

**FRUITLAND PARK CITY COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES
September 8, 2016**

A regular meeting of the Fruitland Park City Commission was held at 506 W. Berckman Street, Fruitland Park, Florida 34731 on Thursday, September 8, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.

Members Present: Mayor Christopher Bell, Vice Mayor John L. Gunter, Jr., Commissioners Christopher Cheshire, 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, Deputy Police Chief Dennis Cutter, Officer Brad Heidt, Police Department, Fire Chief Michael Laming; Assistant Fire Chief Don Gilpin; Fire Department Lieutenant Tim Yoder, Firefighters E. Fisher, J. Pate, S. Odgen, K. Ducharme, Chris Lewis, J. Ranize and David Campbell, Fire Department; Public Works Director Dale Bogle, and City Clerk Esther B. Coulson.

1. CALL TO ORDER, INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

After Mayor Bell called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., Overseer Jack B. Post, Heritage Community Church, gave the invocation, and Chief Fewless lead in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

2. ROLL CALL

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

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

After Mr. Peter Hurrt, City of Fruitland Park resident, referred to this day's article entitled: "The Villages Daily Sun's Salutes Fruitland Park's Police Chief Hits One-Year Mark", Chief Fewless was congratulated; a copy of which is filed with the supplemental papers to the minutes of this meeting.

Mr. Paul Frost, City of Fruitland Park resident, questioned the status of Mr. Charlie Rector, Community Development Director and stated that thoughts and prayers are with him.

Mr. Fred Clark, City of Fruitland Park resident, compared other municipal parks with a net/backstop netting or field screens over their ball fields; relayed that his wife and himself witnessed a ball that was struck --over the fence at the Cales Field Recreation Complex – and hit a vehicle, and expressed concerns on the potential of damaging a vehicle's windshield in the future.

Ms. Mary Milton, City of Fruitland Park resident, recalled her experience, approximately a year ago, regarding the volunteer fire department's service call for her late mother, and praised the staff for their services and response times.

Mr. Charles Walker, The Village of Pine Ridge, The Villages resident, expressed concerns on the proposed FY 2016-17 Lake County Taxing Authority budget and the proposed tax increase of 31.1 percent.

In response, Mr. La Venia explained the decision to be made on the special fire assessment, regardless of the city commission's decision to be made later in this evening's meeting; identified the two-tier fire assessment if implemented which will affect the old city and The Villages, and noted, based on a previous study conducted, the \$260,000 the city pays for fire assessment services and the \$175 cost for The Villages.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

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

- (a) approved the August 25, 2016 regular meeting minutes as submitted;**
- (b) adopted Resolution 2016-035 of the city commission of the City of Fruitland Park, Florida, adopting the interlocal agreement between City of Fruitland Park, Florida and Sumter Landing Community Development District; providing for an effective date, and**
- (c) approved the first amendment to an agreement between the Town of Lady Lake, a political subdivision in the state of Florida (hereinafter "town"), and the City of Fruitland Park, a Florida municipal corporation (hereinafter "city") to receive and treat the city's wastewater and authorized the mayor and city clerk to execute same.**

By unanimous consent, Mayor Bell took the following items out of order on this evening's agenda and opened the public hearings.

QUASI-JUDICIAL PUBLIC HEARING

- (f) Second Reading and Public Hearing - Ordinance 2016-016 - Comprehensive Plan Amendment - Single Family Medium Density to Commercial - North of CR 466A and West of Rose Street - Applicant: Sunshine Properties and Rentals Inc.**

It now being the time advertised to hold a public hearing and at Mayor Bell's request, Ms. Geraci-Carver read into the record the following title of proposed Ordinance 2016-016, and the public was called to be heard:

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 SINGLE FAMILY MEDIUM DENSITY TO COMMERCIAL ON THE

FUTURE LAND USE MAP OF THE CITY OF FRUITLAND PARK'S COMPREHENSIVE PLAN FOR APPROXIMATELY 1.04 ± ACRES OF PROPERTY GENERALLY LOCATED NORTH OF CR 466A (MILLER STREET) AND WEST OF ROSE STREET; DIRECTING THE CITY CLERK TO TRANSMIT THE AMENDMENT TO THE APPROPRIATE GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 163, FLORIDA STATUTES; AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO AMEND SAID COMPREHENSIVE PLAN; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HERewith; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE. (The first reading was held on August 28, 2016.)

After Mr. La Venia described the subject item, Ms. Patricia Pospisil, Sunshine Property & Rentals Inc., the applicant, outlined the plans for the proposed property.

