' inquiry and after Mr. La Venia confirmed, in the affirmative, the difficulty of collection from the employee, Ms. Geraci-Carver, in agreement, addressed the option for the employee to pay the tuition fees in advance where reimbursement would occur after employment is completed with the city.

Mr. La Venia explained that two employees are currently taking advantage of the city's education reimbursement program which will not affect them in the current semester.

Commissioner Ranize recalled the city's scholarship/employee classes; addressed his preference for same to be geared towards college credits, and voiced his support of further education and training for city employees to which Mayor Cheshire explained that the scholarship program is no longer included in the city's budget.



In response to Mr. Hurtt's inquiry, Mr. La Venia explained that city employees ought to maintain a "C" grade and a rating of 2.0 or better.

After discussion, Commissioner Bell concurred with Commissioner Lewis' statements for the program to be encouraged to employees; the grade weight structure to be connected to a local college, and for the city attorney to draft an ordinance revising career development.

In response to Mayor Cheshire's inquiry regarding the proposed personnel policy revisions for paid time off (PTO) (the subject of Mr. La Venia's August 22, memorandum provided at the September 14, 2017 regular meeting), Mr. La Venia referred to Ms. Racine's subsequent September 22 and 26, 2017 emails regarding PTO.

After Ms. Racine, at Mayor Cheshire's request, explained the financial liability in converting sick leave to PTO, a method which she disagreed, Commissioner Lewis and Mayor Cheshire voiced their concurrence with her statements and Commissioner Ranize cited reasons why he opposes.

Following further deliberations and after Mr. La Venia's affirmative response to Mayor Cheshire's suggestion on the ability to utilize the Family Medical Leave Act, Ms. Geraci-Carver explained that it cannot be used if the city has less than 50 employees.

After Commissioner Ranize addressed the ability to donate sick leave, Ms. Geraci-Carver confirmed that PTO would be another option.

After extensive discussions, Mayor Cheshire reiterated the need to find out the city employees' preference on utilizing sick leave in comparison to PTO; indicated that Ms. Coulson just referenced subsection 8.5(h), Donation of Sick Leave, Ordinance 2014-018 Personnel Policy Procedures, and voiced his agreement with Commissioner Ranize that the city commission ought to hold a workshop to address same.

**By unanimous consent, the city commission agreed with Mayor Cheshire's suggestion to proceed with the drafting of an ordinance relating to college credits and postpone the city commission's consideration on the revisions relating to paid time off.**

**iii. Hurricane Irma Status Update**

At Mayor Cheshire's request, Ms. Racine reiterated her statements made at the September 28, 2017 regular meeting on actual funding and available funds in the bank and the impression she received that excess monies remained. She addressed her plan, after payments have been made on Hurricane Irma debris pickup, to go back to the respective departments requesting that they give back some of their budget.

In response, Mayor Cheshire noted the misunderstanding received on the extra funds remaining and accumulated and the need to reduce the budget.

Commissioner Lewis expressed concerns with the statements made by Ms. Racine at the September 18 special and September 28, 2017 regular meetings on the actual, available and unrestricted and fund balance for year ending FY 2016-17; her email dated September 27, 2017 regarding the restricted funds balance accompanying the explanation from Ms. Kelly Leary, McDirmit Davis CPA, auditors retained by the city, and Ms. Leary's presentation made at the September 14, 2017 regular meeting regarding the 2016 Financial Audit where no mention was made on same.

Commissioner Lewis voiced his belief that available funds existed on collected advance revenues and pointed out his previous meeting with Ms. Racine addressing the retention of a contract; the city's payment allocated towards hurricane-related costs, and the budget amendment to transfer funds in that regard.

Following considerable discussion, Commissioner Lewis voiced his belief on the availability of funds in the city's financial institution without utilizing the budget or a line of credit. He questioned the explanation of entering into a contract, the allocation of \$150,000, and the city commission's future action to amend the budget.

After continued deliberations, Commissioner Lewis pointed out the \$13,880 available for spending at the city's discretion reflected under governmental funds -- management's discussion and analysis from the auditor's report on the financial statements presented on September 14, 2017 and mentioned the assurance he received from Ms. Racine to fulfil same; thus, Mr. La Venia's concurrence in that regard.

