

**FRUITLAND PARK CITY COMMISSION WORKSHOP  
MEETING MINUTES  
August 3, 2021**

A workshop meeting of the Fruitland Park City Commission was held at 506 W. Berckman Street, Fruitland Park, Florida 34731 on Monday, August 3, 2021 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 Treasurer Jeannine Racine; Police Chief Erik Luce, Public Works Director Robb Dicus, Library Director JoAnn Glendinning, 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, Chief Luce led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

**2. ROLL CALL**

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

**3. FY 2021-22 PROPOSED BUDGET -**

Ms. Racine gave a power-point presentation and reviewed the following FY 2021-22 proposed budget.

**By unanimous consent, Mayor Cheshire took the following items out of order on this evening's agenda.**

- **Library** – After reviewing the library's budget, Ms. Glendinning addressed the following items which added \$11,000 and removed \$5,100, a difference of \$6,200:

Not included in the budget:

- o \$2,500, rack/shelving;
- o \$3,000, mulch and flowers from the public works department's budget as agreed to by Mr. Dicus,
- o \$828, Microsoft 365® for four licenses;
- o \$700 per annum, fire sprinklers and inspection service and
- o \$900, interior ceiling fans that were placed on the exterior which are damaged

Remove from the budget:

- o \$1,470, double face wood shelving in the children's room
- o \$2,500, e-readers for children, and
- o \$1,203 data bases where funds were received through Lake County from the Florida Department of State, Division of Libraries, where the city's portion is no longer required.

- **Public Works**

- o **Other General Government** – reviewed by Ms. Racine.
- o **Solid Waste Disposal**– After reviewing the solid waste disposal budget, Mr. La Venia, recognized the current changes impacting the solid waste industry and the expiration of the solid waste collection franchise agreement with Waste Management Inc. (September 30, 2021). He addressed the opportunity to extend the current agreement; present a proposal eliminating the recycling program or procure residential and commercial solid waste collection services for the old section of the City of Fruitland Park.

Mr. Doug McCoy, Waste Management Inc., outlined the proposed elimination of the recycling program and the diversion to Covanta Energy Corporation’s waste-to-energy facility (designed to convert waste after recycling under Florida Statutes); acknowledged the national trend in increased solid waste costs and services, and referred to the City of Crystal River’s Residential Bid Rates; a copy of which is filed with the supplemental papers to the minutes of this meeting.

After noting the city’s option to enter into negotiations or procure same, Mr. McCoy addressed Waste Management’s preference, in good faith, to extend the contract for 90 days to the current terms and conditions.

After much discussion and **by unanimous consent, the city commission agreed to enter into negotiations with Waste Management Inc. for the solid waste collection franchise, without recycling, where the costs would be determined.**

**By unanimous consent, Mayor Cheshire accepted the city manager’s request to address the following item out of order on this evening’s agenda.**

- **Parks and Recreation - Fruitland Park Day** - After discussion and upon the city manager’s request, **the city commission, by unanimous consent, agreed to cancel the September 18, 2021 Fruitland Park Day event.**
- **Stormwater** – After reviewing the stormwater budget, Mr. La Venia reported that State of Florida legislature passed House Bill 53 relating to public works (effective July 1, 2021) and reported that he has not yet had the opportunity to address stormwater in the city with Messrs. Dwayne Williams, Community Development Department, Duane K. Booth, Half Inc.. and Ms. Maryann Krisovitch. Florida Lake Management Society (The National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Education and Outreach Coordinator) -- consultants retained by the city. Mr. La Venia noted the need for every municipality providing wastewater services to develop a needs analysis for review by Lake County and subsequent submittal to the State of Florida (Office Economic and Demographic Research) and depending on the scope of the plan and work involved, he addressed the possible expenditure within the first six months of 2022.

- **Roads and Streets** – After reviewing the roads and streets budget and following Mr. Dicus’ report on the inclusion of adding street sweeping services at The Villages and described the road resurfacing project utilizing Ventrac Tractor for \$16,000, available in the CIP budget, Mr. La Venia addressed the intent to verify terms of the State of Florida Department of Transportation’s (FDOT’s) Highway Maintenance memorandum of agreement for annual highway maintenance along US 441 and the quarterly compensation of \$8,264.25 totalling \$33,057 per annum and outlined FDOT’s Highway Beautification grant for \$250,000.

After Mr. Dicus addressed the county’s current road/transportation funding projects and pointed out the street repair maintenance list for roads in The Villages and Fruitland Park’s old section, he agreed with Commissioner DeGrave’s request to provide a spreadsheet identifying the total lane miles to roll over every 20 years. (A copy of the list is filed with the supplemental papers to the minutes of this meeting.)

With respect to the May 27, 2021 regular meeting (reiterated at the August 2, 2021 workshop) for the use of the PASERWARE computerized pavement management data system (to evaluate, assess and rate roadway conditions for local governments and develop a schedule on the roadway projects) and set aside funds for discussion in the FY 2022-23 budget, Mr. Dicus addressed his plan to review the existing list of roadway improvement projects and incorporate same on the spreadsheet referenced at the regular meeting.

