

**FRUITLAND PARK CITY COMMISSION REGULAR
MEETING MINUTES
January 12, 2017**

A regular meeting of the Fruitland Park City Commission was held at 506 W. Berckman Street, Fruitland Park, Florida 34731 on Thursday, January 12, 2017 at 6:00 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 Michaud-Racine; Police Chief Michael A. Fewless; Interim Fire Chief Don Gilpin; Lieutenant Tim Yoder, Firefighters Chris Lewis, Tyler Cassidy, Madison Leary, Andrew Hall, and Sean Parker, Fire Department; Community Development Director Charlie Rector, Public Works Director Dale Bogle; JoAnn Glendinning, Fruitland Park Library Director, and City Clerk Esther B. Coulson.

1. CALL TO ORDER, INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

After Reverend Daryl Allen, Community United Methodist Church, gave the invocation and Police Chief Fewless led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag, Mayor Cheshire called the meeting to order.

2. ROLL CALL

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

3. CONSENT AGENDA

December 8, 2016 Minutes (a); Resolution 2017-002 Poinsettia Avenue (b); Resolution 2017-003 Gardenia Park (c), and Resolution 2017-005 P&Z Appointment T. Bradley

By unanimous consent and upon Commissioner Ranize' request, the city commission withdrew from this day's consent agenda, its consideration of Item 3.(b) for discussion.

On motion of Commissioner Ranize, seconded by Commissioner Lewis and unanimously carried, the city commission took action on the following consent agenda items:

- (a) Approved the December 8, 2016 regular meeting minutes as submitted;**
- (c) Adopted Resolution 2017-003 of the City Commission of the City of Fruitland Park, Florida, adopting dep agreement no. A17044 and agreement no. A17060 between the State of Florida Department of Environmental Protection and the City of Fruitland Park, Florida to provide financial assistance for Gardenia Park, Phase I and Phase II and providing for an effective date, and**

- (d) **Adopted Resolution 2017-005 of the City Commission of the City of Fruitland Park, Florida, appointing a member, T. Bradley, to the City of Fruitland Park Planning and Zoning Board; providing the term expiration date; and providing for an effective date.**

- (b) **Resolution 2017-002 – Poinsettia Avenue ILA**

The city commission considered its action to adopt Resolution 2017-002 of the City Commission of the City of Fruitland Park, Florida, adopting the interlocal agreement between the City of Fruitland Park, Florida and Lake County relating to Poinsettia Avenue and providing for an effective date.

Commissioner Ranize noted the city's responsibility, upon the completion of roadway improvements along Poinsettia Avenue (CR 6006), to maintain said roadway and the remaining roadway would be rebuilt; voiced concerns on the condition of the "s-turn" north (west side curvature of the roadway approximately the first 100 to 150 yards) towards the stop sign on Spring Lake Road.

After much discussion, and in response, Mr. Rector that he would find out from Booth Ern Straughan and Hiott, engineers retained by the city, as whether the subject issue could be rectified.

A motion was made by Commissioner Ranize and seconded by Vice Mayor Gunter that the city commission adopt Resolution 2017-002 as previously cited.

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

4. LOCAL PLANNING AGENCY Recess 7:00 p.m. or Thereafter

Mr. La Venia announced that as the Local Planning Agency meeting was advertised at 7:00 p.m. prior to the city commission meetings approved time change of its meetings at 6:00 p.m., the remaining items will be dealt with the exception of Quasi-Judicial Items 5.(i), (j), and (k) until 7:00 p.m.

By unanimous consent, the city commission took the following items out of order on this evening's agenda.

5. REGULAR AGENDA

- (a) **Emergency Reporting Software – Fire Department**

The city commission considered its action to approve an emergency reporting records management system for fire and emergency medical services quotation for \$3,006.90. (Said item was not supplanted as a line item in the FY 2016-17 budget.)