Subsequent to extensive dialogue, and by **unanimous consent, the city commission agreed with Mayor Cheshire's suggestion for McDirmit Davis, auditor, to appear before the city commission to explain the ability of the negative fund balance and directed the city manager to contact the auditor to determine the city commission's direction.**

In response to Mayor Cheshire's inquiry on the status report of Hurricane Irma, Mr. Bogle identified the clearing of storm-related debris from city streets; addressed his plan to meet with Agri-Timber Inc., contractor retained by the city to remove same, and anticipated completion to be mid-November 2017.



Commissioner Ranize referred to county arterials Miller Street, Poinsettia and Dixie Avenues and requested that they be cleaned up as the roadways are located in the city.

Following considerable discussion and **by unanimous consent, the city commission agreed with Mayor Cheshire's suggestion for staff to contact the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA's) monitor to make a determination on city staff clearing the aforementioned roadways.**

**iv. Northwest Lake Community – Cales Park Multipurpose Soccer Field Complex**

Mr. La Venia mentioned the problems in obtaining quotations for seeding and sod for the Northwest Lake Community Cales Park Multipurpose Soccer Field Complex and referred to the sales order received from Lake Jem Farms Inc. for \$21,080 for sod installation; a copy of which is filed with the supplemental papers to the minutes of this meeting.

Mr. La Venia recognized grant funds set aside by Lake County for FY 2017-18 towards the fine grading, irrigation installation and seeding recreational facilities; noted the cost to sprig one field for approximately \$20,000 to be ready in about six weeks, and mentioned the plans for Dozier Irrigation Inc. (landscaper previously retained by the city) and Logan Sitework Contractors Inc. to proceed.

Following much discussion and **on motion of Commissioner Bell, seconded by Vice Mayor Gunter and unanimously carried, the city commission approved the city manager's recommendation to accept the quote from Lake Gem and proceed with sod installation of both fields at the Northwest Lake Community Cales Park Multipurpose Soccer Field Complex for \$42,000.**

**v. Gardenia Park FRDAP Amendment**

Mr. La Venia addressed the plan to resubmit to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection Florida Recreation Development Assistance Program grant funding (Gardenia Park Phase III) of \$100,000 for FY 2017-18 for additional playground equipment installation as the shades are too expensive.

Ms. Yoder addressed the plan to relocate the existing playground equipment from Gardenia Park to Olive Park; gave a power-point presentation and the video featuring various interactive playground equipment by Kompan® for Gardenia Park (anticipated to be completed by March 2018), and highlighted the improvements made to Olive and Veterans Memorial Parks. (A copy of the presentation is filed with the supplemental papers to the minutes of this meeting.

**On motion of Vice Mayor Gunter, seconded by Commissioner Ranize and unanimously carried, the city commission approved the city manager's recommendation to resubmit Gardenia Park Phase III grant as previously cited.**

**(b) City Attorney**

**i. Lawsuits**

Ms. Geraci-Carver recognized the pending litigations

- **James and Rita Homonai v. Foster, Crenshaw and the City of Fruitland Park** where they are requesting that the plaintiff provide an updated settlement demand to reassess the case.
- **Green v. City of Fruitland Park, Hunnewell, Isom & Isaacs** who is waiting for the court to rule on the motions to dismiss.

**ii. Notice of Claims**

Ms. Geraci-Carver explained that there are no new matters on notice of claims.

**8. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

In response to Mr. Hurtt's inquiry, Commissioner Ranize explained that he is the district commissioner representing residents of The Glen.

**9. COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS**

**(a) Commissioner Ranize**

**i. MPO**

Commissioner Ranize pointed out on his attendance at the October 25, 2017 Lake~Sumter Metropolitan Planning Organization (LSMPO) Governing Board meeting and later gave reasons why he departed prior to its conclusion. He reported on:

- the suggestion made by District Sumter County Commissioner Steve Printz' to seek funding sources in the forthcoming year on the paving of roadways;
- Sumter County's withdrawal from participating with LSMPO other than what is required by state law;
- District 5 Lake County Commissioner Josh Blake's motion to terminate LSMPO Executive Director T.J. Fish's contract immediately;
- the supplemental materials reflecting roadway construction improvements on the resurfacing and improvement of the Florida's Turnpike -- Sumter County to south of Lake County Line -- and the



postponing of the remaining roadway projects due to lack of funding, and

- District 2 Sumter County Commissioner Doug Gilpin's intent to withdraw from the LSMPO Governing Board seat and the alternative to obtain what is required by communicating with Tallahassee .

Commissioner Ranize recognized the work performed by LSMPO and stated that he wished more could have been accomplished for the city as it related to CR 466A.

