

FRUITLAND PARK CITY COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

March 10, 2016

A regular meeting of the Fruitland Park City Commission was held at 506 W. Berckman Street, Fruitland Park, Florida 34731 on Thursday, March 10, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.

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

Also Present: City Manager Gary La Venia, City Attorney Anita Geraci-Carver, Assistant City Treasurer Sue Parker, Deputy Police Chief Dennis Cutter, Police Department; Assistant Fire Chief Don Gilpin, Deputy Chief Tim Yoder, Fire Department; Community Development Director Charlie Rector, Parks and Recreation Director Michelle Yoder, and City Clerk Esther B. Coulson.

1. CALL TO ORDER, INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

After the Reverend Dr. George A. Mulford III, Grace Bible Baptist Church, gave the invocation and Assistant Police Chief Cutter led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag, Mayor Bell called the meeting to order.

2. ROLL CALL

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

3. PRESENTATION

(a) Proclamation

On behalf of the city commission, Mayor Bell read into the record a proclamation proclaiming *March 13, 2016 as "Grace Bible Baptist Church's Reverend Dr. George A. Mulford III Day in the City of Fruitland Park"* and requested that all the citizens of Fruitland Park join in recognizing his dedication and hard work, which will not go unnoticed, as well the members of the Grace Bible Baptist Church.

Reverend Mulford accepted the proclamation with honor and thanked the city commission for the recognition.

(b) PRESENTATION 5K Love Run

Upon Mayor Bell's suggestion and by unanimous consent, the city commission postponed the presentation at this evening's meeting to the March 24, 2016 meeting.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Peter J. Hurtt, City of Fruitland Park resident, referred to the February 20, 2016 Mayor's Meet and Greet event; noted the informal session conducted by Mr. La Venia, and recognized citizens' questions and comments to have been respectful with remarks from Mayor Bell and Mr. La Venia to be forthcoming.

Mr. Hurtt pointed out his attendance at the March 5, 2016 Shiloh Cemetery event which he stated was extraordinarily well done and complimented the public works department and Mr. La Venia on the grounds' upkeep and the organization of the event.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of Minutes

February 25, 2016 Special Meeting

On motion of Commissioner Lewis, seconded by Commissioner Cheshire and unanimously carried, the city commission approved the February 25, 2016 special meeting minutes as submitted.

6. REGULAR AGENDA

(a) Board of Trustees Firefighters Pension Trust Fund Appointment

On motion of Commissioner Ranize, seconded by Commissioner Cheshire and unanimously carried, the city commission postponed its action to endorse the Fruitland Park Firefighter Trust Fund Board of Trustees' action appointing Ms. Michelle Yoder to the pension board: appointed category to complete the two-year term to December 31, 2017 filling an existing vacancy replacing Ms. Diane L. Gibson-Smith whose term had expired for more information.

(b) Leesburg Aquatics Club - Swim Team - Contract

The city commission considered its action to approve a contract between The Leesburg Aquatics Club and the City of Fruitland Park to utilize the Gardenia Park Swimming Pool, to provide training and practice to the swim team, and authorize execution of same.

After Ms. Yoder explained that the subject contract has been reviewed by Ms. Geraci-Carver, Ms. Eilen Earley, Leesburg Aquatics Club Titans Swim Team – a nonprofit organization -- described the program. She noted the closure of the City of Leesburg's swimming pool where alternative locations are being sought to maintain all year-round recreational programs; she mentioned utilizing the pool for off-season practice workouts for swimmers at all ages and abilities, and expressed appreciation for the city commission's consideration. She explained that in the future, recreational leagues may be considered.

Commissioner Lewis relayed his earlier conversations with Ms. Yoder regarding the city commission's discussions at its previous meeting regarding the setup and design of Gardenia Park Swimming Pool's for swim meets and addressed the possibility to address same at a future meeting.

On motion of Commissioner Ranize, seconded by Vice Mayor Gunter and unanimously carried, the city commission approved the contract as previously cited.

By unanimous consent, the Mayor opened the public hearing at this evening's meeting.

QUASI-JUDICIAL PUBLIC HEARING

(c) **Second Reading and Public Hearing - Ordinance 2016-002 – Boundary Amendment – 63.89 Acres**

It now being the time advertised to hold a quasi-judicial public hearing to consider the enactment of proposed Ordinance 2016-002, Ms. Geraci-Carver read the title, the substance of which is as follows and Mayor Bell called for interested parties to be heard:

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 63.89 ± ACRES OF LAND GENERALLY LOCATED EAST OF US HWY. 27/441 AND WEST OF PICCIOLA ROAD; 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 first reading was held on February 25, 2016.)