Interim Fire Chief Gilpin relayed staff's request to transfer funds from the fire refund fee to the general budget to upgrade its current software program to a web-based reporting records management system, including payment of setup fees, and

explained that current upgrades to the existing software is no longer supported or updated. He gave a brief synopsis of the system's features which allows for additional computer space; connect with other Lake County and other fire department's reports; work with the public works department on flow testing, and helps the fire department with its Insurance Service Office rating.

After much discussion, Vice Mayor Gunter suggested that the city commission postpone its action on this day's agenda until the outcome of the Fire Services Advisory Committee's findings on the provision of fire services.

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Gunter and seconded by Commissioner Bell that the city commission postpone its action to approve an emergency reporting records management system for fire and emergency medical services as previously cited.

Mayor Cheshire called for a roll call vote with the city commission members voting as follows:

Vice Mayor Gutner	Yes
Commissioner Bell	Yes
Commissioner Lewis	Yes
Commissioner Ranize	No
Mayor Cheshire	Yes

The motion was declared carried on a four to one (4-1) vote

(b) Resolution 2017-004 – Budget Amendment BT2017-002 – FY 2016-17 – Emergency Reporting Software

After discussion and on motion of Vice Mayor Gunter and seconded by Commissioner Bell that the city commission postpone its action to adopt Resolution 2017-004.

Mayor Cheshire called for a roll call vote with the city commission members voting as follows:

Commissioner Ranize	No
Commissioner Bell	Yes
Commissioner Lewis	Yes
Vice Mayor Gutner	Yes
Mayor Cheshire	Yes

The motion was declared carried on a four to one (4-1) vote

(c) **Resolution 2017-001 - Non-Ad Valorem Assessment - Property Appraiser – Agreement**

Ms. Geraci-Carver read into the record the title of proposed Resolution 2017-001, the substance of which is as follows:

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF FRUITLAND PARK, FLORIDA, ADOPTING THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN CAREY BAKER, LAKE COUNTY PROPERTY APPRAISER AND THE CITY OF FRUITLAND PARK, FLORIDA FOR NON-AD VALOREM ASSESSMENTS ON TRIM NOTICE; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

After further discussion, **a motion was made by Vice Mayor Gunter that the city commission adopt Resolution 2017-001 as previously cited.**

Following Ms. Geraci-Carver's explanation of the estimated millage rate and the assessment process, she explained that she will review and provide more information on the assessment for The Villages and the City of Fruitland Park.

Commissioner Lewis seconded the motion.

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

(d) **Payment for CRA - FY 2016-17 Tax**

After discussion, **a motion was made by Commissioner Bell and seconded by Commissioner Ranize that the city commission approve payment from the general fund to the redevelopment fund for redevelopment taxes for FY 2016-17.** (Tax calculations are based on increase in property value over the base year 1994 divided by 1,000 (\$23,736) times the millage (3.9863), times 95% with a total of \$89,888).

After discussion, **Mayor Cheshire called for a vote on the motion and declared it carried unanimously.**

(e) **2017 Priorities – Discussion**

Mr. La Venia outlined the following 2017 priorities to which the Mayor Cheshire addressed the possibility of holding workshops in that regard:

- **Water and Wastewater Treatment Plant Connection Lines** - are imminent and staff is waiting for permits from Lake County.
- **Soccer Field** - February 1, 2017 is the date to start working on its construction.
- **Fruitland Park Library** - received information earlier this day from the Florida Department of State, Division of Historical Resources, State Historic

Preservation Officer regarding the casino community center building and the construction of the new library whereby staff is ready to proceed.