In response to an inquiry posed by Mr. Bill Kaufman, City of Fruitland Park resident who stated that he resides near the subject project, Mayor Bell confirmed the use of the subject property.

By unanimous consent, Mayor Bell closed the public hearing.

After further discussion, Mr. La Venia addressed the need for the applicant to appear before the Planning and Zoning Board and city commission for site plan approval.

Following some discussion, **a motion was made by Commissioner Cheshire and seconded by Commissioner Lewis that the city commission enact Ordinance 2016-016, as previously cited, to become effective thirty-one (31) days after its adoption by the city commission. (If this ordinance is challenged within thirty days (30) days after its adoption, it may not become effective until the state land planning agency or Administrative Commission, respectively, issues a final order determining that this ordinance is in compliance.**

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

(g) Second Reading and Public Hearing - Ordinance 2016-017 - Rezoning - R-2 to C-2 - Applicant: Sunshine Properties and Rentals Inc.

It now being the time advertised to hold a public hearing and at Mayor Bell's request, Ms. Geraci-Carver read into the record the following title of proposed Ordinance 2016-017 and called for interested parties to be heard:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF FRUITLAND PARK, FLORIDA, REZONING 1.04 ± ACRES OF THE PROPERTY FROM SINGLE FAMILY MEDIUM DENSITY RESIDENTIAL (R-2) TO GENERAL COMMERCIAL (C-2) 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 first reading was held on August 28, 2016.)

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

A motion was made by Commissioner Lewis and seconded by Vice Mayor Gunter that the city commission enact Ordinance 2016-017 to become effectively immediately as provided by law.

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

END OF QUASI-JUDICIAL PUBLIC HEARING

The following item was not considered; however, records reveal that same was to be postponed to a future meeting at staff's request; a copy of the email dated September 8, 2016 is filed with the supplemental papers to the minutes of this meeting.

PUBLIC HEARING

5. (h) **Second Reading and Public Hearing - Wastewater Rates Ordinance 2016-018**

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF FRUITLAND PARK, FLORIDA, AMENDING CHAPTER 99, SECTION 99.60 (B) OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES TO PROVIDE FOR AN INCREASE IN WASTEWATER RATES; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR INCLUSION IN THE CODE OF ORDINANCES; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE. (The first reading was held on September 8, 2016.)

5. **REGULAR AGENDA**

(a) **Resolution 2016-036 - Fire Protection and Rescue Services ILA – Lake County**

At Mayor Bell's request, Ms. Geraci-Carver read into the record the title of proposed Resolution 2016-036, the substance of which is as follows:

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF FRUITLAND PARK, FLORIDA, ADOPTING THE INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN LAKE COUNTY, FLORIDA AND THE CITY OF FRUITLAND PARK, FLORIDA FOR FIRE PROTECTION AND RESCUE SERVICES; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Ms. Geraci-Carver interpreted the provisions outlined in the ILA between Lake County for fire protection and rescue services to become effective October 1, 2016 and explained the county's willingness to be involved in city-related events which is not included in the agreement.

Mayor Bell referred to discussions held by Mr. La Venia at the August 25, 2016 regular meeting, noted his negotiations with the county; thus, the presentation of same at this evening's meeting and his recommendation to proffer a motion.

After Commissioner Ranize referred to Subsection 3.E., equipment noting that Attachment "B", Inventory of the ILA, does not reflect the costs involved or a price cannot be found in the contract, Ms. Geraci-Carver responded that she has the estimate available; believed the language states that it would be agreed upon with the city manager, and stated that an assessment was carried out which is more than the \$225,000, to which Mr. La Venia interjected is \$155,000. She mentioned that Mr. Heath may have said estimate as the county provided it to the city staff at a previous meeting

In answering, Commissioner Ranize believed the subject issue to be a moot point to him and indicated that if the inventory price for the equipment is not included the contract, he would not vote on the matter.

Ms. Geraci-Carver assured that the amount can be obtained from Messrs. David Heath, County Manager, and John Joliff, County Public Safety Director/Fire Chief. She explained how the issue could be resolved, if the item is approved, by the city commission accepting the price contingent upon including and approving the agreement with the incorporated language. Ms. Geraci-Carver referred to recent discussions held with the county where the number was omitted and the decision made to not include same.

