

**FRUITLAND PARK CITY COMMISSION
WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES
January 16, 2020**

The city commission workshop meeting was held at 506 W. Berckman Street, Fruitland Park, Florida 34731 on Thursday, January 16, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.

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

Also Present: City Manager Gary La Venia; City Attorney Anita Geraci-Carver; City Treasurer Jeannine Racine; Police Chief Erik Luce; Interim Fire Chief Donald Gilpin, Assistant Fire Chief Tim Yoder, Lieutenant Madison Leary; Firefighters Michael Howard, Michael Edwards, Fire Department and City Clerk Esther B. Coulson.

1. CALL TO ORDER

After Mayor Cheshire called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m., Chief Luce led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

2. ROLL CALL

At Mayor Cheshire's request, Ms. Coulson called the roll.

By unanimous consent and upon Mayor Cheshire's suggestion, the city commission fixed this evening's workshop at 8:00 p.m. as the time to which to adjourn.

3. FIRE RESCUE SERVICES

The city commission voiced concerns on recent staffing issues at the fire department resulting in the lack of providing fire rescue services; considered the most efficient and economical method of current and future service delivery due to the substantial increase in population, structures and costs, and addressed the need to immediately remedy the situation.

Interim Fire Chief Gilpin gave a power-point presentation on the provision of fire services; noted the present morale of the department and suggested retaining a full-time fire chief and ultimately a full-time firefighter for the fire department.

Mayor Cheshire referred to the calculations provided by Ms. Racine showing the 2020 final tax roll cost comparisons for The City of Fruitland Park versus The Villages of Fruitland Park to be the same; a copy of which is filed with the supplemental papers to the minutes of this meeting.

After extensive discussions and following the preferences of Mayor Cheshire to remain with the current fire rescue services with a full time fire chief and Commissioner Bell for a unanimous decision for the county to provide fire rescue services, **the majority of the city commission agreed to authorize the city manager to work with the Lake County**

Manager to negotiate a contract to provide fire rescue services in conjunction with the city's.

4. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business to come before the city commission at this time.

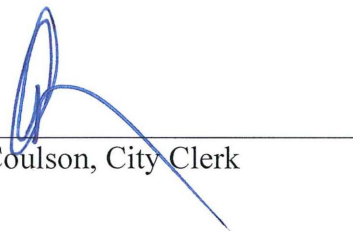
5. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:01 p.m.

The minutes were approved at the January 23, 2020 meeting.

Signed _____

Esther B. Coulson, City Clerk



Signed _____

Chris Cheshire, Mayor