- **Website** - the need to work towards a current interactive website for the city allowing departments to have the ability in uploading and disseminating up-to-date information beneficial to users including those on social media to which Mayor Cheshire suggested placing same as an agenda item for the next meeting.
- **Parks and Recreation**- the city commission's position whereby staff is continuing, on a regular basis, to make improvements to the city's parks.
- **CDBG** – the need for direction as to whether staff ought to pursue -- within two months notifying Mr. Fred D. Fox, Fox Enterprises Inc., grant writer retained by the city – applying for FY 2017 or FY 2018 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Cycle recognizing the city's limitations in infrastructure improvements in areas where residents meet the household income eligibility threshold requirements.

After much discussion, the city commission requested that staff report back to the city commission with a proposal analyzing and identifying the areas in the city that meet the income eligibility, criteria, and requirements before deciding.

At Mayor Cheshire's request, the elected officials addressed the need to review the following:

- **Commissioner Bell**
Roadway Improvements - for CR 466A and the intersection of Dixie Road and Berckman Street

Brownfields Redevelopment Program - recognizing the issue of the old mercury thermometer incinerator plant in the city for economic development and the invitation during summer 2017 for a representative from the State of Florida Department of Environmental Protection to appear before the city commission to address the existing opportunities available for Brownfields site rehabilitation.

- **Vice Mayor Gunter**
Water and Wastewater Treatment Plant Connection Lines - including the Fruitland Park Library, fire department; and utilities, and the pursuit of wastewater construction grants.

Florida Department of Transportation Landscaping Grant – relaying the previous request to staff to pursue the Florida's Highway Beautification Council Grant for landscaping on US Highway 441 and after reference was made this day's article featured in The Daily Commercial entitled *Leesburg to Begin Work This Summer on Gateway Project* noting FDOT's award of

\$250,000 to help fund landscaping improvements at US Highway 27 and US Highway 441 Triangle.

Following extensive deliberations and later in the meeting, Mr. Bogle addressed his plans to work on the medians.

- **Commissioner Ranize**

Street Lights - Berckman Street and College Avenue – recalling the city’s expenditure 000 in community redevelopment agency funds of \$700,000 and the previous request for one of the street lights to be repaired which has not yet been carried out.

Parks and Recreation – addressing the need for the city parks to be renovated.

Building Maintenance – referencing the need to repair the window seals and the requirement for emergency generators in the event of an emergency and refurbishing carpets and the painting of city hall.

Public Works Maintenance Facility- noting the preference for it to be away from the city center and leave one building at the existing location to which Mr. La Venia distributed the list of capital improvement projects which was filed with the supplemental papers to the minutes of this meeting.

Public Works Building

After discussion, **the city commission, by unanimous consent accepted the city manager’s recommendation authorizing staff to proceed to commence architectural work on the public works building with Senatore Inc. after the architectural design on the construction of the Fruitland Park Library project is complete and identify the funding source to implement the building maintenance issues as previously outlined during the FY 2016-2017 budget process.**

Additional Staff – in the FY 2017-18 budget is required which staff ought to work towards.

- **Commissioner Lewis**

Personal Goal - addressed his goal to ask the right question, create a narrative, and be informed of decisions made.

Project Tracker - suggested the creation of a physical visual in the chambers or electronically on tracking and updated status reports of city projects with timelines available to the city commission and the public.

Social Media - as means to provide information and communicate directly with the public on current events.

Code Enforcement – noted several eyesores in the city; the negatives with the effort to introduce corridors with businesses which will hinder the city in the future, and recognized the proactive code enforcement currently retained by the city.

One Cent Sales Tax - initiative from Lake County which he supports which would take care of CR 466A Roadway improvements.

- **Mayor**
Website – as a priority.

The Villages – consideration on the city’s responsibility recognizing the 20 miles of roadway and the establishment of sinking funds to which Mr. La Venia voiced in concurrence which are current discussions as part of FY’s 2017-18 budget.

CDBG Grants – earmarked for parks and recreation department’s repair of its parks and upkeep of the soccer field and the public works safety and for staff to report back to the city commission on same earmarked for the FY 2017-18 budget.