Mr. Rector described the location, the proposed use, and the benefits to the city.

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

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Gnnter and seconded by Commissioner Lewis that the city commission enact Ordinance 2016-002 as previously cited to become effective immediately as provided by law.

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

(d) **Second Reading and Public Hearing - Ordinance - 2016-006 – Rezoning – 63.89 Acres**

It now being the time advertised to hold a quasi-judicial public hearing to consider the enactment of proposed Ordinance 2016-006, Ms. Geraci-Carver read the title, the substance of which is as follows and Mayor Bell called for interested parties to be heard:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF FRUITLAND PARK, FLORIDA, REZONING 63.89 ± ACRES OF THE PROPERTY FROM LAKE COUNTY RURAL RESIDENTIAL (R-1) TO PUBLIC FACILITIES DISTRICT (PFD) 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. (Postponed from the February 25, 2016 regular meeting.)

Mr. Rector described the proposed use and conveyed the recommendation of approval.

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

A motion was made by Commissioner Cheshire and seconded by Commissioner Lewis Vice that the city commission enact Ordinance 2016-006 as previously cited to become effective immediately as provided by law.

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

(e) Second Reading and Public Hearing - Ordinance 2016-003 Boundary Amendment – CR 466A East of Micro Race Track Road – 0.96 Acres

It now being the time advertised to hold a quasi-judicial public hearing to consider the enactment of proposed Ordinance 2016-003, Ms. Geraci-Carver read the title, the substance of which is as follows and Mayor Bell called for interested parties to be heard:

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 0.96 ± ACRES OF LAND GENERALLY LOCATED NORTH OF CR 466A AND EAST OF MICRO RACETRACK ROAD; DIRECTING THE CITY MANAGER TO PROVIDE CERTIFIED COPIES OF TIDS 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 first reading
was held on February 25, 2016.)

Mr. Rector described the proposed use and conveyed the recommendation of approval.

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

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Gunter and seconded by Commissioner Cheshire that the city commission enact Ordinance 2016-003 as previously cited to become effective immediately as provided by law.

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

(f) Second Reading and Public Hearing – Ordinance 2016-004 – North CR 466A East of Micro Race Track Road – Comprehensive Plan – 0.96 Acres

It now being the time advertised to hold a quasi-judicial public hearing to consider the enactment of proposed Ordinance 2016-004, Ms. Geraci-Carver read the title, the substance of which is as follows and Mayor Bell called for interested parties 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 COUNTY RURAL TO CITY COMMERCIAL ON THE FUTURE LAND USE MAP OF THE CITY OF FRUITLAND PARK'S COMPREHENSIVE PLAN FOR APPROXIMATELY 0.96 + ACRES OF PROPERTY GENERALLY LOCATED NORTH OF CR 466A AND EAST OF MICRO RACETRACK ROAD; 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 February 25, 2016.)

Mr. Rector described the proposed use and conveyed the recommendation of approval.

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

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Gunter and seconded by Commissioner Cheshire that the city commission enact Ordinance 2016-004 as previously cited to become effective thirty-one (31) days after its adoption by the city commission. If the subject ordinance is challenged within thirty (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 the ordinance in question is in compliance.

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

(g) Second Reading and Public Hearing – Ordinance 2016-005 – Rezoning – 0.96 Acres

It now being the time advertised to hold a quasi-judicial public hearing to consider the enactment of proposed Ordinance 2016-005, Ms. Geraci-Carver read the title, the substance of which is as follows and Mayor Bell called for interested parties to be heard:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF FRUITLAND PARK, FLORIDA, REZONING 0.96 ± ACRES OF THE PROPERTY FROM LAKE COUNTY AGRICULTURE (AG) 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 February 25, 2016.)

Mr. Rector described the proposed use and conveyed the recommendation of approval.

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

A motion was made by Commissioner Ranize and seconded by Commissioner Lewis that the city commission enact Ordinance 2016-005 to become effective immediately upon the effective date of the comprehensive plan amendment for the subject property. No development permits or land uses dependent on this amendment may be issued or commence before it has become effective.

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

END OF QUASI-JUDICIAL PUBLIC HEARING

7. NEW BUSINESS

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

8. OFFICERS' REPORTS

(a) City Manager

i. Fire Department – Bathroom Improvements

At Mr. L Venia's request, Deputy Fire Chief Gilpin reviewed the quotes received for improvements to the fire department bathroom and Lake Emergency Medical Services (EMS) bathrooms from Hammer and Nail Full Scope Carpentry LLC for \$10,030 and Clay Construction. Deputy Chief Gilpin gave reasons why Hammer and Nail was selected by staff; indicated that the documents with the budget amendment were submitted to City Treasurer Jeannine Michaud Racine, and requested the city commission's approval of same. (Copies of the respective documents are filed with the supplemental papers to the minutes of this meeting.)

