

**FRUITLAND PARK CITY COMMISSION REGULAR
MEETING MINUTES
February 11, 2021**

A regular meeting of the Fruitland Park City Commission was held at 506 W. Berckman Street, Fruitland Park, Florida 34731 on Thursday, February 11, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

Members Present: Mayor Chris Cheshire, Vice Mayor John L. Gunter, Jr., Commissioners Chris 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; Public Works Director Robb Dicus; Human Resources Director Diane Kolcun; Parks and Recreation Director Michelle Yoder; Lake County Lieutenant R. Roberts and Lake County Paramedic Jordan. Patten; Deputy City Clerk Jabari Hopkins; and City Clerk Esther B. Coulson.

1. CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

After Mayor Cheshire called the meeting to order, Reverend Sidney Brock, Heritage Church, gave the invocation and Vice Mayor Gunter led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

ACTION: 6:00:00 p.m. No action was taken.

2. ROLL CALL

After Mayor Cheshire requested that Ms. Coulson call the roll, a quorum was declared present.

Agenda Change

Mayor Cheshire announced the change to this evening's agenda item 5.(b), Northwest Lake Community Park Multipurpose Soccer Field Sidewalk Quotes and pointed out the addendum, T C Contractors LLC quote and the February 8, 2021 city manager's letter to Bobby Bonilla, Lake County Office of Parks and Trails regarding projects request.

ACTION: 6:01:21 p.m. **By unanimous consent, the city commission accepted the change to this evening's agenda as previously cited.**

3. PROCLAMATION - February 28, 2021 *Connie Dooley Day*

On behalf of the city commission, Mayor Cheshire read into the record a proclamation proclaiming Sunday, February 28, 2021 as "*Connie Dooley Day*" in *Fruitland Park* and asked the citizens to join together to celebrate and thank Connie for her 10 years of devoted service and commitment at the Community United Methodist Church (CUMC). Mayor Cheshire acknowledged CUMC's February 6, 2021 *Going Out and Paying-it-Forward* annual Winterfest 2021 block party event and expressed gratitude for the donations of \$12,000 to individuals in the community. (A copy of the statistics is filed with the supplemental papers to the minutes of this meeting.)

ACTION: 6:01:55 p.m. The proclamation was accepted with thanks from CUMC Pastors Daryl and Debbie Allen who mentioned the safe conduct of implementing the annual Winterfest event and indicated that the proclamation will be presented to Ms. Dooley on February 28, 2021.

4. **CONSENT AGENDA**

Approval of Minutes - January 28, 2021 Regular Meeting

ACTION: 6:06:21 p.m. **On motion of Commissioner Bell, seconded by Commissioner Mobilian and unanimously carried, the city commission approved the consent agenda.**

5. **REGULAR AGENDA**

(a) **Resolution 2021-003 Community Center Rental Agreement**

Ms. Geraci-Carver read into the record Resolution 2021-003, the substance of which is as follows:

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF FRUITLAND PARK, FLORIDA, APPROVING THE FRUITLAND PARK COMMUNITY CENTER RESERVATION REQUEST AND RENTAL AGREEMENT INCLUSIVE OF THE FACILITY RENTAL AGREEMENT; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

ACTION: 6:06:33 p.m. After discussion, **a motion was made by Commissioner Mobilian and seconded by Commissioner Bell that the city commission adopt Resolution 2021-003 as previously cited.**

Mr. La Venia responded in the negative to a question posed by Mr. Carl Yauk, Villages of Fruitland Park (VOFP) Pine Hills resident, that there will be no dividers in the community center. Mr. Yauk inquired about the sufficiency of parking spaces to meet the occupancy of the community center building.

In pointing out the provisions under . . . *sitting or standing on tables or chairs* . . . , under prohibited activities and items, and in answering Mr. Yauk's question whether sitting on chairs are prohibited, Ms. Geraci-Carver confirmed that corrections would be made to same.

By unanimous consent, the city commission accepted the city attorney's acceptance to revise the language as it relates to sitting on chairs are forbidden under prohibited activities and items in the Fruitland Park Community Center Facility Rental Agreement.

Mayor Cheshire restated the motion to adopt the aforementioned Resolution 2020-003, as corrected to reflect the revised the language; called for a roll call vote, and declared the motion carried unanimously.

(b) Northwest Lake Community Park Multipurpose Soccer Field Sidewalk Quotes

The city commission considered its action to select and approve staff's recommendations on the following sidewalk quotes:

- Bay to Bay
- Hambricks Building Services Inc. and
- J & C Gardiner Concrete Inc.

