

**FRUITLAND PARK CITY COMMISSION WORKSHOP  
MEETING MINUTES  
August 6, 2019**

A workshop meeting of the City of Fruitland City Commission was held at 506 W. Berckman Street, Fruitland Park, Florida 34731 on Thursday, August 5, 2019 at 6:00 p.m.

**Members Present:** Mayor Chris Cheshire, Vice Mayor John L. Gunter, Jr., Commissioners Christopher Bell, Patrick DeGrave, and John Mobilian.

**Also Present:** City Manager Gary La Venia, City Attorney Anita Geraci-Carver; City Treasurer Jeannine Racine; Police Chief Erik Luce; Parks Recreation Department Director Michelle Yoder, Public Works Director Dale Bogle, and City Clerk Esther B. Coulson.

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Cheshire called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**2. ROLL CALL**

Mayor Cheshire requested that Ms. Coulson call the roll.

**3. GENERAL FUND DEPARTMENTS (Personnel, Operating, Transfers, General Fund Revenues and Expenses)**

**Recreation Fund**

Ms. Racine reviewed the FY 2019/20 recreation fund revenues and expenses.

After extensive discussions and in response to Commissioner DeGrave's concerns raised at the August 5, 2019 workshop, Ms. Racine explained that she will find out the origin of the recreation budget's revenue and expense programs (sports programs in an enterprise fund not listed as program expenses which fund itself) and the personnel deriving from the general fund.

Following further discussion, Ms. Racine confirmed that correction will be made to the FY 2019-20 showing actuals grand total of \$1,636,850.78 for the recreation fund to reflect \$94,886.

After much discussion and upon Mayor Cheshire's suggestion, **the city commission, by unanimous consent, directed the city treasurer to contact McDirmit Davis, Certified Public Accountants retained by the city by the city, on the recreation expenses funds separate from the revenues; resolve same and report back to the city commission as to the findings according to the governmental accounting standards and procedures.**

**Utility Fund**

After Mayor Cheshire referred to the August 6, 2019 email received from Mr. Bryan A. Mantz, GovRates Inc., regarding the utility rate study, Ms. Racine explained how the \$240,000 in the utility fund was calculated and managed; the deficiency and the decision

to make the utility whole. (A copy of the email is filed with the supplemental papers to the minutes of this meeting.)

Following Commissioner DeGrave's inquiries on the general and interfund transfers of \$240,000 for water and wastewater to the utilities fund which is not the totality.

After lengthy discussions and **by unanimous consent, the city commission directed the city treasurer to communicate with McDirmit Davis, Certified Public Accountants, to review in the FY 2019-20 budget budgeting procedures in making whole the water and wastewater \$240,000 utility (subsidy) transfer fund to cover payments to the Town of Lady Lake. (Wastewater Treatment Plant Capacity Reservation Bulk Treatment).**

Mr. La Venia suggested memorializing the fund payments monthly as opposed to the initial process of the proposed budget

Subsequent to continued discussions and upon Commissioner DeGrave's suggestion, **the city commission directed staff to provide a three-year trend of total revenues and determine the amount of utilities fund to transfer into the FY 2019-20 budget under the governmental accounting standards and procedures for consideration at a future meeting and invite McDirmit Davis, Certified Public Accountants to appear before the city commission.**

#### **Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA)**

After Ms. Racine reviewed the CRA's budget, Mr. La Venia addressed the plan to present to quotations and list of roads to be improved for CRA consideration at a future meeting.

Later in the meeting, and upon Commissioner Bell's suggestion, **the city commission, by unanimous consent, agreed to transferring funds from the utilities and general funds to compensate the city manager 20% and 10% fire department in the redevelopment trust fund.**

#### **Capital Improvement Program (Sales Surtax)**

Ms. Racine reviewed the CIP budget.

#### **Utility Revenues**

The utility revenues were addressed earlier in this evening's meeting.

Mr. La Venia described the consumptive use permit renewal process budgeted for \$28,000; the city's plan to review water conservation in the Land Development Regulations, and the processing of wastewater to the Town of Lady Lake .

Later in the meeting, Mayor Cheshire recognized Commissioner Bel's suggestion to increase the 201 Berckman Street Water Plant well to 25% for FY 2020-21.



### **Recreation Fund**

Ms. Racine recognized that the recreation fund was addressed earlier in the meeting.

### **Sewer**

Ms. Racine reviewed the water and wastewater budget.

After Commissioner DeGrave's referred to the sewer utility services contractual Lady Lake reflecting FY 2019-20, \$240,000 and for FY 2020-21, an increase of \$300,000, Ms. Racine and Mr. La Venia recognized the increase in flow which was a concern; the interpretation of subsection 8.D., Costs and Expenses from the Wastewater Treatment Plant Capacity Reservation Bulk Treatment. Agreement with the town and the implication of same.

In response to Mr. La Venia's plan to contact Central Sumter Utility Company (CSU) LLC for The Villages again as another option, discussions ensued and Commissioner DeGrave suggested that Mr. La Venia renegotiate with the town for a longer term and clarify the language.

### **Fire Pension Fund**

Ms. Racine addressed the fire pension fund.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

#### **- Presidents' Day**

After discussion, the city commission took no action to determine Presidents' Day holiday.

#### **- City Manager Compensation**

**By unanimous consent, the city commission agreed to approve a compensation of \$100 per month towards the city manager's automobile allowance.**

#### **- Insurance**

Mr. La Venia referred to the city's current insurance coverage with Preferred Governmental Insurance Trust (PGIT) binder by Public Risk Underwriters for Brown & Brown of Florida Inc. recognized the increases in coverage and deductibles over the past two years and compared the rates with Public Risk Management of Florida Inc.'s (PRM's), who recently sought the city and outlined their cost savings involved.

**After discussion, and by unanimous consent, the city commission agreed with the city manager's recommendations to not renew its contract with Preferred Governmental Insurance Trust, Public Risk Underwriters for Brown and Brown of Florida Inc.; accept Public Risk Management of Florida Inc. (PRM) as the city's insurance carrier, and invite PRM's representative to make a presentation at a future city commission meeting.**

#### **- (Law Enforcement) Police Department**

Mr. La Venia referred to the city commission's consensus reached at its August 5, 2019 workshop that before transferring to reserves the \$70,000 towards the Fewless Back

Retirement, that the City Attorney report to the city commission at its next meeting the status of the State of Florida Department of Management Services, Division of Retirement, Florida Retirement System (FRS) appeal against the decision ruled at the hearing.

Mr. La Venia relayed his conversations with Mr. Mike Fewless recognizing that the 14-day time period for FRS to its objections has been filed and noted that the judges have 30 days to rule on the state's exceptions. He explained that the \$70,000 is currently in the law enforcement's budget and relayed the call made by Deputy City Treasurer. Susan Parker to FRS placing them on notice that Mr. Fewless has prevailed in the subject case and that the city is anticipating reimbursement from the FRS.

- **(Solid Waste, Stormwater, Pool and Recreation) Sewer and Water**

With reference to the city commission's discussions at its August 5, 2019 workshop, Mr. La Venia conveyed his communication with Waste Management Inc. who revealed that the recycling market is a losing industry and noted the likelihood of them appearing before the city commission at a later date to amend its contract.

- **Cancelled Workshop Meeting**

Mayor Cheshire announced that no workshop meeting on the FY 2019-20 budget will be held on August 7, 2019.

4. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 8:16 p.m.

The minutes were approved at the October 10, 2019 regular meeting.

Signed   
Esther B. Coulson, City Clerk

Signed   
Chris Cheshire, Mayor