At Mr. La Venia's request, Ms. Parker conveyed Ms. Racine's recommendation to approve the request utilizing the fire department's settlement fees; the most restrictive account for expenditures or dedicated funds. He concurred with the recommendations from Ms. Racine, the fire department staff and the suggestion made at a previous meeting from Mr. W. Chet Ross, Certified Public Accountant retained by the city.

In response to an inquiry posed by Commissioner Ranize, Deputy Chief Gilpin explained that to date, no timeline on the proposed work was received from Hammer and Nail and that he will report back to the city commission after communicating with the owner in that regard.

Answering the commission's concerns on any knowledge of the contractor's familiarity, Ms. Yoder verified recent work conducted by Hammer and Nail which was outstanding.

On motion of Commissioner Cheshire, seconded by Commissioner Lewis and unanimously carried, the city commission approved, subject to the review of the contract by the city attorney, staff's recommendation to accept Hammer and Nail Full Scope Carpentry LLC's quote for \$10,030 utilizing dedicated funds from the fire department's budget.

ii. Fire Department - AVLs

At Mr. La Venia's request, Deputy Fire Chief Gilpin reported on the recent installation of the Automated Vehicle Locators (AVLs) in the trucks; however, they are not being monitored by Lake County EMS Communications Center.

Deputy Fire Chief Gilpin referred to the March 10, 2016 email received from Mr. Jim Root, Lake EMS, that Lake County is waiting for the Hold Harmless Agreement for the installation of the AVLs. He pointed out the email received this day from Lake County Public Safety Department Director John Joliff on the approval received to install the AVLs and the drafting of the hold harmless agreement from Lake County Attorney Melanie Marsh which needs to be executed prior to installation. (Copies of the respective emails are filed with the supplemental papers to the minutes of this meeting.)

After discussion, Commissioner Cheshire referred to 2016 Leadership Lake County Class held on March 9, 2016 and his conversations with Mr. Jerry Smith, Lake EMS, who stated that he had been speaking with Commissioner Ranize on his anticipation of the city proceeding to the monitoring process and that the city would be required to execute the mutual aid agreement with Lake County.

Following ensued discussions, Ms. Geraci-Carver confirmed that she will report back to the city commission on the status of the agreement and Commissioner Ranize relayed Mr. Smith's remarks that the AVLs, after installation, would be activated. He requested that Deputy Fire Chief Gilpin and Mr. La Venia verify same, once completed, to the city commission, and indicated that the city's concerns on providing first-responder life-saving support services would be satisfied.

iii. Shiloh Cemetery - Niche

For informational purposes, Mr. La Venia distributed a memorandum dated March 10, 2016 regarding the costs for the Shiloh Cemetery Niche; a copy of which is filed with the supplemental papers to the minutes of this meeting.

If the city commission is in agreement, Mr. La Venia explained that the draft ordinance will be considered at the next meeting.

iv. City Manager's Conference

Mr. La Venia reported that he will be away from the office from June 1 to 4, 2016 attending the Florida City and County Management Association conference in Orlando.

(b) City Attorney

Ms. Geraci-Carver referred to the city commission's discussions at its previous meeting regarding the audit; pointed out the March 4, 2016 letter she received

requesting that she furnish information to the city's auditor, and indicated that she is working on same with the intent to return it back to the auditor by the next week.

9. COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

(a) Commissioner Ranize

i. Reverend Dr. George A. Mulford III

On behalf of the city commission, Commissioner Ranize extended his appreciation to Pastor Mulford and family for their contributions and service to the city.

ii. Coffee with the Mayor

Commissioner Ranize questioned the city commission's position on the "Coffee with the Mayor" event especially being held during election year ; referred to telephone calls he received in this regard, and relayed Ms. Geraci-Carver's statements that hosting same is legal and that she had no problem with the issue.

Commissioner Ranize stated that he agreed with the concept of holding such events; believed that Mr. La Venia ought to host same at various restaurant establishments in the city, and that he report back to the city commission on the outcome.

After extensive deliberations on the city commission's endorsement, Commissioner Ranize expressed his support of same.

(b) Commissioner Lewis

i. City Expenditures

In response to Commissioner Lewis' inquiry, Mr. La Venia explained that he will meet with Ms. Michaud Racine to identify the city's anticipated expenditures.

ii. RIT Training

Commissioner Lewis referred to Lake County's News Release dated March 9, 2016 regarding Lake County Fire Rescue Undergoes Annual Rapid Intervention Team (RIT); a copy of which is filed with the supplemental papers to the minutes of this meeting.