Mr. Heath explained that the county structured the agreement in that manner was due to a city commissioner's concerns voiced at the August 25, 2016 regular meeting on receiving "pennies back on the dollar" for the equipment. He addressed his intent to ensure a fair deal; anticipated problems in determining the value of the city's equipment as well as negotiating the terms with the vendor when it came to identifying what the county is interested in buying and using. Mr. Heath mentioned the estimated cost of the equipment and vehicles to be

between \$100,000 to \$150,000 which would require him, Mr. La Venia and staff to meet to obtain realistic estimates.

After Commissioner Ranize noted the estimated cost to be less than what the city paid for airpacks (MSA SBA Equipment) and the amount of about \$80,000 which the city still owed, Mr. Heath indicated that a value was not placed on same.

Commissioner Ranize reiterated that he cannot vote on a contract with a price he is unaware of; pointed out his previous request to the city commission and staff to present a proposal (a hybrid system, a full time system) for consideration, and referred to the city commission's previous conduct of a special fire assessment fee study and its former discussion regarding the calculations, the lack of a proposal, and his request for a proposal from the county which was previously presented.

Commissioner Ranize referred to the proposed plan in going to a full time hybrid fire department that he prepared which includes a three-year plan and addressed his desire to share same with the city commission – that the city commission worked on since October 2015 where nothing similar has yet since been presented before the elected body. A copy of the proposal is filed with the supplemental papers to the minutes of this meeting.

Mayor Bell recognized the city commission's consideration of proposed Resolution 2016-036.

A motion was made by Commissioner Cheshire and seconded by Vice Mayor Gunter that the city commission adopt Resolution 2016-036 as previously cited.

Mayor Bell outlined the procedures for this evening's meeting and called for interested parties to be heard:

The following city residents cited reasons in opposition:

Mses. Donna Stader, a part time crossing guard, voiced concerns on the county's agreement and its obligations pertaining to the terms and the inventory's appraised costs on the city's fire department's apparatus and equipment and recognized the performance of the fire department volunteers.

Later in the meeting, Ms. Stader believed the city commission's intent to proceed on the vote is wrong and felt the residents ought to be heard.

Pat Guy requested that the city commission postpone the subject item; reconsider the public's opinions and the proposals presented, and questioned the county's future fire assessment fees.

Later in the meeting, Ms. Guy questioned the fire department staff's involvement with discussions among the city commission members as well as whether the proposals were reviewed to implement the Advanced Life Support -- where she believed the fire assessment fees would help cover the costs.

Amber Lewis referred to the county's fire station LCFR 53 at Spring Lake Road and the service calls received in 2015 which were not dedicated in the city. She recognized the city's station 56 vehicles and equipment not guaranteed to be utilized in the city; thus, the city's intent to pay the county for same.

Terry Parish recognized the need for change; mentioned the unfairness in considering the subject issue and referred to the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) rates having an impact on property taxes and insurance increases. She referred to previous statements regarding the fire department staff's living distance and requested that the city commission consider same.

Later in the meeting, Ms. Parish voiced concerns on the manner in which a gesture of disrespect was demonstrated from the dais and questioned the public's participation if the city commission has already reached its decision.

Julie Harris requested that the city commission be compassionate about the fire fighter volunteer staff.

Deborah Possee recognized the number of times the city's fire department volunteers quickly responded to service calls to her home; concurred with Ms. Guy's request to review the proposal offered by Commissioner Ranize, and questioned the city commission approving the agreement with the county.

Ella Collett questioned the city commission's motion on the floor and noted its unfairness towards the residents for not being able to take action on the subject issue. She voiced her reluctance to not pay taxes to the county; expressed preference to be taxed by the city, and recognized the volunteer firefighters' quick response when an emergency was experienced at her household.

Ms. Collett referred to her letter dated August 26, 2016 addressed to Mayor Bell regarding her concerns on the volunteer fire department, the city commission's vote, and request to postpone same; a copy of which is filed with the supplemental papers to the minutes of this meeting.

Rita Ranize expressed concerns on the lack of public participation at the last city commission regular meeting when the matter was addressed as an impromptu item; the incorrect information relayed to the media regarding the volunteer fire department, and the time they devoted to the community and city commission. She requested that the city commission respect and support the fire department and give them the same consideration as the previously troubled police department which is now a success.

Sharon Connell voiced her compliments to the fire department staff noting her previous experience with their services, pointed out previous comments on the decision to transfer the city's fire department services to the county recognizing their job performance and the public's support in this regard, and questioned the purpose of allowing public participation without input if the city commission has already reached its decision.

