

**FRUITLAND PARK CITY COMMISSION REGULAR  
WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES  
January 12, 2023**

A workshop meeting of the Fruitland Park City Commission was held at 506 W. Berckman Street, Fruitland Park, Florida 34731 on Thursday, January 12, 2023 immediately upon the conclusion of the regular meeting.

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

**Also present:** City Manager Gary La Venia; City Attorney Anita Geraci-Carver; City Treasurer Jeannine Racine; Police Chief Erik Luce; Messrs. Michael “Mike” Rankin (Interim Community Development Director), LPG Urban Regional Planners Inc. (consultant retained by the city); Public Works Director Robb Dicus; Parks and Recreation Director Michelle Yoder; Deputy Finance Director Gary Bachman; Deputy City Clerk Candice Dennis, and City Clerk Esther B. Coulson.

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Cheshire called the meeting to order.

ACTION: 7:17:37 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: 7:17:58 p.m. No action was taken.

**3. CHARTER OVERVIEW**

Ms. Geraci-Carver gave a report on her review of the city charter, last updated by referendum in 2014 and described the procedures involved in implementing the changes on the ballot before the voters for approval. She noted that the charter mainly is consistent with the National Civic League’s Model Charter; however, she recognized the few provisions which are inconsistent with Florida law and Lake County; noted that each local government has the authority to be unique and govern what is needed throughout the process, and referred to the charter with the following suggestions:

- **ARTICLE III., LEGISLATIVE, Sec. 3.11 Procedure, (a), Meetings.** *Special meetings . . . upon no less than 12 hours’ notice to each member and the public . . .*  
Follow the special meetings notice requirements under the Government-in-the-Sunshine which requires no less than 24 (preferably at least 72) hours reasonable notice to the public and the advertising of same to the local news media.

- **Sec. 3.06. - Compensation.** . . . *mayor and city commissioners elected* . . . .  
Later in the meeting, consider a housekeeping change to reflect *selected* instead of *elected*.
- **Sec. 3.12 Action Requiring an Ordinance**  
Adopt by resolution, one reading, which is not contrary to the law; however, the city's preference for the opportunity to hear twice by ordinance is not contrary to the law which is within the city's purview.
- **Sec. 3.12 (6) Convey or lease or authorize by administrative action the conveyance or lease of any lands of the city.**  
Adopt by resolution, one reading, as implemented by most jurisdictions.
- **ARTICLE IV. – ADMINISTRATIVE**  
Consider appointing the administrative responsibility of the clerk and treasurer under the purview of the manager who has the hiring authority and day-to-day oversight (current charter is uncommon and unusual as the elected body typically retains an auditor municipal attorney; thus, under the model charter, the city manager selects the clerk who is approved by the elected body).
  - **Sec. 4.08 - Personnel System.** Personnel policies and procedures are adopted in two readings and consideration by the elected body ought to be monetary provisions; otherwise, the city manager would have the authority to make changes in compliance with the law and departments' creation, changes, and restructuring may receive approval or consensus.
- **ARTICLE VII. - PLANNING AND ZONING BOARD**
  - **Sec. 7.01. - Planning and Zoning Board**  
Required by state statutes and ordinance.
- **ARTICLE VIII. - NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS**
  - **Sec. 8.03. - Form of ballots.**  
Currently does not comply with the law.
  - **Sec. 8.04. – Elections, (a) Multiple Candidates** . . . *"Run-off election" to be held on the second Tuesday following the date of the regular city election.*  
Housekeeping change as the time-frame does not comply with the statute.

Ms. Geraci-Carver believes that a single list can be incorporated as one entire referendum; indicated that she will obtain confirmation as to the recent changes in the law on advocating with constituents as it relates to referendum and the media would receive a copy of the respective ordinance.

**ACTION** 7:18:15 p.m. **By unanimous consent, the city commission directed the city attorney to provide the National Civic League's Model City Charter and the**

**proposed official city charter language and synopsis of recommended changes with supporting explanation for the March 2023 meeting for consideration.**

**OTHER BUSINESS**

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

ACTION: 7:40:18 p.m. No action was taken.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

The minutes were approved at the January 26, 2023 regular meeting.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_  
Esther B. Coulson, City Clerk, MMC

Signed \_\_\_\_\_  
Chris Cheshire, Mayor