**ii. City Commission Meetings**

Commissioner Ranize expressed his disappointment on the cancellation of the October 12, 2017 regular meeting; identified the outstanding issues to be considered by the city commission, and addressed the ability to have held workshops instead.

Commissioner Ranize cited reasons, in preparing for the next elected commissioner to replace him, on the need to conduct a workshop relating to storm response; namely, hurricane preparedness and revisiting and updating the city's policies when FEMA changes its requirements.

**iii. ITB 2017-001 New Public Library Facility Construction -- ITB 2017-002 Site Development of a New Public Library Facility Construction**

In response to a question posed by Commissioner Ranize, Mr. Le Venia described the procurement process for the Invitation to Bid (ITB) 2017-001 New Public Library Facility Construction and ITB 2017-002 Site Development of a New Public Library Facility Construction whereby on November 6, 2017, the bids will be due, opened and announced; Ms. Coulson will distribute copies of same for the November 9, 2017 regular meeting, and the contractors will be invited to give a presentation at that time.

Messrs. La Venia and Rector identified the construction contractors that were present at the October 13, 2017 ITB pre-bid meeting; reported on the review of the bid documents with request for information submitted by James P. Senatore Inc., the architect retained by the city, and Mr. Rector outlined the following procedure:

- November 6, 2017, the bids will be received;
- November 7, 2017, the selection committee -- comprising of James P. Senatore Inc., Booth Ern Straughan & Hiott Inc (BESH), (engineers, surveyors, and land planners retained by the city); Mr. La Venia and himself – would review and rank the bids, and

- prior to November 9, 2017, submit to the city commission the recommended ranking and awarding of the contract to the most responsive, responsible low bidder for consideration;

In response to Commissioner Ranize' request for a list of the contractors and vendors' binders, Mr. Rector explained that it has passed the timeline and was not requested by staff.

After Mayor Cheshire indicated that Ms. Coulson will provide the list of all the contractors by email to the city commission and in response to Commissioner Ranize' request, Mr. Rector indicated that he will ask Ms. Tracy Kelley, Community Development Department Administrative Assistant, to email each contractor and print out a list requesting that the contractors submit to the commission information on completed projects.

**iv. City Manager**

Commissioner Ranize referred to The Villages-News article dated October 21, 2017 entitled "Villager who Serves as Fruitland Park City Manager Appears to be Shopping for Greener Pastures"; a copy of which is filed with the supplemental papers to the minutes of this meeting.

Commissioner Ranize expressed his disappointment in Mr. La Venia's pursuit of another job (top running for the City of Treasure Island) without being notified, and stated that he relayed same to his wife who posted the announcement on social media Facebook. Commissioner Ranize stated that he will not prevent anyone from bettering themselves; questioned prior to this evening's meeting, whether the city would have a manager by the next meeting, and after he recommended that the city commission contact companies to look for a new city manager, Mr. La Venia reiterated his earlier comments that he is not going to the City of Treasure Island.

**(b) Commissioner Lewis**

**i. FY 2016-17 Year End Budget**

Commissioner Lewis referred to McDirmit Davis' financial report for the year ended September 30, 2016 on the Comprehensive Annual Financial report and its recommendations on the utility billing. He reiterated the need to have \$13,880 in the general fund balance at the end of the year which was not addressed at the September 14, 2017 regular meeting.

**ii. City Manager**

Commissioner Lewis shared his sentiments, in response to Commissioner Ranize' comments and referred to his previous call extending congratulations to Mr. La Venia who relayed his satisfaction to the comments resulting from the performance review which was not the reason him pursuing another position.



**iii. Excused Absence**

Commissioner Lewis requested that the city commission excuse his absence for the November 9, 2017 regular meeting.

**iv. ITB 2017-001 New Public Library Facility Construction and ITB 2017-002 Site Development of a New Public Library Facility Construction**

Commissioner Lewis recognized the city commission's consideration of the ITB 2017-001 New Public Library Facility Construction and ITB 2017-002 Site Development of a New Public Library Facility Construction. He addressed the need to recuse himself from participating as he has a client who may potentially bid on the project and referred to his discussions held prior to this evening's meeting with Mr. La Venia and Ms. Geraci-Carver as to his role in the matter.

In response to Mr. La Venia's explanation, Ms. Geraci-Carver addressed her intent to review same and inform Mr. La Venia by October 27, 2017 as she will be away from the office during the week commencing November 30, 2017.