Messrs. Jim Possee who requested that the city commission review the proposal offered by Commissioner Ranize before taking action; recalled his comments at the August 25, 2016 regular meeting on the county's response time, and addressed the lack of public participation at said meeting as the public was not informed about the subject issue.

Kevin Eugene Wilson appeared on behalf of his father -- a retired 30-year firefighter -- recognized and welcomed The Villages residents asking that they not overrun the city, and requested the proposal referenced by Commissioner Ranize. He asked that the subject matter be postponed to another date.

Ted Garrison referred to Commissioner Ranize' proposal and questioned the others which have been submitted.

James M. "Mark" Isom, former public safety director and police chief, referred to the rebuilding of the volunteer fire department after the resignation of employees that he witnessed some of whom are present at this evening's meeting. He expressed preference and support in funding and maintaining the city's fire department in-house and referred to this day's newspaper article regarding "Vote Thursday Could End 100-Year-Old Volunteer Fire Department" the contents of which he claimed to be untrue. Mr. Isom pointed out the city's agreement with Lake Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Inc. regarding Basic Life Support services and the provisions regarding the furnishing of equipment -- recognizing Mayor Bell's membership on the EMS Board -- and requested the

review of the proposal by Commissioner Ranize regarding the phasing in of two firefighters.

Later in the meeting, Mr. Isom questioned the lower costs that the county would accept for the equipment and recognized the original price the city paid for its vehicles.

John Gamble, former fire department volunteer staff of more than 35 years, pointed out the annexation of properties; recalled the equipment rebuilt by the volunteers without the city's assistance, and acknowledged the volunteers' performance with little compensation.

Later in the meeting, Mr. Gamble questioned the motivation in initiating the subject issue.

Bruce Collett, Sign Wizard Inc. Business Owner, voiced his suspicions and expressed disappointment in the manner in which the city commission initially considered the subject issue and requested that same to be presented and voted upon by the citizens.

Al Goldberg expressed concerns on the city commission supporting a contract without full information and requested that the item be postponed for the city commission to hold another public meeting to review the agreement and other plans before making an informed decision. He mentioned his experience with the services the volunteer fire department provided and commended them for their performance.

Ken Hutchinson, business owner 3376 US 27, mentioned the demographic study conducted by him and his wife and gave reasons why they relocated to the city.

Later in the meeting, Mr. Hutchinson recognized the roots established in the city and the long term city commission serving on the commission with the residents' full support; expressed willingness to pay additional taxes due to the fire department's dedicated performance, and requested that the city commission refrain from voting on the subject issue.

Steve Brooker acknowledged the public's presence at this evening's meeting in support of the fire department; noted the volunteer staff's dedication to the community as local presence, and addressed the need to make the fire department adequate; thus, consider its decision.

Caitlin Burch voiced his experience when his grandfather's home was previously destroyed by fire; recalled the volunteer fire department staff's reputation over the years when receiving acclamations by the city commission, and expressed concerns on the lack of notice given to transfer fire rescue services to the county which he believes is a wrong decision. He questioned the manner in which the item was placed on the agenda without public notification; believed that improvements could be made when communicating to the public, and suggested placing the matter before the public.

Mr. Burch addressed his willingness to pay, if additional taxation is required.

Dr. David Ayris requested that the city commission review the proposal before making an informed decision.

Later in the meeting, Mr. Clark reiterated the reasons in reviewing a long term plan.

Charles Walker quoted an excerpt from the August 27, 2016 The Villages Daily Sun newspaper article where it indicates that until both boards approve the agreement, service in Fruitland Park will remain status quo. He requested the county's position and indicated that the proposed 31 percent tax increase is unacceptable.

In referring to the Fire Protection Rescue Services agreement with the county, Paul Frost questioned the county's six-minute or less in responding to calls for service; the county's information fact sheet, and the city to be serviced from and by the county's Fire Stations 53 and 56. He gave his opinion as to why LCFR 53 should not be included in the agreement.

Mr. Frost pointed out the city's earlier remarks regarding the special fire assessments cost at \$175 per household with the increase in the Truth-in-Millage fee which he stated he cannot afford, pointed out previous discussions on the method in which former volunteer fire department staff in prior years managed the station which can no longer be implemented due current working trends, and gave statistics, comparisons and the current position of the fire department's ISO rate of three.

Mr. Frost believed the city commission ought to formulate a better decision on the subject issue.

Later in the meeting, Mr. Frost recalled Commissioner Lewis' previous statements that the formation of municipalities was for public safety and questioned the county taking control of the fire department and the purpose of the city.

