

**FRUITLAND PARK CITY COMMISSION REGULAR  
MEETING MINUTES  
June 8, 2023**

A regular meeting of the Fruitland Park City Commission was held at 506 W. Beckman Street, Fruitland Park, Florida 34731 on Thursday, June 8, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.

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

**Member Absent:** Commissioner John Mobilian

**Also Present:** Gary La Venia City Manager; City Attorney Anita Geraci-Carver; City Treasurer Jeannine Racine; Police Chief Erik Luce; Sergeant David Cox and K-9 Officer Anthony Buehler, Police Department; Public Works Director Robb Dicus, Human Resources Director Betty McHale; Deputy Finance Director Gary Bachmann; Michael “Mike” Rankin, Interim Community Development Director, LPG Urban & Regional Planners Inc. (consultant retained by the city); Lake County Fire Rescue Rolando Terres Jr., Kenneth Frosch, Firefighter/Emergency Medical Technician Gabriel A. Peach, and Lieutenant Barry Fitzgerald, and City Clerk Esther B. Coulson.

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

Mayor Cheshire called the meeting to order, Reverend Dr. Pastor George A Mulford III, Grace Bible Baptist Church, gave the invocation and Boys Scout Troop 143, Fruitland Park led in the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

ACTION: 6:00:50 p.m. No action was taken.

**2. ROLL CALL**

After Mayor Cheshire requested that Ms. Coulson call the roll, a quorum was declared present, and Commissioner Mobilian’s absence was recognized.

ACTION: 6:02:55 p.m. **By unanimous consent, the city commission excused the absence of Commissioner Mobilian at this time.**

**3. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS**

Mr. Chris Holley II, Florida League of Cities’ (FLC’s) External Services Director, described the FLCs’ functions, goals, and mission; read into the record the following resolutions adopted by the FLCs’ Board of Directors honoring, commending and recognizing Commissioners Gunter and Bell for their long service and presented them with lapel pins marking their many years of service:

**(a) FLCs’ 2023 Mayor John Land Years of Service Awards – Years of Elected Service – J. L. Gunter Jr.**

Commissioner John L. Gunter Jr.’s 30 years of elected service and presentation with the Mayor John Land Years of Service Award in recognition of his unselfish commitment to municipal leadership and governance.

(b) **FLCs' 2023 Mayor John Land Years of Service Awards – Years of Elected Service – C. Bell**

Honoring Commissioner Chris Bell's 29 years of elected service and presentation with the Mayor John Land Years of Service Award in recognition of his unselfish commitment to municipal leadership and governance.

ACTION: 6:03:15 p.m. After the FLCs commended and congratulated the commissioners for their dedication to the city and their recognition as outstanding public servants in Florida, they both accepted the awards with much honor.

(c) **City Treasurer Appreciation Plaque and *Jeannine Racine Day* Proclamation**

On behalf of the city commission, Mayor Cheshire read into the record a proclamation recognizing June 8, 2023 as *Jeannine R. Racine Day*; extending heartfelt appreciation for her dedication, selflessness, and hard work as well as best wishes on her retirement and future endeavors and announced that her sense of style and purpose will be missed. She was also presented with a plaque in appreciation and recognition of her commitment, contribution and 11 years of dedicated service to the city.

ACTION: 6:12:33: p.m. Ms. Racine accepted the proclamation and plaque with much gratitude.

4. **CONSENT AGENDA**

The city commission considered its action to approve the consent agenda:

**Approval of Minutes**

May 25, 2023 regular meeting minutes.

ACTION: 6:15:58 p.m. **On motion of Vice Mayor DeGrave, seconded by Commissioner Bell, and unanimously carried, the city commission approved the consent agenda as previously cited.**

5. **REGULAR AGENDA**

(a) **RFQ 2023-01 Construction Management Services "At Risk" New Public Safety Complex Presentations**

After Ms. Geraci-Carver outlined the process, representatives from the following companies appeared giving power-point presentations on the Request for Qualifications 2023-01 (Construction Management Services "At Risk") for the new public safety complex (copies of which are attached to the minutes of this meeting):

- i. D. E. Scorpio Corporation by Domenic Scorpio, President and CEO who introduced Mr. Erik Anderson,
- ii. H J High Construction by Robert High, President or Shawn Straight, Communications Director

**ACTION: 6:15:11 p.m., 7:02:11 p.m. and 7:05:31 p.m. After discussion, and by unanimous consent, the city commission agreed to consider the ranking, negotiation and approval of the above-captioned firms' proposals at its June 22, 2023 regular meeting.**

**(b) Diesel Bypass Pump Quotes - Lift Station Emergencies**

The city commission considered its action on the following diesel bypass pump quotes for the lift station emergencies:

- i. Hudson Pump and Equipment, Lakeland, Florida - \$82,369.00
- ii. Water Pumps Direct, internet sales - \$65,579.00, and
- iii. Coastal Pump and Equipment, Winter Haven, Florida - \$51,832.80. (Said quote includes two different pumps. The city will be purchasing the diaphragm pump at \$50,332.80 plus \$1,500.00 freight charge.)

**ACTION: 7:01:58 p.m. and 7:02:32 p.m. After discussion and on motion of Commissioner Gunter, seconded by Commissioner Bell and unanimously carried, the city commission accepted staff's recommendation to award the quote to Coastal Pump and Equipment as the lowest responsive and responsible bidder for the amount not to exceed \$51,832.80.**

**6. (a) City Manager**

**i. Economic Development Status Update**

Mr. La Venia gave an outline on the status of current economic development projects to which Mr. Rankin updated the city commission on same anticipated to be considered before the forthcoming technical review committee meeting and the Planning and Zoning Board. He addressed his intent to provide an update on the land development regulations (LDR), comprehensive plan and maps at a future city commission meeting.