**(c) Commissioner Bell**

**i. Hurricane Irma Status Update**

Commissioner Bell expressed his satisfaction with the contractor's performance as it relates to the cleanup due to the aftermath of Hurricane Irma.

**ii. Officers' Performance Evaluations**

After Commissioner Bell reiterated his position made at the September 28, 2017 regular meeting on Mr. La Venia's performance, Mr. La Venia interjected that the evaluations had nothing to do with his seeking another position and that he has no issues. He voiced his respect for the commission who performs a good job. After Mr. La Venia expressed his admiration to the city and it is not his desire to go anywhere, Commissioner Bell indicated that the city commission should not be prepared to seek candidates at this point.

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

**i. Infrastructure Sales Surtax**

Vice Mayor Gunter pointed out Commissioner Ranize's statement regarding the previous years' infrastructure sales surtax. He recalled a class he previously undertook which related to electric vehicles, higher gasoline mileage and the reduction of municipal public transportation gas revenues and questioned the generation of revenue.

**ii. Outstanding Issues**

Vice Mayor Gunter recognized the number of ongoing issues the city is dealing with; namely, post Hurricane Irma cleanup, the proposed Fruitland Park Library construction, Northwest Lake Community – Cales Park Multipurpose Soccer Field Complex, the community center earmarked for FY 2017-18, and the water and wastewater treatment connection lines currently underway.

**10. MAYOR'S COMMENTS**

**Dates to Remember**

Mayor Cheshire recognized the following dates:

- November 3, 2017 – *2018 New Officers* LCLC Lake Receptions at 12:00 p.m.
- November 3, 2017 – Movie on the Lawn “*How the Grinch Stole Christmas*” at 7:00 p.m.;
- November 4, 2017 – 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Government Day, Eisenhower Regional Recreation Center;
- 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 at 2:00 p.m.;
- November 21, 2017 Lake EMS Finance Committee Meeting at 3:00 p.m.;
- November 21, 2017 Lake EMS Operations Committee Meeting at 2:00 p.m.;
- November 13, 2017, Parks. Recreation Trails Advisory Board at 3:30 p.m.;
- November 18, 2017 *Coffee with the Mayor*, Moyer Village Recreation Center at 8:00 a.m.;
- November 23, 2017 Regular City Commission Meeting Cancelled;
- November 23, 2017 –Thanksgiving - City Hall Closed;
- November 24, 2017 – Day After Thanksgiving - City Hall Closed;
- December 1, 2017 – Fruitland Park Library Construction Ground-Breaking Ceremony at 11:00 a.m.;
- December 1, 2017 – Employee Holiday Party, Community United Methodist Church, at 7:00 p.m.



Mayor Cheshire expressed concerns on the proposed date of the new Fruitland Park Library Ground-Breaking Ceremony (proposed by Fruitland Park Library Director Jo-Ann Glendinning by email dated October 24, 2017) and noted that it occurs at the same day as the employee holiday party.

The city commission discussed with Mr. Rector the city commission's consideration of awarding a contract to perform work on the construction of the new public library facility and awarding a contract to the lowest base bid for the library site development library construction at its November 9, 2017 regular meeting and indicated that the ceremony can take place any time after.

In response, Ms. Geraci-Carver indicated that the contracts to be entered into may be approved at the November 9, 2017 regular meeting.

After discussion and **by unanimous consent, the city commission agreed with the city manager's suggestion that he would communicate with the Fruitland Park Library Director on the possibility of holding the Fruitland Park Library Construction Ground-Breaking Ceremony in January 2017.**

- December 8, 2017 – *Hometown Christmas* at 5:30 p.m.;
- December 14, 2017 – Annual School Concurrency Meeting, Lake County District School Offices at 10:00 a.m.;
- December 14, 2017 – City Commission/Employees and Operation Bless Fruitland Park at 11:30 a.m.;
- December 15, 2017 – Movie on the Lawn “*Elf*” at 6:00 p.m.;
- December 16, 2017 – *Wreaths Across America*, Shiloh Cemetery at 12 noon;
- December 25, 2017 – Christmas Day - City Hall Closed, and
- December 26, 2017 – Day After Christmas - City Hall Closed;

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business and on motion made and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 8:53 p.m.

The minutes were approved at the November 9, 2017 regular meeting.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Esther B. Coulson, City Clerk

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Chris Cheshire, Mayor