

**FRUITLAND PARK CITY COMMISSION REGULAR
MEETING MINUTES
July 8, 2021**

A regular meeting of the Fruitland Park City Commission was held at 506 W. Berckman Street, Fruitland Park, Florida 34731 on Thursday, July 8, 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, Mr. Sandy Minkoff, representing City Attorney. Anita Geraci-Carver, City Treasurer Jeannine Racine; Police Chief Erik Luce, Public Works Director Robb Dicus; Community Development Director Dwyane Williams; Ms. Tracy Kelley, Community Development Deputy Director; Human Resources Director Jabari Hopkins, and City Clerk Esther B. Coulson.

1. CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

After Mayor Cheshire called the meeting to order, The Reverend Dr. George A. Mulford III, Grace Bible Baptist Church, gave the invocation and Chief Luce led in the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

ACTION: 6:01:29 p.m. No action was taken.

2. ROLL CALL

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

ACTION: 6:03:21 p.m. **By unanimous consent, and upon Mayor Cheshire's suggestion, the city commission approved the addendum, under Agenda Item 4.(b), the City Attorney's Report.**

Mayor Cheshire acknowledged the presence of Mr. Minkoff at this evening's meeting who is attending in Ms. Geraci-Carver's absence.

3. REGULAR AGENDA

(a) Resolution 2021-027 Soccer Field 4th Am. – Budget Amendment BT 2021-011 FY 2020-21

Mr. Minkoff read into the record the title of proposed Resolution 2021-027, the substance of which is as follows:

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY
OF FRUITLAND PARK, FLORIDA, AMENDING THE
2020/2021 FISCAL YEAR BUDGET PURSUANT TO SEC. 6.07
OF THE CITY CHARTER TO INCREASE LAKE COUNTY
SOCCER FIELD GRANT REVENUE BUDGET AND THE

RECREATION SOCCER FIELD EXPENSE BUDGET; AND
PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

ACTION: 6:03:50 p.m. After Mr. La Venia gave a background, **a motion was made by Commissioner Bell and seconded by Commissioner Mobilian that the city commission adopt Resolution 2021-027 as previously cited.**

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

(b) Resolution 2021-026 Urick Sewer Project (Engineering) - Budget Amendment BT 2021-010 FY 2020-21

Mr. Minkoff read into the record the title of proposed Resolution 2021-026, the substance of which is as follows:

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF FRUITLAND PARK, FLORIDA, AMENDING THE 2020/2021 FISCAL YEAR BUDGET PURSUANT TO SEC. 6.07 OF THE CITY CHARTER TO INCREASE SRF SEWER LOAN REVENUE BUDGET AND THE SEWER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENT URICK SEWER EXPENSE BUDGET; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

ACTION: 6:05:29 p.m. After Mr. La Venia gave a background, **a motion was made by Commissioner Mobilian and seconded by Vice Mayor Gunter that the city commission adopt Resolution 2021-026 as previously cited.**

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

(c) Resolution 2021-028 – WWTP Metal Building - Change Order Request - Halff Associates Inc.

Mr. Minkoff read into the record the title of proposed Resolution 2021-028, the substance of which is as follows:

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF FRUITLAND PARK, FLORIDA, APPROVING THE ADDITIONAL SERVICES CONFIRMATION DATED JUNE 11, 2021 FROM HALFF ASSOCIATES, INC. RELATING TO THE METAL BUILDING AT WWTP THEREBY INCREASING THE SCOPE OF WORK AND SERVICES AS WELL AS INCREASING THE FEES; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

ACTION: 6:07:11 p.m. After Mr. La Venia gave a background, a **motion was made by Commissioner DeGrave and seconded by Vice Mayor Gunter that the city commission adopt Resolution 2021-028 as previously cited.**

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

(d) May 2021 Financial Report

Ms. Racine reviewed the May 2021 financial report.

After discussion and in response to Chief Luce's explanation on the parked law enforcement vehicles at city hall; the officer's employment status and existing vacancies at the police department, the city commission agreed with Vice Mayor Gunter's suggestion that the vehicles be relocated.

ACTION: 6:09:51 p.m. After discussion, and **on motion of Commissioner DeGrave, seconded by Commissioner Bell and unanimously carried, the city commission approved the May 2021 financial report as submitted.**

By unanimous consent, Mayor Cheshire opened the following public hearing.