The Reverend Dr. George A. Mulford, III, Grace Bible Baptist Church, described several incidents the church recently experienced with each service delivery performed by the volunteer fire department before EMS and the county arrived. He indicated that he is not convinced that the city would be well served by the county. Reverend Mulford requested that the city commission review the proposal offered by Commissioner Ranize and believed that the city staff can manage the fire department full time with the same dedicated level of service as the county's.

On behalf of the church, Reverend Mulford noted his service as chaplain to the fire and police departments since 2003 and the donations provided to both. He cited reasons why the fire department is viable and believed that it would be best for the city is keep its own fire department.

Jimmy Isom described his experience as a former volunteer firefighter with the city and requested that the city commission conduct a research on the Cities of Mascotte and Groveland who were in a similar position. He voiced his support to review the proposal offered by Commissioner Ranize and questioned the city commission's decision to transfer the department's fire services to the county and not review another neighboring municipality,

Mr. Clark gave reasons of not being in support. He questioned the fire department's ability to manage the increase in properties incorporated and annexed into the city and who it would work with the funding source and affordability, the purchase of more equipment; the current volunteer staff and full time staff, and the level of service and response times. He addressed the need to review a long term plan towards same.

The following residents from other areas cited their respective reasons in support of the fire department:

Earlier in the meeting, Mr. Chuck Johnson, Town of Lady Lake resident, questioned the city commission's motivation in unequivocally placing the subject item on the agenda without notice. He acknowledged the city residents' willingness to pay for a high level of service than what the county has to offer. Mr. Johnson recalled the city commission sharing with him the

troubled police department -- which he previously advocated and now admitted that he was wrong due to their job performance as well as the fire department – and the implementation of the special fire assessment fee which he believed need to be worked on, and referred to Commissioner Ranize' proposed plan which the city commission would not consider.

Mr. Johnson explained that the residents deserve to be heard and then the city commission make a decision. He believed that the city commission has already reached its conclusion on subject matter -- previously was considered and unannounced publicly at the last meeting -- and questioned the reason why they are on the dais.

Rebecca Robertson, Lake County Unincorporated Area resident, referred to her August 26 and 30, 2016 correspondence to Mayor Bell, recognized the fire department staff's performance on several occasions to Grace Bible Baptist Church.

By unanimous consent, Mayor Bell closed the public comment portion on this evening's agenda.

Commissioner Ranize referred to his August 24, 2016 discussions with Mr. La Venia regarding the county's proposal for fire rescue service and relayed the assurance he was given that the county was not going to be at the August 25, 2016 regular meeting. Commissioner Ranize acknowledged the item not being placed on the regular agenda and notice not provided relative to same. He recollected Mayor Bell's request for a presentation from the county and summarized the meeting's proceedings and the actions in that regard.

Commissioner Ranize distributed the proposed plan to retain a full time hybrid fire department; reviewed the three steps to proceed towards a full time fire department for FYs 2016-17, 2017-18, and 2018-19, and noted that despite the city commission's decision, the process of implementing a special fire assessment study would affect The Villages and the city residents.

Commissioner Ranize mentioned his request for such a plan since October 2015 which was not presented by staff; recognized that discussions were held at three subsequent workshops, and believed that the city not execute a contract without the knowledge of how much the city would receive for its fire equipment; thus, the reason why he is objecting.

Commissioner Lewis acknowledged the fire department staff's advanced training and equipment and improved level of performance; gave his opinion on the events during the FY 2016-17 budget process and the city commission's subsequent action, and cited reasons why he is not in support of the motion on the floor.

Vice Mayor Gunter recalled the review of the fire department's budget at the July 11, 2016 budget workshop with the acceptance of the volunteer firefighters staff increased monthly stipend for FY 2016-17 and the impression of the department being in order. He referred to the city commission's actions at its August 11, 2016 regular meeting with Commissioner Lewis' concerns on the lack of full coverage at the department and his subsequent dissenting vote. Vice Mayor Gunter relayed the fire department's request for an additional staff at the August 25, 2016 regular meeting with his reasons in support of accepting two fire departments in April 2017.

Vice Mayor Gunter pointed out telephone calls he made to various municipalities with populations between 9,000 to 24,000; identified the majority of those who transferred their fire department services to the county that were satisfied, and cited reasons for change.

Commissioner Cheshire pointed out past proposals received from former fire department chiefs and noted the majority of service calls responded to are medical.