Mr. La Venia pointed out the aforementioned quotes for the Northwest Lake Community Park Multipurpose Soccer Field Sidewalk; referenced T C Contractors LLC quote and gave reasons why he recommended J & C Gardiner Concrete Inc.'s quote for \$10,675. (A copy of T C Contractors' quote is filed with the supplemental papers to the minutes of this meeting.)

ACTION: 6:13:30 p.m. After discussion and on motion of Commissioner Mobilian, seconded by Commissioner Bell and unanimously carried, the city commission approved the city manager's recommendation to approve J & C Gardiner Concrete Inc.'s quote for the Northwest Lake Community Park Multipurpose Soccerfield Sidewalk as the lowest, responsive and responsible bidder for \$10,675.

PUBLIC HEARING

(c) First Reading and Public Hearing – Ordinance 2021-002 Alcoholic Beverages Consumption Policy

Ms. Geraci-Carver read into the record proposed Ordinance 2021-002, the substance of which is as follows:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COMMISSIONERS OF THE CITY OF FRUITLAND PARK, LAKE COUNTY, FLORIDA; AMENDING CHAPTER 33 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES TO CREATE A POLICY RELATING TO POSSESSION AND CONSUMPTION OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES AND ISSUANCE OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE PERMIT; PROVIDING FOR INCLUSION IN THE CODE, SEVERABILITY AND CONFLICTS; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE. (The second reading will be held on February 25, 2021.)

ACTION: 6:16:42 p.m. After extensive discussions and on motion of Commissioner DeGrave, seconded by Commissioner Bell and unanimously carried, the city commission continued proposed Ordinance 2021-002 to the next meeting for more liability insurance information provided by the city's retained insurance company.

6. (a) **City Manager**

i. **Economic Development Status Update**

• **Lien Foreclosure Program**

Mr. La Venia reported that although he has no report on economic development, he pointed out the proposed attorney retainment agreement forwarded to him by Ms. Geraci-Carver earlier this day from Mr. Matthew D. Weidner PA confirming that he accepted the recommended changes. Upon the commission's direction, Mr. La Venia referred to the survey of references from various municipal agencies; verified that they are exceptional and indicated that same would be placed on the next agenda. (Copies of the respective documents are filed with the supplemental papers to the minutes of this meeting.)

• **CDBG-CV Small Cities and Entitlement Programs Public Hearing**

Mr. La Venia addressed the need to advertise a public hearing for the Community Development Block Grant program COVID-19 pre-application process for small cities before the next meeting; relayed the suggestions from Ms. Katie Taff -- Liberty Partners of Tallahassee LLC, grant writer retained by the city who plans to be in attendance -- on the likelihood of utilizing the funds earmarked for the proposed public safety building (Emergency Operations Center). He addressed the intent to subsequently apply for the Federal Emergency Management Agency Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities grants in September 2021.

ACTION: 6:36:56 p.m. and 6:38:51 p.m. No action was taken.

ii. **COVID-19 Status Update**

Mr. La Venia referred to the vaccination site agreement (COVID-19) for an open point of administration among the State of Florida Department of Health and the county health department and noted that the supermarket chains and pharmacy retail stores in the area plan to implement such programs. He believed that the city does not intend to collaborate in that regard and indicated that faith-based organizations would make their own decisions on same.

ACTION: 6:37:40 p.m. No action was taken.

iii. **Community Development Department Proposed Location**

Mr. La Venia explained that the community development department's proposed relocation has been withdrawn from consideration.

ACTION: 6:40:40 p.m. No action was taken.

iv. 2021 City Events Status Update

September 18, 2021 - Fruitland Park Day

Mr. La Venia relayed Ms. Yoder's suggestion to host Fruitland Park Day on September 18, 2021.

ACTION: 6:40:45 p.m. No action was taken.

v. 2021 Workshops

Mr. La Venia referred to his suggestion at the January 28, 2021 regular meeting to hold a joint workshop with the Planning and Zoning (P&Z) Board on the Land Development Regulations on March 18, 2021.

ACTION: 6:40:54 p.m. **The city commission, by unanimous consent accepted the suggestion by the city attorney and city manager to hold the previously cited joint workshop on March 18, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. or immediately following the P&Z meeting which may occur commencing at 6:00 p.m.**

(b) City Attorney

i. City of Fruitland Park v. State of Florida Department of Management Services

Ms. Geraci-Carver explained that the State of Florida Department of Management Services case was rescheduled for the February 2021 hearing as the witness was not available and she stated that there is no new date.

