

**FRUITLAND PARK CITY COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES
December 10, 2015**

A regular meeting of the Fruitland Park City Commission was held at 506 W. Berckman Street, Fruitland Park, Florida 34731 on Thursday, December 10, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.

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

Also Present: City Manager Gary La Venia, City Attorney Anita Geraci-Carver, City Treasurer, Jeannine Racine Michaud, Police Chief Michael A. Fewless; Deputy Police Chief Dennis Cutter, Police Department; Fire Chief Michael Laming; Lieutenant Don Gilpin, Firefighters Kevin Ducharme and Clarence Williams, Fire Department; Community Development Director Charlie Rector, Public Works Director Dale Bogle, Parks and Recreation Director Michelle Yoder, and City Clerk Esther B. Coulson.

1. CALL TO ORDER, INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

After Mayor Bell called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m., Pastor Reverend Patrick E. Thomas, New Salem Missionary Baptist Church, gave the invocation, and Police Chief Michael A. Fewless led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

2. ROLL CALL

Mayor Bell requested that Ms. Coulson call the roll and a quorum was declared present.

3. PROCLAMATION – December 12, 2015 “Wreaths Across America Day”

Mayor Bell read into the record a proclamation declaring Saturday, December 12, 2015 as the official “*Wreaths Across America Day*” in Fruitland Park and on behalf of the City of Fruitland Park Commission and citizens, the American Legion Family of 219 was honored, recognized and commended for this patriotic tribute to America’s veterans.

The proclamation was accepted by Ms. Lucy McCann, President, John Gella Memorial Unit 219, Inc., with gratitude. She invited everyone to the *Wreaths Across America* event which will be taking place noon on Saturday, December 12, 2015.

4. LOCAL PLANNING AGENCY

Upon Mayor Bell’s request and by unanimous consent, the city commission recessed its regular meeting at 7:12 p.m. to the Local Planning Agency meeting and reconvened at 7:24 p.m.

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Peter J. Hurtt, City of Fruitland Park resident, extended his condolences to Mayor Bell on the loss of his father.

6. **CONSENT AGENDA**

Approval of Minutes

On motion of Vice Mayor Cheshire, seconded by Commissioner Gunter and unanimously carried, the city commission approved the November 12, 2015 regular minutes as submitted.

7. **REGULAR AGENDA**

(a) **Waste Management Presentation**

Mr. Doug McCoy, Universal Waste Management Inc., introduced Messrs. Chris Beck, Dan McGinnes, and Hosea Baskin, who were present at this evening's meeting.

Mr. McCoy gave a power-point presentation on Waste Management's renewal proposal providing solid waste services; outlined its services and partnerships with municipalities; described how its new collection services will enhance the local community, and reviewed service comparisons between the city and the service that was recently bid with Lake County. (A copy of the presentation is filed with the supplemental papers to the minutes of this meeting.)

After Mr. McCoy described the rate increases, since 2008, on its contractual consumer price index (CPI). He pointed out conversations he had with Mr. La Venia on the renewal of the current contract which is due to expire on September 30, 2016.

Mr. McCoy stated that without applying the CPI (whereby they should be receiving \$50.80 instead of \$50.00); he proposed adding same with the performance of all services at the roll back the rate to \$14.61 monthly per home retroactive to October 1, 2015, and requested that the current contract be extended five years from October 1, 2016 to September 30, 2021.

In response to Vice Mayor Gutner's question, Mr. McCoy confirmed that the contractual fuel costs will remain the same at \$4.50 per gallon which is based on 10 percent of operating costs that the city never reached and Waste Management never assessed.

Following further deliberations, Mr. McCoy concurred in the affirmative to Mayor Bell's request that Waste Management's offer would be extended to the January 28, 2016 regular meeting and that the city commission would be given more time.

Upon Mayor Bell's suggestion, the city commission, by unanimous consent, agreed to discuss waste management services at its January 28, 2016 regular meeting.

(b) **Lake County Advisory Board Reappointments**

i. **Member**

On motion of Commissioner Cheshire, seconded by Commissioner Ranize and unanimously carried, the city commission approved the Lake County Library Advisory Board's reappointment of Ms. Cynthia "Cyndi" Burch as board member from March 1, 2016 through February 28, 2020. (Said appointment to be affirmed by the Lake County Board of County Commissioners.)

ii. **Alternate**

On motion of Commissioner Cheshire, seconded by Commissioner Ranize and unanimously carried, the city commission approved the Lake County Library Advisory Board's appointment of Mr. Robert "Bob" Ballenger as alternate board member from March 1, 2016 through February 28, 2020 to replace Michael J. Sweeney. (Said appointment to be affirmed by the Lake County Board of County Commissioners.)