Mayor Bell outlined the city commission's procedure when comments are presented by the public and consideration of items without being on the agenda; explained that notice was provided when final decisions affect the city with the public given the opportunity to participate, and referred to the city commission's unanimous support of the fire department's during its July 11 budget workshop; however, a four-to-one vote was attained at the July 14, 2016 regular meeting when the ad valorem taxation was considered where it was disclosed that problems existed at the fire department; thus, the city commission subsequently searched for methods to remedy same with the plan to proceed to a full time fire department.

Chief Laming and Lieutenant Yoder interjected, in response to Mayor Bell's remarks that problems existed at the fire department as it was anticipated that the special fire assessment would be an avenue to assist in funding the positions.

Mayor Bell recognized the previous satisfactory performance of the firefighters. He noted that as a result of the recently distributed flyers, namely; "Save our Fire Department" placed at residents homes, two responses were received; mentioned his subsequent call to Pastor Mulford and to other citizens, and addressed attempts to represent all the citizens. (Copies of the flyers are filed with the supplemental papers to the minutes of this meeting.)

Mayor Bell requested that Ms. Coulson call the vote on the motion on the floor to adopt Resolution 2016-036 of the City Commission of the City of Fruitland Park, Florida, adopting the interlocal agreement between Lake County, Florida and the City of Fruitland Park, Florida for fire protection

and rescue services; providing for an effective date with the city commission members voting as follows:

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

The motion was declared carried by a three to two (3-2) vote.

By unanimous consent, the city commission recessed its meeting at 9:30 p.m. and reconvened at 9:43 p.m.

FIRST BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING

(b) Resolution 2016-030 – Tentative Millage Rate – FY 2016-17

At Mayor Bell's request, Ms. Geraci-Carver read into the record the title of proposed Resolution 2016-030, the substance of which is as follows and indicated that the tentative ad valorem millage at 4.7371 mills is greater than the roll back rate of 4.7371 mills, which is greater than the rolled back of 3.2632 mills by 45.17%:

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF FRUITLAND PARK, LAKE COUNTY, FLORIDA, ADOPTING A TENTATIVE MILLAGE RATE OF 4.7371 LEVYING OF AD VALOREM TAXES FOR LAKE COUNTY FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016-2017; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Mayor Bell announced that the millage rate of 4.731 mills is the same rate city residents have been charged for the last three years and that the ad valorem increase is due to an increase in the taxable value generated by The Villages. He called for the public to be heard.

After Mr. Hurtz referenced Mr. Walker's remarks earlier in this evening's meeting, Mayor Bell noted the increase to individual households due to the growth in The Villages representing a 45.17 percent increase in tax revenue. He addressed the need for city services to increase; the city undergoing a transitional period, and the uncertainty over the next years.

Mr. La Venia expounded that the assessed taxable value on households can increase, by law, on no more than three percent from year to year to which Ms. Geraci-Carver voiced her concurrence.

By unanimous consent, the public hearing was closed.

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Gunter and seconded by Commissioner Cheshire that the city commission adopt Resolution 2016-030 as previously cited. (Mayor Bell declared that a unanimous vote would be required for the passage of same.)

At Commissioner Ranize' request, Ms. Michaud-Racine announced the millage rate for a four-to-one (4-1) vote would reduce the millage rate to 3.9863 mills with a budget cut of \$216,000 and a vote of three-to-two (3-2) vote would drop to 3.6239 at \$321,000.

Mayor Bell requested that Ms. Coulson call the roll call vote on the motion with the city commission members voting as follows:

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

Mayor Bell declared the motion carried on a four to one (4-1) vote.

Upon Ms. Geraci-Carver's advice, Mayor Bell announced the consideration of Resolution 2016-030 adopting a tentative millage rate of 3.9863 levying of ad valorem taxes for Lake County for Fiscal Year 2016-2017.

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Gunter and seconded by Commissioner Cheshire that the city commission adopt Resolution 2016-030 adopting a tentative millage rate of 3.9863 levying of ad valorem taxes for Lake County for Fiscal Year 2016-2017.

Mayor Bell called for the public to be heard.

In response to an inquiry posed by Ms. Rachel Whetstone, The Villages Daily Sun, Ms. Michaud-Racine explained that the percentage increase and roll back rate would be 22.16% increase over the roll back rate and the difference is \$216,000 which is \$424,773.

By unanimous consent, the public hearing was closed.

Mayor Bell called for a roll call vote on the motion which was declared carried unanimously. (Mayor Bell announced that the final budget (second public hearing) will be held on September 22, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. at the city commission chambers.)