ACTION: 6:42:15 p.m. No action was taken.

ii. Michael and Laurie Fewless v. City of Fruitland Park

Ms. Geraci-Carver announced that there is no other update on the Michael and Laurie Fewless case.

ACTION: 6:42:21 p.m. No action was taken.

iii. Norman C. Cummins v. Stephen P. Angelillo and City of Fruitland Park, Lake County Case No. 2020-CA-1026

Ms. Geraci-Carver announced that notification counsel for the foreclosure Norman C. Cummins v. Stephen P. Angelillo case was going to reach out; however, she has not received an update.

ACTION: 6:42:21 p.m. No action was taken.

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

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

ACTION: 6:42:45 p.m. No action was taken.

8. PUBLIC COMMENTS

No one from the public appeared before the city commission at this time.

ACTION: 6:42:46 p.m. No action was taken.

9. COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

(a) Commissioner Mobilian – CR 466 Roadway Improvement Project

Commissioner Mobilian recognized the forthcoming February 24, 2021, Lake~Sumter Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Governing Board Virtual 2:00 p.m. meeting; questioned initiating a petition campaign soliciting funds to complete the final construction phase of the CR 466 Phase Three Roadway Improvement project which was ranked as number one on the county's fiscal year priority projects list, and accepted the suggestion for a letter of support be written to the Florida legislative body.

ACTION: 6:43:05 p.m. No action was taken.

(b) Commissioner DeGrave

Commissioner DeGrave stated that he had no comments at this time.

ACTION: 6:44:22 p.m. No action was taken.

(b) Commissioner Bell - Lake County Parks, Recreation and Trails Advisory Board

i. Northwest Lake Community Park Funding

Commissioner Bell reported that Mr. La Venia participated with him on the Northwest Lake Community Park (formerly known as the *Cales Memorial Athletic Complex*) update at the February 8, 2021 Lake County Parks, Recreation and Trails Advisory Board meeting; relayed the request for additional funding, and conveyed the board's preference for the city to provide for consideration at its May 10, 2021 meeting a history of city expenditures and its partners versus the county before proceeding on same.

ACTION: 6:44:29 p.m. No action was taken.

ii. Membership

In noting the absence of the city's local representative from previous Parks, Recreation and Trails Advisory Board meetings held four times per year, Commissioner Bell recognized the opportunity to submit a recommendation to the district commissioner and requested that Ms. Yoder reach out to interested individuals who desire to serve on said board.

ACTION: 6:50:35 p.m. No action was taken.

(d) **Vice Mayor Gunter, Jr. – 2021 5K Love Run**

After discussion and at Vice Mayor Gunter's request, Ms. Yoder gave a report on the expenses and proceeds from the February 6, 2021 5k Love Run. Instead of allocating the divided proceeds towards the local faith-based food pantries; she mentioned staff's decision to start a youth scholarship program from the recreation expenses account to help the underprivileged and recognized and thanked the sponsors involved. (A copy of the report is filed with the supplemental papers to the minutes of this meeting.)

Ms. Racine recommended that a resolution be drafted to create the youth scholarship program which would need to be considered by the city commission.

ACTION: 6:45:39 p.m. No action was taken.

10. **MAYOR'S COMMENTS**

(a) **Fire Rescue**

Mayor Cheshire thanked Lieutenant Roberts and Paramedic Patten for attending this evening's meeting.

ACTION: 6:51:41 p.m. No action was taken.

(b) **Dates to Remember**

Mayor Cheshire announced the following events:

- February 12, 2021, Lake County League of Cities, *Annual Planning Meeting and Lake County COVID-19*, Mount Dora Golf Course, 1100 South Highland Street, Mount Dora, Florida 32757 at 12:00 p.m.;
- February 16, 2021, Lake County Board of County Commissioners' Retreat "Short-Term Strategic Plan", Tavares Pavilion-on-the Lake, 200 S Disston Avenue, Tavares, Florida 32778, at 9:00 a.m. to which Mr. La Venia addressed his intent to attend.
- February 24, 2021, MPO Governing Board Virtual at 2:00 p.m.;
- February 25, 2021, City Commission Regular at 6:00 p.m.
- March 11, 2021, City Commission Regular at 6:00 p.m., and
- March 18, 2021 immediately after the Planning and Zoning meeting at 6:00 p.m.

ACTION: 6:51:53 p.m. No action was taken.

11. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the city commission, the meeting adjourned at 6:54 p.m.

The minutes were approved at the February 25, 2021 regular meeting.

Signed _____
Esther B. Coulson, City Clerk, MMC

Signed _____
Chris Cheshire, Mayor