Later in the meeting, Mr. La Venia mentioned the plan to address before the city commission the setting aside of funding for the FY 2022-23 proposed budget, pricing from a vendor for Moyer Loop roadway (micro-paving) improvements.

- **Parks and Recreation** – previously addressed at the August 2, 2021 workshop.
- **Community Redevelopment Agency** - Earlier in the meeting, Mr. Dicus confirmed, in response to Mayor Cheshire’s inquiry that the list of paving for old City of Fruitland Park roadways, with the exception of West Hilltop Street, will be included in the Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA).

After discussion, it was acknowledged that the CRA FY 2021-22 budget will be considered at the August 26, 2021 meeting.

- **Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Recreation** – After reviewing the CIP budget, Ms. Racine and Mr. La Venia relayed Parks and Recreation Director Michelle Yoder’s comments at the August 2, 2021 workshop on the need for the new metal roofs for Gardenia Park Swimming Pool and the concession stand at Northwest Lake Community Park (formerly known as Roy A.) Cales Memorial Athletic Complex) which have been priced-out.
- **Capital Revenue** – reviewed by Ms. Racine.

- **CIP Library** – reviewed by Ms. Racine.
- **Utility Revenue** – reviewed by Ms. Racine.
- **Water** – After reviewing the water budget, Mr. Dicus addressed the inclusion of increased costs for engineers, fuel prices and the inclusion of additional funding for a portable refueler tank to refill the water and wastewater generators biannually and accepted Commissioner DeGrave’s suggestion to leave the budget as is, provide further information on costs involved and piggybacking with the City of Tavares in that regard.

Mr. Dicus noted the safety concerns and problems experienced with existing 1992 Kubota (noting the mini-Bobcat tractor) and the deep-water mains in the city and addressed the intent to replace same with the Kubota Tractor with detachable backhoe to support the existing equipment during emergencies.

In response to Mayor Cheshire’s inquiry on the status of the city commission’s previous discussions at the September 11, 2014 regular meeting on pursuing grant funds for water meters from the St. John’s River Water Management District, Mr. La Venia reported on the lack of funding at that time and gave reasons on the preference to transition in future to the iPERL® smart water meters (previously addressed with Mr. Dicus and the late Public Works Director Dale Bogle) where Mr. Dicus described the existing problems and available computerized systems to mitigate same.

- **Sewer** – After reviewing the sewer budget, Mr. Dicus outlined the increase in the budget to be based on compliance training as a result of the city commission’s consensus at its August 3, 2020 workshop and addressed the anticipated arrival of the Vac-Tron equipment on Thursday, August 5, 2021.

After Mr. La Venia addressed his plan to find out more information as to whether the city’s insurance carrier, Public Risk Management of Florida (World Risk Management), would cover the equipment, he accepted Commissioner DeGrave’s suggestion for staff to report to the city commission to identify the certified training to be implemented for the operation of the Vac-Tron equipment.

Messrs. La Venia and Dicus addressed the extensive and ongoing problems experienced with Chelsea’s Run lift station connection line and the additional work performed on same; the intent to address with City Attorney Anita Geraci-Carver alternative solutions in resolving the issues, and the plan to communicate with Halff Inc. the most cost-effective method in that regard as well as infrastructure, expansion and design.

**By unanimous consent, the city commission accepted Commissioner DeGrave’s suggestion to direct the city treasurer to designate, for the future, approximately**

**\$70,000 pertaining to the Michael Fewless case be from fund equity and if said funds are not required, earmark same as non-designated.**

**4. OTHER BUSINESS**

**a. Dates to Remember**

Mayor Cheshire announced the following events:

- 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 (LCBCC) 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., where he encouraged everyone to attend;
- 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 20, 2021, Lake County League of Cities (LCLC), *District School Update*, Mount Dora Golf Course, 1100 South Highland Street, Mount Dora, Florida 32757 at 12:00 p.m.;
- August 24, 2021, LCBCC Public Hearing (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 25, 2021 *Operation Bless Fruitland Park Check Presentation* Fruitland Park Elementary School Library, at 9:30 a.m.;
- August 25, 2021, Lake-Sumter Metropolitan Planning Organization Governing Board Meeting, 1300 Citizens Boulevard, Suite 175, Leesburg, Florida 34748 at 2:00 p.m.,
- August 25, 2021 Safe Routes to School Online Training Workshop, District 5 <https://attendee.gototraining.com/r/5408578377703875073>, at 1:30 p.m. and
- August 26, 2021, City Commission regular at 6:00 p.m.
- August 31, 2021, District 5 Board of County Commissioner Community-Stakeholders Meeting, Community Center, 201 W Berckman Street, Fruitland Park, Florida 34731 at 1:00 p.m.

**b. City Treasurer**

Ms. Racine announced that she plans to retire on December 31, 2021 and addressed her intent to make arrangements to work with conditions after that time with the city commission before a replacement is found.


**By unanimous consent, the city commission suggested that a search for a new experienced city treasurer will be implemented.**

5. **ADJOURNMENT**

**There being no further business to come before the city commission, the meeting adjourned at 7:56 p.m.**

The minutes were approved at October 14, 2021 regular meeting.



Signed   
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Esther B. Coulson, City Clerk, MMC

Signed   
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Chris Cheshire, Mayor