PUBLIC HEARING

(e) First Reading and Public Hearing – Ordinance 2021-009 SRF Revolving Loan 1st Am. Agreement

Mr. Minkoff read into the record the title of proposed Ordinance 2021-009, the substance of which is as follows:

AN ORDINANCE OF CITY OF FRUITLAND PARK, FLORIDA, RELATING TO THE STATE REVOLVING FUND LOAN PROGRAM; APPROVING THE STATE REVOLVING FUND AMENDMENT 1 TO LOAN AGREEMENT WW350820 CITY OF FRUITLAND PARK; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS, SEVERABILITY, AND EFFECTIVE DATE. (Second reading will be held on July 22, 2021.)

ACTION: 6:14:25 p.m. After Mr. La Venia gave the background, a **motion was made by Commissioner DeGrave and seconded by Commissioner Mobilian that the city commission approve Ordinance 2021-009, as previously cited.**

There being no one 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.

END OF PUBLIC HEARING

4. (a) City Manager

i. Economic Development Status Update

Mr. La Venia gave a report on the forthcoming proposed developments to be considered at a future meeting.

ACTION: 6:20;27 p.m. No action was taken.

ii. Street Resurfacing Bids Status Update

Mr. La Venia, reviewed the recent invoice for \$159,483 from Paqco Inc. (Paquette Company) outlining resurfacing and roadway improvement projects and referred to the recent report on the list of roads to be paved for FY 2020/21 from Mr. Dicus to be considered as a piggyback project with Paqco, a copy of which is filed with the supplemental papers to the minutes of this meeting.

Mr. La Venia reported on his conversations held earlier this day with Mr. Richard J. Baier, Villages Community Development District (VCDD), confirming VCDD's responsibility to take care of the depression on Conservation Trail road surface in the Villages of Fruitland Park (Pine Ridge); referred to the June 30, 2021 letter from BESH-Halff (now known as *Halff Associates Inc.*, engineers, surveyors, and land planners retained by the city) together with photographs taken on the ongoing settlement issue, and the May 13, 2020 contract proposal for \$964.91. (Copies of the respective documents are filed with the supplemental papers to the minutes of this meeting.)

Mr. La Venia indicated that the Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) will be holding a special meeting on August 22, 2021 on the roadways within the CRA and addressed the plan to report back on whether Paqco Inc. could carry out roadway widening improvements on Fountain Street

ACTION: 6:22:15 p.m. and 6:26:44 p.m. After further discussion, and **by unanimous consent, the city commission accepted the city manager's report as previously cited.**

iii. Professional Architectural Services Design - Public Works and Public Safety Buildings - GatorSkitch Corporation Status Update

With respect to the proposed public safety building, Mr. La Venia referred to his July 7, 2021 meeting with the Lake County Fire Rescue Services management staff and relayed the following discussions held regarding:

- plans to improve Fountain Street;
- county fire rescue services staff to be stationed at the proposed site as the central and primary regional location;
- the bays' dimensions for the emergency medical and fire rescue services' vehicles;
- the outstanding amount for the fire truck purchased from the city which is being repaired, and
- Fire Chief James "Jim" Dickerson's preparation of the county's needs analysis, similar to the one provided by Chief Luce, before presenting same to GatorSkitch Corporation (architect retained by the city).

After discussion, Mr. La Venia addressed his intent to find out whether any county funding would be earmarked towards the proposed building.

With respect to the public works building, Mr. La Venia recalled the city commission's actions at its May 13, 2021 regular meeting to proceed with the development of the public works building; addressed his intent to inform GatorSkitch on the proposed material, and gave reasons why he is recommending construction of the building in block and the subsequent procurement of same.

ACTION: 6:29:40 p.m. and 6:30:46 p.m. By unanimous consent, the city commission accepted the city manager's recommendation, as previously cited, and authorized the city manager to negotiate the construction and pricing of the public works building as split-based block before procurement of same.

- iv. Traffic Movement Regulation (W Bidwell Street at Willard Avenue)**
After Mr. La Venia recollected the city commission's position taken at the May 13, 2021 regular meeting to review the traffic study within Mirror Lake Drive, Chief Luce outlined the traffic movement regulation and recommended that the city commission propose an ordinance to install a three-way stop sign at the intersection of West Bidwell Street and Willard Avenue.

After Mr. La Venia concurred with Mayor Cheshire's recognition of the future construction of the new Fruitland Park Elementary school in the area; the implications of potential increased vehicular traffic and the affected area residents on the need for stop signs, he agreed with Vice Mayor Gunter's suggestion to seek safe routes to school grants to install sidewalks to which Chief Luce recalled the county's safe routes for schools which was addressed at the April 27, 2017 regular meeting.