CR 466A Roadway Improvements – after stressing the importance, Mr. La Venia referred to his December 28, 2016 letter to the Lake County Board of County Commissioners regarding the importance of phase III of the CR 466A widening project and the need for leveraging funds to complete same if funds are not forthcoming from the state; a copy of which is filed with the supplemental papers to the minutes of this meeting.

Ongoing City Projects – in concurring with Commissioners Ranize and Lewis’ remarks, the need to provide direction on the aforementioned projects to staff.

By unanimous consent, Mayor Cheshire recessed the meeting at 7:00 p.m. to the Local Planning Agency meeting and reconvened at 7:11 p.m.

PUBLIC HEARING

By unanimous consent, Mayor Cheshire opened the public hearings at this evening’s meeting.

- (f) **Second Reading and Public Hearing – Ordinance 2016-029 Solid Waste Rates Increase**

It now being the time advertised to hold a public hearing to consider the enactment of proposed Ordinance 2016-029 and after Ms. Geraci-Carver read into the record the title, the substance of which is as follows, Mayor Cheshire called for interested parties to be heard:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COMMISSIONERS OF THE CITY OF FRUITLAND PARK, LAKE COUNTY, FLORIDA; AMENDING SECTION 99.40, IN CHAPTER 99 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES TO INCREASE REFUSE COLLECTION FEES BY 2% EFFECTIVE JANUARY, 2017; PROVIDING FOR INCLUSION IN THE CODE; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE. (The first reading was held on December 8, 2016.)

There being no one from the public and **by unanimous consent, Mayor Cheshire closed the public hearing.**

A motion was made by Commissioner Bell and seconded by Commissioner Lewis that the city commission enact Ordinance 2016-029 as previously cited to become effective immediately as provided by law.

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

(g) Second Reading and Public Hearing – Ordinance 2016-030 Moratorium – Marijuana Dispensaries

It now being the time advertised to hold a public hearing to consider the enactment of proposed Ordinance 2016-030 and after Ms. Geraci-Carver read into the record the title, the substance of which is as follows, Mayor Cheshire called for interested parties to be heard:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COMMISSIONERS OF THE CITY OF FRUITLAND PARK, LAKE COUNTY, FLORIDA; ESTABLISHING A TEMPORARY MORATORIUM WITHIN THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF THE CITY OF FRUITLAND PARK PROHIBITING MEDICAL CANNABIS ACTIVITIES DURING THE MORATORIUM PERIOD; PROVIDING FOR INCLUSION IN THE CODE; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR FILING WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE. (The first reading was held on December 8, 2016.)

Ms. Geraci-Carver explained that the subject proposed ordinance's moratorium effective date would be until May 27, 2017 or earlier the city commission enacts an ordinance indicating where in the city such uses would be allowed in the zoning code, or until such time staff brings back information about its impact whereby the city commission would take action to repeal the ordinance.

Ms. Geraci-Carver indicated that the county is waiting for the state legislature's action in the 2017 legislative session and then a decision would be made.

There being no one from the public and by **unanimous consent, Mayor Cheshire closed the public hearing.**

A motion was made by Commissioner Ranize and seconded by Vice Mayor Gunter that the city commission enact Ordinance 2016-030 as previously cited to become effective as provided by law.

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

END OF PUBLIC HEARING

QUASI-JUDICIAL PUBLIC HEARING

(h) First Reading – Quasi-Judicial Public Hearing - Ordinance 2017-002 – Boundary Amendment

Ms. Geraci-Carver read into the record the title of proposed Ordinance 2017-002, the substance of which is as follows:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF FRUITLAND PARK, FLORIDA, AMENDING THE BOUNDARIES OF THE CITY OF FRUITLAND PARK FLORIDA, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROCEDURE SET FORTH IN SECTION 171.044, FLORIDA STATUTES, TO INCLUDE WITHIN THE CITY LIMITS APPROXIMATELY 0.33 ± ACRES OF LAND GENERALLY LOCATED NORTH OF CR 466A AND EAST OF LAKE JOSEPHINE DRIVE; DIRECTING THE CITY MANAGER TO PROVIDE CERTIFIED COPIES OF THIS ORDINANCE AFTER APPROVAL TO THE CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT, THE LAKE COUNTY MANAGER AND THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE. (The second reading will be held on January 26, 2017.)

