

**FRUITLAND PARK CITY COMMISSION REGULAR  
MEETING MINUTES  
February 23, 2023**

A regular meeting of the Fruitland Park City Commission was held at 506 W. Beckman Street, Fruitland Park, Florida 34731 on Thursday, February 23, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.

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

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

**1. CALL TO ORDER, INVOCATION, AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mayor Cheshire called the meeting to order; Senior Pastor Kelly Smith, Community United Methodist Church, gave the invocation, and Mr. Rankin led in the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

ACTION: 6:00:07 p.m. No action was taken.

**2. ROLL CALL**

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

ACTION: 6:02:00 p.m. **By unanimous consent, the city commission excused the absence of Commissioner John L. Gunter, Jr., from this evening’s meeting.**

**3. CONSENT AGENDA**

**Approval of Minutes**

February 9, 2023 regular meeting.

ACTION 6:02:24 p.m. **On motion made by Vice Mayor DeGrave, seconded by Commissioner Mobilian and unanimously carried, the city commission approved the previously cited consent agenda.**

**4. REGULAR AGENDA**

**(a) Resolution 2023-015 Urick Street Force Main – 28-Day Construction Rime Extension – Cathcart Construction Company Florida LLC, Oviedo**

Ms. Geraci-Carver read into the record the following title of proposed Resolution 2023-015:

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY  
OF FRUITLAND PARK, FLORIDA, APPROVING 28-DAY

EXTENSION TO CONSTRUCTION TIME REQUESTED BY CATHCART CONSTRUCTION COMPANY FLORIDA LLC, OVIEDO; AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE ANY REQUIRED APPROVAL; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

**ACTION:** 6:04:27 p.m. After discussion, a motion was made by Commissioner Bell and seconded by Commissioner Mobilian that the city commission adopt Resolution 2023-015 as previously cited.

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

**(b) Resolution 2023-016 Urick Street Force Main Extension Project Contract Change #2 – Cathcart Construction Company Florida LLC, Oviedo**

Ms. Geraci-Carver read into the record the following title of proposed Resolution 2023-016:

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF FRUITLAND PARK, FLORIDA, APPROVING CHANGE ORDER NO. 2 THAT INCLUDES A THREE-DAY EXTENSION TO CONSTRUCTION TIME AND INCREASE OF \$13,111 IN THE CONTRACT PRICE REQUESTED BY CATHCART CONSTRUCTION COMPANY FLORIDA LLC, OVIEDO; AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE ANY REQUIRED APPROVAL; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

After Mr. Dicus relayed reasons to increase the contract price, Ms. Geraci-Carver and Mr. La Venia recommended postponing the subject item to a future meeting for further discussion amongst staff, Cathcart Construction Company Florida LLC, Oviedo and Halff Associates Inc.

**ACTION:** 6:05:49 p.m. After discussion, and on motion of Vice Mayor DeGrave, seconded by Commissioner Mobilian and unanimously carried, the city commission postponed its action to a future meeting on aforementioned Resolution 2023-016 at the request of the city manager and city attorney as previously cited.

**(c) Resolution 2023-017 Civil Engineering and Surveying Services – CR 466A Phase 3B Utility Adjustments – Halff Associates Inc.**

Ms. Geraci-Carver read into the record the following title of proposed Resolution 2023-017:

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF FRUITLAND PARK, FLORIDA, APPROVING

AGREEMENT/PROPOSAL FOR CR 466A PHASE 3B UTILITY ADJUSTMENTS DATED FEBRUARY 14, 2023 FROM HALFF IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$83,600 FOR ENGINEERING, SURVEYING, PERMITTING, ADMINISTRATIVE, BIDDING AND CONSTRUCTION ADMINISTRATION SERVICES ANC REIMBURSABLES; AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE THE PROPOSAL; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

In recognizing conflicts with the subject proposal, Mr. La Venia conveyed his request to Wright-Pierce Inc. (engineering and surveying services retained by the city), to submit a proposal in this regard and recommended that the item in question be postponed until the proposal is received and a comparison made.

**ACTION: 6:10:24 p.m. On motion made by Vice Mayor DeGrave, seconded by Commissioner Bell and unanimously carried, the city commission postponed its action on aforementioned Resolution 2023-017 to a future meeting at the city manager’s request as previously cited for more information.**

### **PUBLIC HEARING**

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

**(d) Second Reading and Public Hearing – Ordinance 2023-005 Solid Waste Rates Increase**

It now being the time advertised to hold a public hearing to consider the enactment of Ordinance 2023-005, Ms. Geraci-Carver read into the record the following title, and Mayor Cheshire called for interested parties to be heard:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF FRUITLAND PARK, FLORIDA APPROVING AN EXTENSION OF ITS SOLID WASTE COLLECTION FRANCHISE AGREEMENT WITH WASTE MANAGEMENT, INC. OF FLORIDA’ ADOPTING RATES FOR THE PROVISION OF WASTE MANAGEMENT SERVICES TO RESIDENTS OF THE CITY OF FRUITLAND PARK; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS AND SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR INCLUSION IN THE CODE OF ORDINANCES; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

**ACTION: 6:11:51 p.m. A motion was made by Commissioner Mobilian and seconded by Commissioner Bell that the city commission enact Ordinance 2023-005 as previously cited to become effective immediately as provided by law.**

There being no comments 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**

**6. (a) City Manager – Economic Development Status Update**

Mr. La Venia had nothing to report on economic development.