ACTION: 6:33:40 After much discussion and by unanimous consent, the city commission accepted staff's recommendation to:

- consider a local traffic movement ordinance to install a three-way stop sign at the intersection of West Bidwell Street and Willard Avenue to be drafted by the city attorney;
- review a similar requirement for Mirror Lake Drive and the surrounding roadways;
- study the traffic on Urick Street when the Fruitland Park Elementary School is constructed, and
- direct the city manager to pursue a project development and environment study for the new school and the CR 468 corridor/Urick Street as addressed at the December 12, 2019 regular meeting.

v. Vacation

Mr. La Venia reported that he will be away during the week commencing Sunday, July 18, 2021; will not be able to attend the next meeting, and that Mr. Hopkins will be representing him.

ACTION: 6:26:40 p.m. No action was taken.

(b) City Attorney

Mr. Minkoff referred to Ms. Geraci-Carver's report, a copy of which is filed with the supplemental papers to the minutes of this meeting, and relayed her comments that there is nothing to report other than what is indicated as shown below:

- City of Fruitland Park v. State of Florida Department of Management Services;
- Michael and Laurie Fewless v. City of Fruitland Park, and
- Norman C. Cummins v. Stephen P. Angelillo and City of Fruitland Park, Lake County Case No. 2020-CA-1026

ACTION: 6:41:17 p.m. No action was taken.

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

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

ACTION: 6:41:26 p.m. No action was taken.

6. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There was no one from the public at this time.

ACTION: 6:41:27 p.m. No action was taken.

7. **COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS**

(a) **Commissioner Mobilian**

Commissioner Mobilian requested that Mr. La Venia convey his gratitude to Lake County Emergency Medical Services personnel as a result of the services, care and attention extended to him and his wife from his home to the hospital in the City of Leesburg.

ACTION: 6:42:04 p.m. No action was taken.

(b) **Commissioner DeGrave**

Commissioner DeGrave stated that he has nothing to report at this time.

ACTION: 6:42.55 p.m. No action was taken.

(c) **Commissioner Bell**

Commissioner Bell recommended that the city commission attend the August 10, 2021 county commission budget workshop -- the city's funding request of \$150,000 for the purchase and installation of the restroom facility -- Northwest Lake Community Park (Cales Memorial Athletic Complex) Multipurpose Soccer Field.

ACTION: 6:42.57 p.m. No action was taken.

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

Vice Mayor Gunter stated that he has nothing to report at this time.

ACTION: 6:43:22 p.m. No action was taken.

8. **MAYOR'S COMMENTS**

(a) **Letter of Support – Historical Records: Archival Projects FY 2022 Grant**

After Mayor Cheshire referred to the letter of support for Historical Records: Archival Projects FY 2022 Grant; Ms. Coulson requested the city commission's support of same. (A copy of the letter is filed with the supplemental papers to the minutes of this meeting.)

ACTION: 6:43:26 p.m. **By unanimous consent, the city commission approved the city clerk's request accepting the letter of support for the subject Historical Records: Archival Projects FY 2022 Grant.**

(a) **Dates to Remember**

Mayor Cheshire announced the following events:

- July 9, 2021, NIMBY, Mount Dora Golf Course, 1100 South Highland Street, Mount Dora, Florida 32757 at 12:00 p.m.;

- July 9, 2021 *Best of Enemies, Worst of Friends* Movie in the Dark Pool Party at Gardenia Recreation Complex, 205 W Berckman Street, Fruitland Park, Florida 34730 at 7:30 p.m.;
- July 22, 2021, City Commission Regular at 6:00 p.m.

- August 2 and 3, 2021 City Commission (FY 2021-22 Budget) Workshop at 6:00 p.m.
- August 9, 2021, Lake County Parks, Recreation and Trails Advisory Board, Office of Parks and Trails, Conference Room 2401 Woodlea Road, Tavares, Florida 32778 at 3:30 p.m.
- August 10, 2021 Lake County Board of County Commission Budget Workshop (Infrastructure Sales Tax Capital Improvement Plan - NW Lake Community Park), Lake County Administration Building, 315 W Main Street, Tavares, Florida 32778 at 10:00 a.m.
- August 12, 2021, City Commission Regular – Cancelled
- August 12-14, 2021, Florida League of Cities Annual Conference, Orlando World Center Marriott, 8701 World Center Drive, Orlando, Florida 32821 at 8:00 a.m.
- August 25, 2021, Lake Sumter~Metropolitan Planning Organization Meeting, 1300 Citizens Boulevard, Suite 175, Leesburg, Florida 34748 at 2:00 p.m., and
- August 26, 2021, City Commission regular at 6:00 p.m.

ACTION: 6:45:06 p.m. No action was taken.

9. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the city commission at this time, on motion made, second and unanimously carried, the meeting adjourned at 6:47 p.m.

The minutes were approved at the July 22, 2021 regular meeting.

Signed _____
Esther B. Coulson, City Clerk, MMC

Signed _____
Chris Cheshire, Mayor