**ACTION: 7:05:31 p.m. No action was taken.**

**ii. Commercial Developments Permits Issued Status Update**

Mr. La Venia had nothing to report on the commercial development permits issued at this time.

**ACTION: 7:05:31 p.m. No action was taken.**

**iii. Law Enforcement Dispatch Services - Lake County Sheriff's Office**

Mr. La Venia referred to the Lake County Sheriff's Office (LCSO) cost of \$103,380 for its annual contract to provide dispatch services for the city and other municipalities and pointed out the subsequent contract which has been earmarked in the FY 2023-24 proposed budget.

In response, Ms. Geraci-Carver addressed her plan to contact LCSO's General Counsel Derek A. Schroth, Bowen Schroth.

ACTION: 7:09:52 p.m. No action was taken.

**iv. Local Ordinances Senate Bill 170**

Later in the meeting and at Mr. La Venia's request, Ms. Geraci-Carver outlined some of the following provisions under Local Ordinances Senate Bill 170 which was not, as of June 7, 2023, submitted to or executed by the Florida Governor where:

- continued meetings, if adopted, would be contrary to the recent case law regarding insufficient public notice (her opinion given on February 9 that the District Court of Appeals of the State of Florida Fourth District ruling would meet compliance); and that the city would revert on same without re-advertising;
- a plaintiff, in civil action, challenges an enacted ordinance which is arbitrary and reasonable, attorneys' fees and costs of up to \$50,000 would be awarded to the prevailing attorneys, and
- proposed ordinances with an economic or business impact estimate would need to be posted on the local government's website within a specified time of being considered before the elected body.

Ms. Geraci-Carver addressed her plan to report back to the city commission at a future date on matters affecting the city as it relates to the 2023 legislation coming into effect on October 1, 2023. (A copy of SB 170 is filed with the supplemental papers to the minutes of this meeting.)

ACTION: 7:13:15 p.m. No action was taken.

**v. City Treasurer**

Mr. La Venia had nothing to report on the city treasurer at this time.

ACTION: 7:05:31 p.m. No action was taken.

**(b) City Attorney**

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

Ms. Geraci-Carver referred to her agenda summary report on the U.S. Bank National Association v. Robert More Lake County Case No. 2022-CA-00845 who are filing to try to recover some money. She anticipated with the extra proceeds that the case would be filed and funds dispersed.

ACTION: 7:13:22 p.m. No action was taken.

**ii. 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 Lake County Case No. 2022-CA-1628.

ACTION: 7:13:22 p.m. No action was taken.

**iii. Fruitland Park Official City Code**

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

ACTION: 7:13:22 p.m. No action was taken.

**iv. LDR Codification**

Ms. Geraci-Carver had nothing to report on the LDR codification.

ACTION: 7:13:22 p.m. No action was taken.

**v. 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 Lake County Case No. 2022-CA-00463 at this time.

ACTION: 7:13:22 p.m. No action was taken.

**7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

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

ACTION: 7:17:22 p.m. No action was taken.

**8. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

No one from the public appeared before the city commission.

ACTION: 7:17:23 p.m. No action was taken.

**9. COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS**

**(a) Commissioner Mobilian**

Commissioner Mobilian was absent from this evening's meeting.

ACTION: 7:17:45 p.m. No action was taken.

**(b) Commissioner Bell**

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

ACTION: 7:17:45 p.m. No action was taken.

**(c) Commissioner Gunter**

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

ACTION: 7:17:50 p.m. No action was taken.

(d) **Vice Mayor DeGrave**

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

ACTION: 7:17:53 p.m. No action was taken.

10. **MAYOR'S COMMENTS**

(a) **Commission Meeting Schedule**

Mayor Cheshire referred to the previously distributed Fiscal Year 2023-24 Budget Calendar which reflected the dates of August 7 and 8, 2023 to hold a workshop; relayed Mr. La Venia's remarks that those dates are not feasible, and questioned whether holding same on July 31 and August 1, 2023 would be acceptable.

ACTION: 7:17:56 p.m. Upon Mayor Cheshire's suggestion and by unanimous consent, the city commission agreed to consider the dates of July 31 and August 1, 2023 to hold a workshop at its next meeting.

(b) **Dates to Remember**

Mayor Cheshire recognized the following events:

- June 9, 2023, Jeannine Racine's Retirement Party, Community Center, 205 West Beckman Street, Fruitland Park, Florida 34734 at 4:00 p.m.;
- June 16, 2023, *A Night on the Town* Progressive Dinner Event:
  - o Appetizers, Fruitland Park Library, 604 West Beckman Street, Fruitland Park, Florida 34734 at 5:30 p.m.
  - o Dinner, Fruitland Park Community Center, 205 West Berckman Street, Fruitland Park, Florida 34734 at 6:00 p.m.;
  - o Dessert, City Hall, 506 West Berkman Street, Fruitland Park, Florida 34734 at 7:00 p.m.;
  - o Comedy Show, 205 West Berckman Street, Fruitland Park, Florida 34734 at 8:00 p.m.;
- June 21, 2023, Lake-Sumter Metropolitan Planning Organization Governing Board Meeting, 1300 Citizens Boulevard., Suite 175, Leesburg, Florida 34748 at 2:00 p.m., and
- June 24, 2023, Derby Kart Race, Mirror Lake Drive and West Berckman Street, Fruitland Park, Florida 34731 at 10:00 a.m.

ACTION: 7:18:24 p.m. No action was taken.

11. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 7:19 p.m.

The minutes were approved at the June 22, 2023, regular meeting.

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

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