(c) **Firefighter Trust Fund Board of Trustees Appointments**

i. **Mr. C. Themm - Residents: Commission-Appointed Category**

On motion of Commissioner Lewis, seconded by Vice Mayor Gunter and unanimously carried, the city commission approved the reappointment of Mr. Charles Themm as the Firefighter Trust Fund Board of Trustees residents: commission appointed member for a two-year term as his term will expire on December 31, 2015.

ii. **Mr. K. Ducharme – Fire Department: Firefighter Category**

On motion of Commissioner Lewis, seconded by Vice Mayor Gunter and unanimously carried, the city commission endorsed the Fruitland Park Firefighter Trust Fund Board of Trustees' action taken on October 6, 2015 to approve the reappointment of Mr. Kevin Ducharme (fire department: firefighter category) for a two-year term as his term will expire on December 31, 2015.

iii. **Ms. D. Gibson-Smith – Pension Board: Appointed Category**

The city commission considered its action to direct the city clerk to advertise for the pension board: appointed position to replace current member Ms. Diane L. Gibson-Smith whose two-year term will expire on December 31, 2015 and endorse the Fruitland Park Firefighter Trust Fund Board of Trustees' action to extend the appointment until it is filled as Ms. Smith no longer wishes to fulfill the two-year term.

The city commission suggested that the city clerk extensively advertise positions on the city's social media page, its website, the notice board, the next water bill, display board signs at the Fruitland Park Library, and by word-of-mouth.

Upon Commissioner Cheshire's suggestion, and by unanimous consent, the city commission agreed to leave the Pension Board: Appointed Category position vacant until a replacement is found.

By unanimous consent, the city commission accepted the city treasurer's request to take the following impromptu items out of order on this evening's agenda:

- **PVC Privacy Fence Installation**

After Ms. Michaud gave a background explanation on the purchase of a PVC privacy fence installation for Shiloh Cemetery in the amount of \$15,375 from Fence-It-In Inc., she responded to the city commission's recollection of its discussions at its August 4, 2015 budget workshop on the approval in awarding said company at its March 26, 2015 regular meeting to install the fence.

Following further discussion, a motion was made by Commissioner Lewis and seconded by Vice Mayor Gunter that the city commission approve invoice from Fence-It for \$15,375 to purchase a PVC Privacy fence installation as previously cited with restricted funds.

Mayor Bell requested that the city clerk call for a roll call vote with the city commission members voting as follows:

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

Mayor Bell declared the motion carried on a four to one vote.

- **CRA**

Ms. Michaud explained that she creates invoices to various organizations that pay funds to the Fruitland Park's Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA); recognized the invoice to the city for \$1,584, and addressed her plan to transfer monies from the general fund to the redevelopment fund representing an annual payment based on ad valorem and the value of the city's property.

After further discussion, a motion was made by Commissioner Cheshire and seconded by Vice Mayor Gunter that the city commission approve the transfer of \$100,584 from the general funds to the Fruitland Park's Community Redevelopment Agency.

Mayor Bell requested that the city clerk call for a roll call vote with the city commission members voting as follows:

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

Mayor Bell declared the motion carried on a four to one vote.

At Mayor Bell's request, Ms. Geraci-Carver expounded on the statutory requirement to transfer ad valorem funds collected which requires city commission approval.

In response, Commissioner Ranize recalled former City Attorney Scott Gerken's statements on the outdated CRA and referred to the city commission's previous actions on same to which Mr. Rector confirmed that such plans are being worked on and are not yet adopted.

Following further discussion, Ms. Geraci-Carver addressed the statutory requirements to adopt the plan outlining how the city commission intends to spend or earmark the money it receives at the end of each year; recognized the city's CRA reflecting goals and objectives establishing how priority area improvement projects would be accomplished and allocation of funds implemented in the city's budget towards same, and acknowledged the ramifications if the plan is not followed.

Following extensive discussions, and **by unanimous consent, the city commission agreed that the city manager obtain a copy of the Community Redevelopment Plan and provide it by email to the city commission.**

After discussion, Ms. Geraci-Carver addressed her intent to review the plan and CRA documents to determine whether it commenced in 1994.

Ms. Michaud relayed the request of Mr. W. Chet Ross, Shumacker, Johnston & Ross P.A., (auditor retained by the city), to ensure that during Fiscal Year 2015/16, the majority of the funds would be spent on the CR 466 roadway utility relocation and that the CRA and comprehensive plan would need to be updated to which Ms. Geraci-Carver recognized the advertising requirements that needs to be met, the timeframe involved for the project, and Lake County's immediate need for the funds; thus, the city's obligation to expedite same.