At Commissioner Lewis' request, Mr. La Venia noted the budget public hearing process to which Mayor Bell suggested that staff work on same with the aim of reducing the impact to the overall budget and provide same at the next meeting. He confirmed that public safety (police department) to be of priority.

In response, Mses. Michaud-Racine, Geraci-Carver and Mr. La Venia addressed the advertising and statutory requirements within fifteen days of adopting the tentative budget and before approving the final budget; and the obligation to submit the adopted resolutions after the budget is approved.

Following continued discussions and **by unanimous consent, the city commission determined that a budget workshop would be held on September 15, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. to address the FY 2016-17 budget.**

(c) Resolution 2016-031 – Adopting Tentative Budget FY 2016-17

At Mayor Bell's request, Ms. Geraci-Carver read into the record the title of proposed Resolution 2016-031, the substance of which is as follows

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF FRUITLAND PARK, LAKE COUNTY, FLORIDA, ADOPTING THE TENTATIVE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016-2017; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Gunter and seconded by Commissioner Cheshire that the city commission adopt the previously cited Resolution 2016-031, as amended,

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

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

Mayor Bell declared the motion carried on a vote of four to one (4-1).

By unanimous consent, the city commission reopened the public hearing and called for interested parties to be heard.

Mr. Bob Wille, City of Fruitland Park resident, expressed concerns on the city's roadways which he believes needs some attention; referred to his conversations with Mr. La Venia where he indicated that the city is making efforts in initiating the process to address severe deferred maintenance that needs to be completed. He advocated a higher priority in the budget for resurfacing program to conduct a

professional analysis on the needs and perform a long term schedule to implement a system on a regular resurfacing program. Mr. Wille noted the difficulty in implementing same based on the approved budget and requested that the city commission, in the future, institute such program for the roads.

END OF FIRST BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING

(d) Charter Officer' Appointments (city clerk)

i. Resolution 2016-033 - City Treasurer Appointment

At Mayor Bell's request, Ms. Geraci-Carver read into the record the title of proposed Resolution 2016-033, the substance of which is as follows:

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF FRUITLAND PARK, APPOINTING A CITY TREASURER, PROVIDING FOR THE TERM OF OFFICE; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

On motion of Commissioner Ranize, seconded by Commissioner Lewis and unanimously carried, the city commission adopted Resolution 2016-033 as previously cited.

ii. Resolution 2016-034 - City Attorney Appointment

At Mayor Bell's request, Ms. Geraci-Carver read into the record the title of proposed Resolution 2016-034, the substance of which is as follows:

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF FRUITLAND PARK, APPOINTING A CITY ATTORNEY, PROVIDING FOR THE TERM OF OFFICE; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

On motion of Vice Mayor Gunter, seconded by Commissioner Ranize, and unanimously carried, the city commission adopted Resolution 2016-034 as previously cited.

iii. Resolution 2016-032 City Clerk Appointment

At Mayor Bell's request, Ms. Geraci-Carver read into the record the title of proposed Resolution 2016-032, the substance of which is as follows:

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF FRUITLAND PARK, APPOINTING A CITY CLERK, PROVIDING FOR THE TERM OF OFFICE; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

On motion of Commissioner Ranize, seconded by Commissioner Cheshire and unanimously carried, the city commission adopted Resolution 2016-032 as previously cited.

On behalf of the city commission, Mayor Bell welcomed the officers for another year.

(e) CAFR

Mr. W. Chet Ross, CPA, Shumacker, Johnston & Ross, PA., gave a presentation of the 2015 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) which was provided under separate cover, where the city commission confirmed, by gesturing in the affirmative at his request, that they received same.

Mr. Schumacker reviewed the letter dated September 8, 2016 regarding the subject report which was submitted to Ms. Coulson to disseminate to the city commission; a copy of which is filed with the supplemental papers to the minutes of this meeting.

Mr. Schumacker referred to page 47 of the CAFR, the new Florida Retirement System (FRS) figures established in the audit report for the year ending September 30, 2015 which he presented at the June 23, 2016 regular city commission meeting and referred to his previous discussions with Ms. Michaud-Racine in that regard. After noting the city's participation with the FRS in 2015, he expressed concerns on no past service cost for employees accounted for; FRS' determination for the city to place assumed liabilities on the overall financial statement the city would have for future unfunded pension liabilities by \$12 billion (.0021 percent equivalent to \$273,000 and \$40,000 monthly in addition to what the city paid which will be amortized in the future, and FRS' requirement for a percentage to be paid this year based on the employees payroll costs.