Commissioner Lewis commended the fire department employees for conducting the same type of training .

iii. Improvements

Commissioner Lewis referred to recent landscape improvements on Mirror Lake Drive and the corner of Lemon Street. and commended the public works department staff on a job well done.

iv. City Vision

Commissioner Lewis referred to Mr. Hurtt's comments at the February 25, 2016 special meeting regarding the city commission's vision for the city.

After Commissioner Lewis believed that the city commission ought to consider the utilization of capital funding for public safety and that Messrs. Rector, Jamie Senatore, Senatore Inc., and Jeffry "Jeff" Gerling, building official retained by the city, review the approximate figures and projected date, Mayor Bell responded that it will one of the topics of discussion at the forthcoming workshop.

(c) Commissioner Cheshire

i. Shiloh Cemetery Dedication

Commissioner Cheshire commended the public works department for their efforts in making the March 5, 2016 Shiloh Cemetery Rededication a success.

ii. Improvements

Commissioner Cheshire suggested that the city commission ought to make existing repairs as smart growth infrastructure is needed and pay off current debts before acquiring new recreational projects.

Commissioner Cheshire referred to the city commission's previous discussion to retain an individual part time to promote the city's growth and believed it is almost time to start implementing same. He suggested steering growth towards sustainable manufacturing and technical employment for people.

In recognizing the increase in population from The Villages and questioning the fire special assessment fee from ad valorem and the fire fee from The Villages, Commissioner Cheshire indicated that his vision includes the need to pave roads, lower taxes and business fees, and provide for the residents in the best way the city can.

(d) Vice Mayor Gunter, Jr.

i. Smart Growth

In concurring with Commissioner Cheshire's comments, Vice Mayor Gunter identified the need to take care of utility lines and water connection lines; increased costs to maintain a new library with additional personnel, the growth in the parks and recreation department with another employee and questioned how such services would be paid for.

ii. **Excused Absence**

By unanimous consent, the city commission accepted Vice Mayor Gunter's request that he be excused from attending the March 25, 2016 regular meeting as he will be absent.

10. **MAYOR'S COMMENTS**

(a) **Smart Growth**

Mayor Bell recalled the smart growth initiative that the city commission undertook more than 20 years ago balancing infrastructure and providing service needs for the residents whereby the city could start small and build.

(b) **FY 2016-17 Proposed Budget - City of Fruitland Park Projects**

Mayor Bell referred to an email received regarding the final FY 2016-17 Budget to be considered on March 11, 2016 with \$250,000 for CR 466A lift station; \$500,000 for water sewer connection to the Town of Lady Lake, and \$2,750,000 for CR 466A roadway improvements. He explained that as soon as he hears further, more information will be submitted on same and complimented Mr. La Venia for obtaining grant applications and communicating with legislative delegates.

After discussion, Vice Mayor Gunter suggested sending a letter to Lake County encouraging them to assist with the difference in funding CR466A.

In response, Mr. Rector gave a report on the procurement, anticipated costs and scope of the subject project, and that the city would be required to piggyback on the contract.

(c) **Dates to Remember**

Later in the meeting, Commissioner Lewis referred to Vice Mayor Gunter's previous remarks regarding the March 29, 2016 City Commission Workshop at 6:30 p.m. to address Public Works Streets and Sidewalks.

After discussion and **by unanimous consent, the city commission agreed to cancel the March 29, 2016 workshop meeting and address the five-year capital improvement plan and other items scheduled for the April 21, 2016 workshop to be held at 6:30 p.m.**

Later in the meeting, Mayor Bell announced the March 11, 2016 Lake County League of Cities meeting at noon;

- March 31, 2016 Workshop at 6:00 p.m. to address the Community Redevelopment Agency/Comprehensive Plan and Public Works Streets and Sidewalks;

- April 2, 2016 Fruitland Park Cleanup Day at 10:00 a.m.;

- April 14, 2016 regular meeting;
- April 16, 2016 Fruitland Park Days, and
- April 21, 2016 Workshop at 6:30 p.m. to address the final five-year capital improvement plan.

Mr. La Venue confirmed in the affirmative that he would provide estimated revenue figures and amounts that can be utilized. He addressed his intent to meet with Ms. Michaud Racine on FY 2016-17 projections.

11. 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 8:30 p.m.

The minutes were approved at the March 10, 2016 regular meeting.

Signed 

Esther B. Coulson, City Clerk

Signed 

Christopher Bell, Mayor