After Ms. Geraci-Carver swore in Mr. Rector, he described the subject location and proposed use.

After discussion, **a motion was made by Vice Mayor Gunter and seconded by Commissioner Bell that the city commission approve the LPA's recommendation of approval on Ordinance 2017-002 as previously cited.**

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

(i) **First Reading – Quasi-Judicial Public Hearing - Ordinance 2017-003 – Comprehensive Plan Amendment**

Ms. Geraci-Carver read into the record the title of proposed Ordinance 2017-003, the substance of which is as follows:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF FRUITLAND PARK, FLORIDA, PROVIDING FOR A COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AMENDMENT AMENDING THE FUTURE LAND USE DESIGNATION FROM COUNTY URBAN LOW TO CITY COMMERCIAL ON THE FUTURE LAND USE MAP OF THE CITY OF FRUITLAND PARK'S COMPREHENSIVE PLAN FOR APPROXIMATELY 0.33+ ACRES OF PROPERTY GENERALLY LOCATED NORTH OF CR 466A AND EAST OF LAKE JOSEPHINE DRIVE; AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO AMEND SAID COMPREHENSIVE PLAN; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HEREWITH; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE. (The second reading will be held on January 26, 2017.)

Mr. Rector, who was previously sworn, described the subject property and its proposed use.

A motion was made by Commissioner Ranize and seconded by Commissioner Lewis that the city commission approve the LPA's recommendation of approval on Ordinance 2017-003 as previously cited.

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

(j) **First Reading – Quasi-Judicial Public Hearing - Ordinance 2017-004 - Rezoning**

Ms. Geraci-Carver read into the record the title of proposed Ordinance 2017-004, the substance of which is as follows:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF FRUITLAND PARK, FLORIDA, REZONING 0.33 ± ACRES OF THE PROPERTY FROM LAKE COUNTY MIXED RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT (R-7) TO NEIGHBORHOOD COMMERCIAL (C-1) WITHIN THE CITY LIMITS OF FRUITLAND PARK; PROVIDING FOR CONDITIONS AND CONTINGENCIES; DIRECTING THE CITY MANAGER TO AMEND THE ZONING MAP OF THE CITY OF FRUITLAND PARK; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HEREWITH; PROVIDING FOR

AN EFFECTIVE DATE. (The second reading will be held on January 26, 2017.)

A motion was made by Commissioner Lewis and seconded by Commissioner Bell that the city commission approve the LPA's recommendation of approval on Ordinance 2017-004 as previously cited.

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

END OF QUASI-JUDICIAL PUBLIC HEARING

The following item numbers should read 6 through 11.

7. NEW BUSINESS

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

8. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no comments from the public at this time.

9. OFFICERS' REPORTS

(a) City Manager

i. Introduction – Ms. Lori Davis, Code Enforcement Officer

After Mr. La Venia introduced Ms. Lori Davis, Code Enforcement Officer, who has been working diligently and closely with the police and community development departments who later gave a background of her experience and gave a brief statistical report of various code enforcement cases'; courtesy letters to violators and the process to start official notice of violations which she is working on.

In response to Vice Mayor Gunter's inquiry, Ms. Geraci-Carver, in noting the statutory requirements, recommended that Ms. Davis send an email to the special magistrate requesting permission to hold a hearing where she believed scheduling them once per month on such cases would be sufficient.