After considerable discussion, and **on motion of Commissioner Ranize, seconded by Vice Mayor Gunter and unanimously carried, the city commission approved the auditor's recommendation to accept the 2015 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report as submitted.**

6. NEW BUSINESS

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

7. OFFICERS' REPORTS

(a) City Manager

i. Movie on the Lawn

Mr. La Venia announced that the Movie on the Lawn featuring "Angry Birds" will be held on September 16, 2016 at Fruitland Park City Hall at 8:00 p.m.

ii. CDBG

Mr. La Venia explained that a meeting has been arranged with Mr. Fred Fox, Fred Fox Enterprises Inc., grant writer retained by the city, on Thursday, September 15, 2016 to initiate discussions to proceed with Community Development Block Grant applications.

Mr. La Venia addressed the intent to utilize CDBG funds for wastewater connection lines north of Shiloh Street; described the procedures involved in meeting the CDBG criteria, and mentioned the plan to address the Florida Recreation Development Assistant Program to be utilized for tennis courts.

(b) City Attorney - RONR

Ms. Geraci-Carver explained, in response to a question posed by Vice Mayor Gunter regarding, that according to Robert's Rules of Order, with a main motion on the floor, a motion to postpone could not be made by any commission member unless the main motion is heard or the maker of the main motion can make an amendment.

8. COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

(a) Commissioner Ranize

i. Officers' Reports

Commissioner Ranize requested that in future Mr. La Venia and Ms. Geraci-Carver provide in their reports for the agenda brief synopsis beforehand of what they intend to address before the city commission during the meeting, unless it is sensitive in nature.

ii. Code Enforcement

Commissioner Ranize expressed concerns on the lack of code enforcement; the existing violations, and the number of times it has been overseen by various city departments.

In response, Mr. La Venia explained that the independent contractor agreement to provide code compliance services was given to Ms. Geraci-Carver to review.

Mr. La Venia recognized the weekly progress meetings held at the city hall regarding code enforcement and relayed the consultant's question to county staff on its decision for the roadway traveling through the intersection of CR 466A.

iii. CR 466A Roadway Improvements

Commissioner Ranize addressed the need for the county to complete the CR 466A roadway since 2001. He requested that Mr. Heath accompany Mr. Jim Stivender, Lake County Public Works Director, who already accepted the invitation to appear at the next commission meeting.

iv. Fire Department

Commissioner Ranize voiced his disappointment with the outcome of the fire protection and rescue services. He gave his belief that the city commission and himself did not do their best; indicated that the proposal he presented should have taken place six months ago, although he stated was not his job to do so, and assured that he will not do that again.

(b) Commissioner Lewis

Commissioner Lewis stated that he had no report at this time.

(b) Commissioner Cheshire – Fire Department

Commissioner Cheshire indicated that the fire protection and rescue services was not an easy decision and taken lightly; however, he felt he made the right one. He mentioned his preference for the city to keep the fire department -- recognizing the volunteer staff's satisfactory performance and the passion that Deputy Fire Chief Gilpin and Lieutenant Yoder have in their jobs – and indicated that the conclusion on his part was fiscal. He explained that he was unhappy with the conduct, the budget delay and the method in which the city commission reviewed the ILA where he believed it was best for the city but left a bad taste for the citizens. He explained why he believed the special fire assessment fee would be balanced.

(d) Vice Mayor Gunter, Jr. – Fire Department

Vice Mayor Gunter explained his long term tenure in the city and the hard decision he had to make. He referred to the distributed "Save our Fire Department" flyers and mentioned the few responses he received from the citizens as a result.

9. MAYOR'S COMMENTS

(a) Fire Department

Mayor Bell noted the opportunity for the public to voice their opinions and the decision the city commission had to make. He addressed the need to work together to advance the city and recognized the tremendous imminent growth with decisions to be made for the benefit of the city.

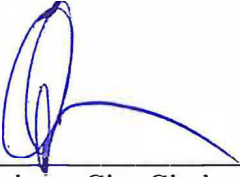
(b) Dates to Remember

Mayor Bell recognized the city commission workshop to be held on September 15, and September 22, 2016, regular city commission meeting both at 7:00 p.m.

10. 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 10:58 p.m.

The minutes were approved at the October 13, 2016 regular meeting.

Signed 

Esther B. Coulson, City Clerk

Signed 

Christopher Bell, Mayor