Following further discussion and in response to Commissioner Ranize' concerns on the lack of a plan, Mayor Bell suggested that the city commission consider scheduling at the January 14, 2016 regular meeting, future dates to hold workshops to address capital improvement projects, parks and recreation, and the CRA.

Mower Purchase

Ms. Michaud referred to the John Deere mower purchase for \$7,926 and John Deere Gator for \$8,100 respectively previously budgeted from the capital funds and addressed at the August 4, 2015 city commission budget workshop. (A copy of the respective document is filed with the supplemental papers to the minutes of this meeting.)

Following further discussion, **a motion was made by Commissioner Lewis and seconded by Vice Mayor Gunter that the city commission approve the city treasurer's recommendation to approve the purchase as previously cited.**

After the city commission voiced concerns on the previous expenditure made prior to commission approval, Ms. Michaud referred to the excerpt from Competitive Bidding Policies Ordinance 2002-006 under Sections 33.17. and 33.18., regarding the city manager's authorization to make certain expenditures not exceeding \$4,000 and the requirement of competitive bidding over \$4,000; a copy of which is filed with the supplemental papers to the minutes of this meeting.

Ms. Michaud explained that said excerpt was made available to the city department heads; indicated that the finance department staff has been placed on alert, and verified in the affirmative to the city commission's request to provide them with a copy of same.

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

(d) October 2015 EOM Financial Report

Ms. Michaud reviewed the October 2015 End of the Month Financial Report.

(e) Water and Wastewater Treatment Connection Lines Financing

i. Bank Selection

On motion of Commissioner Ranize, seconded by Commissioner Lewis and unanimously carried, the city commission approved the selection of Branch Banking and Trust Company.

ii. BB&T's Proposal

After much discussion and on motion of Commissioner Cheshire, seconded by Commissioner Lewis and unanimously carried, the city commission approved Branch Banking and Trust Company's proposal to finance revenue bond for the water and wastewater treatment plant connection lines project in the amount not to exceed \$2.5 million at a rate of 2.33%.

After recognizing that the one-cent penny sales infrastructure tax would be utilized towards the amount in question and in response to Vice Mayor Gunter's inquiry, Mr. La Venia addressed his plan to communicate with

Mr. Fred D. Fox, Fred Fox Enterprises Inc., grant writer retained by the city, to utilize Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds which would be incorporated in the 2017 CDBG application.

Mayor Bell recognized the application made in the state's grant on the subject issue, to which Mr. La Venia concurred was similar to 2015, and the local state representative's dedication in advocating same. Recognizing the number of other municipal projects, Mr. La Venia conveyed the budget request to the state legislature for state funding towards the CR 466A roadway project and noted the regional sharing of services that the state legislature views favorably, to which Mayor Bell relayed the interest on the subject project expressed by District 33 State Representative H. Marlene O'Toole and District 11 State Senator Representative Alan D. Hayes as well as the wastewater sewer treatment plant connection lines project.

Mr. La Venia referred to the Florida Regional Compact Initiative resulting in enhanced levels of funding which was addressed before the Lake County League of Cities at its November 13, 2015 meeting and anticipated that the project in question would meet such criteria.

iii. Bond Counsel Agreement

After discussion and **on motion of Commissioner Lewis, seconded by Commissioner Cheshire and unanimously carried, the city commission approved an agreement between the City of Fruitland Park (as "the issuer") and Mr. Michael D. Williams, Akerman, LLP (as "Bond Counsel") for approximately \$15,000 to represent the city in connection with the issuance of approximately \$2.5 million, Capital Improvement Revenue Note, Series 2016 (the "Note") to finance various city-owned sewer improvements.**

(f) First Reading – Ordinance 2015-022 Repayment Plan Grease Traps

At Mayor Bell's request, Ms. Geraci-Carver read into the record, the title of proposed Ordinance 2015-022, the substance of which is as follows:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF FRUITLAND PARK, FLORIDA, PROVIDING FOR GREASE TRAP MAINTENANCE OR REPLACEMENT LIENS IMPOSED BY THE CITY TO BE PAID IN INSTALLMENTS; PROVIDING FOR CONDITIONS; PROVIDING FOR CODIFICATION, CONFLICTS AND SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE. (The second reading will be held on January 14, 2016.)

Ms. Geraci-Carver relayed Mr. Rector's request addressed earlier this day suggesting that the city commission approve the payment plan for up to five years and that it is not transferrable which would authorize the city to implement same.