Mr. Rector complimented Ms. Davis' performance and the improvements she has made. He outlined the procedures involved and addressed the special magistrates' willingness in establishing hearings on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and gave an update of the code enforcement issues. He relayed the request to make him aware of any code enforcement issues not addressed in the city's ordinances, land development regulations, and the international property maintenance code in order for him to work with Mr. Greg Beliveau, LPG Urban and Regional Planner, on same. Mr. Rector explained that there are a number of outdated matters which will come before the city commission later during the year.

In responding to a question posed by Commissioner Ranize regarding the structure of the old mercury thermometer incinerator plant, Mr. Rector explained that the front brick building could be repaired, the steel building on the immediate north is in fair condition, and the remaining structure where part of it has no roof can be demolished and indicated that it is currently occupied by vagrants. He pointed out the recent letter regarding the code violations to the property owner and indicated that Ms. Geraci-Carver has provided for Ms. Davis' guidance code enforcement forms for the city's use.

After discussion, Messrs. La Venia and Rector explained that staff has been working on disseminating information to the public regarding the code enforcement officer.

ii. Casino Building Demolition Discussion

Mr. La Venia referred to the telephonic conference held on January 11, 2017 among Dr. Timothy A. Parsons, State of Florida Department of State's Division of Historical Resources, State Historic Preservation Officer; Mses. Geraci-Carver, Glendinning, Mr. Rector and himself regarding the Casino Building and pointed out his email dated January 11, 2017 outlining the synopsis of action to be taken.

After discussion and **by unanimous consent, the city commission agreed for staff to proceed with the casino demolition.**

iii. Fruitland Park Library Director

Ms. Glendinning reviewed the report outlining FY 2015-16 which she forwarded to the Florida State Division of Library Information Services a copy of which is filed with the supplemental papers to the minutes of this meeting.

iv. Fire Department Volunteers

Earlier in the meeting, Mr. La Venia stated that he has no items relating to the fire department volunteers and withdrew the item from consideration.

(b) City Attorney

Ms. Geraci-Carver referred to the update she provided in the agenda item summary sheet regarding the following individuals and email which include Mr. Anthony Mancino, Claimant.

i. Angelica Dobruck vs. City of Fruitland Park, et. al.

ii. George Fernandez v. City of Fruitland Park

iii. Notice of Claim – Anthony Mancino

iv. Notice of Claim – James Hartson

v. January 17, 2017 FSAC Meeting

Upon the request of Ms. Anita Geraci-Carver, **and by unanimous consent, the city commission excused the city attorney's absence from the January 17, 2017 Fire Services Advisory Committee meeting.**

vi. Gamble Residential Contract (Humble Investments Inc.)

Ms. Geraci-Carver referred to the city's residential contract for sale and purchase with Humble Investments Inc.; noted that the work is incomplete; thus, the closing date to be on January 13, 2017, and referred to the addendum to contract which received which requires execution; a copy of which filed with the supplemental papers to the minutes of this meeting.

After discussion and **on motion of Commissioner Lewis, seconded by Commissioner Ranize and unanimously carried, the city commission approved the attorney's recommendation to extend Addendum No 2 to the residential contract for sale and purchase between Humble Investments Inc., a Florida Corporation, and the City of Fruitland Park changing closing date from January 13, to February 23, 2017.**

10. COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

(a) Commissioner Ranize

i. Local Truck Traffic Movement Regulations

Commissioner Ranize referred to the *Walking Wednesdays* the afternoon walks in Fruitland Park promoted by the police department; recognized the posted truck signs on both ends of the roadway at Hickory Avenue, Elm Avenue and Maple Street, and voiced concerns on the lack of an ordinance to support same. He addressed the problem with commercial business owners when large vehicles leave their premises and voiced the need to take action in this regard.

Commissioner Ranize recalled his previous appearance as a citizen -- before the city commission and prior to becoming an elected official -- regarding the installation of the wastewater and water treatment connection lines and his recommendation to utilize community redevelopment agency funding when roadways were being improved. Commissioner Ranize relayed the residents' concerns on the safety issue posed at that time when children walked on sidewalks to their respective bus stops.