ACTION: 6:13:06 p.m. No action was taken.

**(b) City Attorney**

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

Ms. Geraci-Carver had nothing to report on the State of Florida Department of Management Services matter.

ACTION: 6:13:09 p.m. No action was taken.

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

Ms. Geraci-Carver had nothing to report on the Michael and Laurie Fewless matter.

ACTION: 6:13:09 p.m. No action was taken.

**iii. U.S. Bank National Association v. Robert Moore and City of Fruitland Park, Lake County Case No. 2022-CA-00845**

Ms. Geraci-Carver had nothing to report on the U.S. Bank National Association v. Robert Moore and City of Fruitland Park, Lake County Case No. 2022-CA-00845.

ACTION: 6:13:09 p.m. No action was taken.

**iv. Wayne Goodridge and Tammy Goodridge v. City of Fruitland Park, Lake County Case No. 2022-CA-1628**

Ms. Geraci-Carver had nothing to report on the Wayne Goodridge and Tammy Goodridge Case No. 2022-CA-1628.

ACTION: 6:13:09 p.m. No action was taken.

**v. Fruitland Park Official City Code**

Ms. Geraci-Carver had nothing to report on the official city code.

ACTION: 6:13:09 p.m. No action was taken.

**vi. Kaitlin Delong vs. City of Fruitland Park, Lake County Case No. 2022-CA-00463**

Ms. Geraci-Carver had nothing to report on the Kaitlin Delong Case.

ACTION: 6:13:09 p.m. No action was taken.

**7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

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

ACTION: 6:13:16 p.m. No action was taken.

**8. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Mr. Fred Clark, City of Fruitland Park resident, voiced concerns regarding his previous complaints to the police department regarding the racing and disruption of dirt bikes and all-terrain motorized vehicles in the neighborhood; pointed out his request that the city commission review the need for additional law enforcement officers, and requested police presence in the area to control same.

ACTION: 6:13:18 p.m. No action was taken.

**9. COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS**

**(a) Commissioner Mobilian**

Commissioner Mobilian stated that he had nothing to report at this time.

ACTION: 6:15:53 p.m. No action was taken.

**(b) Commissioner Bell – 2023 Love Week**

Later in the meeting and after Commissioner Bell expressed his gratification on recent events that occurred in the city in recognition of Love Week by Operation Bless Fruitland Park, Mr. La Venia addressed the plan for Parks and Recreation Director Michelle Yoder to coordinate the proceeds as a result of the 5k Love Run and Vice Mayor DeGrave referred to the February 17, 2023 The Villages Daily Sun article *Love Week Continues in Fruitland Park*.

ACTION: 6:15:59 p.m. and 6:24:26 p.m. No action was taken.

**(c) Commissioner Gunter, Jr.**

Commissioner Gunter was absent from this evening's meeting.

ACTION: 6:15:59 p.m. No action was taken.

**(d) Vice Mayor DeGrave – Solid Waste Services**

Mr. La Venia concurred with Vice Mayor DeGrave's proposition to explore the provision of solid waste services twice a week in-house, capitalizing hard capital over a period of 10-15 years, and calculating the potential savings in comparison to

Waste Management Inc.'s current contract including data on tipping fee charges to Covanta in this regard for review.

**ACTION: 6:16:05 p.m. By unanimous consent, the city commission concurred with the proposition as previously cited.**

**10. MAYOR'S COMMENTS**

**(a) 2023 Community Service Award Nomination**

Mayor Cheshire explained why he is recommending Infinity Fitness Inc. to be nominated to receive the 2023 Community Service Award from Lake 100; read into the record a list of philanthropy events that Infinity Fitness has been involved with since 2021, and Mr. La Venia recognized the funds supporting Project Generosity, a fundraiser for Fruitland Park Elementary School, raised by Infinity Fitness totalling \$24,167.66. (A copy of the list is filed with the supplemental papers to the minutes of this meeting.)

**ACTION: 6:21:54 p.m. and 6:25:28 p.m. By unanimous consent, the city commission accepted the nomination of Infinity Fitness Inc., as previously cited, and directed the city clerk to submit the 2023 Community Service Nomination Form Application highlighting its achievements.**

**(b) Dates to Remember** Mayor Cheshire announced the following events:

Mayor Cheshire recognized the following events:

- March 4, 2023, Family Camp-Out, Cales Memorial Multipurpose Soccer Field Recreation Complex, 300 Shiloh Street, Fruitland Park, Florida at 5:00 p.m.;
- March 17, 2023, Comedy Night, Fruitland Park Community Center, 205 West Berckman Street, Fruitland Park, Florida at 8:00 p.m.;
- March 23, 2023, City Commission regular meeting at 6:00 p.m.;
- March 25, 2023, Fruitland Park Day with BBQ Cook Off, Berckman Street, Fruitland Park, Florida at 10:00 a.m.

**ACTION: 6:24:00 p.m. No action was taken.**

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 6:26 p.m.

The minutes were approved at the March 9, 2023, regular meeting.

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

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

