

**FRUITLAND PARK CITY COMMISSION WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES**  
**March 21, 2017**

A workshop meeting of the Fruitland Park City Commission was held at 506 W. Berckman Street, Fruitland Park, Florida 34731 on Tuesday, March 21, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.

Members Present: Mayor Chris Cheshire, Vice Mayor John L. Gunter, Jr., Commissioners Christopher Bell, Ray Lewis, and Rick Ranize.

Also Present: City Manager Gary La Venia, City Attorney Anita Geraci-Carver, City Treasurer; Jeannine Racine-Michaud; Deputy Police Chief Dennis Cutter, Police Department; Interim Fire Chief Don Gilpin; Lieutenant Tim Yoder; Chris Lewis, Madison Leary, and Michael Goins, Firefighters; Parks and Recreation Director Michelle Yoder; Community Development Director Charlie Rector, and City Clerk Esther B. Coulson.

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

After Mayor Cheshire called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., Vice Mayor Gunter led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

**2. ROLL CALL**

At Mayor Cheshire's request, Ms. Coulson called the roll and a quorum was declared present.

**By unanimous consent and at Mayor Cheshire's request, the city commission considered the following items out of order on this evening's agenda.**

**4. FY 2017-18 – FIRE DEPARTMENT BUDGET**

After Mayor Cheshire reviewed the fire department's budget for FY 2017-18, Ms. Geraci-Carver referred to the fire services assessment program development study previously conducted by Ms. Sandi Walker, Government Services Group, Inc. which included full time firefighters and capital improvements for fire revenue; confirmed in response to Mr. La Venia's inquiry that other revenue sources outside ad valorem can be utilized to manage the fire department, as long as the funding criteria to use fire impact fee is met, and described the various budget scenarios Ms. Walker provided to implement same; a copy of which is filed with the supplemental papers to the minutes of this meeting.

**3. FIRE ASSESSMENT vs. AD VALOREM**

After much discussion, Ms. Racine-Michaud reviewed the fire assessment vs. ad valorem noting the 100 percent of the residential fire assessment equating to \$220 per assessed home value instead of \$279.

**5. THREE FIRE FIGHTERS' FLEX SHEET**

Mayor Cheshire referred to the public's preference, expressed at the September 8, 2017 regular meeting and suggested that the city commission implement in future 100 percent

for three more fire fighters flex to which Ms. Geraci-Carver indicated that another study would need to be conducted every three to five years depending on the city's population growth.

Following further discussion, Commissioner Ranize believed that \$100,000 would need to come from ad valorem if the city commission decides to operate from a Basic Life Support to Advanced Life Support (ALS) system and recognized that the Governmental Services Group did not base its calculations within the study for ALS. He voiced his support for 10 percent ad valorem -- due to the city's future need for ALS and when another study is conducted, based on commercial growth and The Villages attaining build-out -- and 90 percent from the fire assessment fee depending on the home value.

After extensive deliberations, Mr. La Venia was directed to proceed with the implementation of the fire assessment fee.

Ms. Geraci-Carver noted that on May 12, 2017 the city would need to submit the Truth-in-Millage test file to the Lake County Property Appraiser's Office and prior to the end of July 2017, the city commission adopts the initial assessment resolution setting the assessment rate and by the time the city's budget is adopted, a final assessment resolution would be required.

Interim Chief Gilpin addressed the plan to operate the fire department with the three flex positions and retain the stipend for the volunteer fire firefighters for Fiscal Year 2017-18.

**6. OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no other business at this time.

**7. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

The minutes were approved at the April 13, 2017 regular meeting.

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

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