Following further deliberations, Chief Fewless conveyed the residents' concerns on the volume of trucks in the area which he cannot enforce and recognized the high liability to the city if a child is injured as a result.

After discussion and upon Commissioner Ranize' suggestion, the city commission **by unanimous consent, directed the city**

attorney to draft an ordinance for consideration at the next meeting on local traffic movement regulations.

b. Sidewalks/Roads and Streets

In response to Commissioner Ranize' concerns regarding the need for sidewalks, Mr. La Venia referred to the public works sidewalk replacement program that was distributed at the September 8, 2016 regular meeting

(b) Commissioner Lewis

Audit Committee – RFP Audit Services

Since the December 8, 2016 regular meeting, Commissioner Lewis gave a report on the December 16, 2016 Audit Committee's Pre-Proposal Meeting, the January 6, 2017 Bid Opening, and the January 11, 2017 Audit Committee Meeting to rank the proposals for auditor services.

Commissioner Lewis addressed the committee's evaluation, tallying and ranking of the proposals received from Baylis & Company PA and McDirmit Davis CPA, and cited reasons why the committee recommended the selection of McDirmit Davis recognizing the late start in the auditing process.

After discussion and upon Commissioner Lewis' recommendation, **the city commission, by unanimous consent, expressed preference to enter into a contract with McDirmit Davis CPA withy the direction for the city attorney to review same; provide said contract for city commission's consideration at the next meeting, and invite McDirmit Davis representatives to appear before the city commission at the January 26, 2017 regular meeting.**

(c) Commissioner Bell

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

(d) Vice Mayor Gunter, Jr.

Vice Mayor Gunter remarked that he hoped everyone had a pleasant holiday; indicated that he is looking forward to the forthcoming ongoing projects during 2017, and that he is anticipating an exciting year.

11. MAYOR'S COMMENTS

(a) Proclamation for the Record – Mayor Cheshire recognized *School Choice Week in Fruitland Park* - January 22-28, 2017 (requested by Mr. Andrew Campanella, National School Choice Week President) which was filed with the supplemental papers to the minutes of this meeting.

(b) Utility Bill Complaint

Mayor Cheshire referred to an email dated December 6, 2016 received from Mr. Sam Mastkiss regarding a utility bill that he paid through bill pay and his complaint on the city's method of grace period before determining that his payment is late.

After Ms. Michaud-Racine relayed the various available payment options offered to assist Mr. Mastkiss to submit his payment on time and in concurrence, Mayor Cheshire conveyed Mr. Mastkiss' refusal to accept same; transmitted his request for an ordinance to change the due date in order for him to pay his bill on time, and reassured him that he would present his request before the city commission.

After discussion, Mayor Cheshire acknowledged the forthcoming online payment system for utility bills and Commissioner Lewis recognized the lag time with the financial institutions' online bill payment services.

Following further discussion, Ms. Michaud-Racine explained that after the implementation of the online payment system, Mr. Mastkiss would have the ability to review his bill history and make payments on time.

(c) Dates to Remember

Mayor Cheshire noted the changes to the following dates:

- January 13, 2017 Lake County League of Cities' *Annual Organizational Meeting* at 12:00 noon;
- January 19, 2017 Regular Commission Meeting at 6:00 p.m. should read: *January 26, 2017*;
- January 23, 2017 Martin Luther King Jr. Day, City Hall Closed should read: *January 16, 2017*, and
- January 25, 2017 Lake-Sumter MPO Governing Board Meeting at 2:00 p.m.

12. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the city commission at this time, on motion made, second and unanimously carried, the meeting adjourned at 8:11 p.m.

The minutes were approved at the January 26, 2017 regular meeting.

Signed _____

Esther B. Coulson, City Clerk

Signed _____

Chris Cheshire, Mayor