After discussion, a motion was made by Commissioner Cheshire and seconded by Vice Mayor Gunter that the city commission approve the aforementioned Ordinance 2015-022, as amended with the changes previously cited by the city attorney.

After discussion, Mayor Bell requested that the city clerk call for a roll call vote and the motion was declared unanimously carried.

(g) First Reading – Ordinance 2015-023 Invocation

At Mayor Bell's request, Ms. Geraci-Carver read into the record, the title of proposed Ordinance 2015-023, the substance of which is as follows:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF FRUITLAND PARK, LAKE COUNTY, FLORIDA INCLUDING INVOCATION IN THE OPENING CEREMONY FOR CITY COMMISSION MEETINGS; CODIFYING A POLICY REGARDING INVOCATIONS IN CHAPTER 33 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES; PROVIDING FOR REPEAL OF ALL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE. (The second reading will be held on January 14, 2016.)

Mayor Bell explained that he forwarded the subject proposed ordinance to Heritage Community Church's Pastor Sidney Brock who passed it along to Attorney Brett Harvey, Alliance Defending Freedom, who reviewed and made comments on same. Mayor Bell gave his understanding of the alliance's commitment to provide assistance if the ordinance is challenged.

Following further discussion, a motion was made by Commissioner Cheshire and seconded by Commissioner Ranize that the city commission approve Invocation Ordinance 2015-023 as previously cited.

Mayor Bell requested that the city clerk call for a roll call vote with the city commission members voting as follows:

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

Mayor Bell declared the motion carried on a three to two vote.

(h) First Reading – Ordinance 2015-024 Political Districts and Maps

At Mayor Bell's request, Ms. Geraci-Carver read into the record, the title of proposed Ordinance 2015-024, the substance of which is as follows:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF FRUITLAND PARK, COUNTY OF LAKE, STATE OF FLORIDA, ADOPTING CITY COMMISSION DISTRICTS AND A MAP DEPICTING SAID DISTRICTS; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE. (The second reading will be held on January 14, 2016.)

Ms. Geraci-Carver pointed out the proposed 2016-2020 Voting Districts Map; conveyed her conversations with Mr. Greg Beliveau, LPG Urban and Regional Planners Inc., retained by the city, who reviewed same -- based on population within the five voting districts and units and recognizing the variances which does not oppress any minority representation or the ability to elect individuals to the city commission – and indicated that said proposed ordinance meets the legal criteria whereby she is recommending approval.

Commissioner Lewis concurred with Ms. Geraci-Carver's explanation to review said map again in 2016 to determine whether the redistricting needs to be changed and readopted or wait until the second year and to start the 2020 census cycle after the census data is distributed, according to the Charter, Section 3.17., city commission districts and redistricting.

A motion was made by Commissioner Cheshire and seconded by Commissioner Lewis that the city commission approve Ordinance 2015-024 as previously cited.

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

PUBLIC HEARING

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

(i) Second Reading and Public Hearing – Ordinance 2015-019 Library Advisory Board

It now being the time advertised to hold a public hearing, and after Mayor Bell requested that Ms. Geraci-Carver read into the record the following title of proposed Ordinance 2015-019, the public was called to be heard:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF FRUITLAND PARK, FLORIDA, AMENDING SECTION 36.050 TO INCREASE THE TERM OF OFFICE OF LIBRARY BOARD MEMBERS AND PROVIDING FOR APPOINTMENT

TO THE LAKE COUNTY LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD; AMENDING SEC. 36.070(B) TO REVISE THE DUTIES OF THE LIBRARY BOARD; PROVIDING FOR CODIFICATION; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE. (First reading was held on November 12, 2015.)

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 Cheshire that the city commission enact Ordinance 2015-019 as previously cited to become effective as provided by law.

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

QUASI-JUDICIAL PUBLIC HEARING

- (j) First Reading and Quasi-Judicial Public Hearing – Ordinance 2015-020 – Annexation – 164 ± Acres – South of Urick Street and East of CR 468 – Petitioner: Leesburg Fruit Company Inc.**

After Mayor Bell requested that Ms. Geraci-Carver read into the record the following title of proposed Ordinance 2015-020, she explained the quasi-judicial hearing process and swore-in those present who intended to testify:

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 164 ± ACRES OF LAND GENERALLY LOCATED SOUTH OF URICK STREET AND EAST OF CR 468; 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. (Second reading will be held on January 14, 2016.)

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 that the city commission approve the Local Planning Agency's recommendation to approve the enactment of Ordinance 2015-020 as previously cited.

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

(k) **First Reading – Ordinance 2015-021 - Rezoning – 13± Acres R-3 to CPUD – Master Development Agreement**

After Mayor Bell requested that Ms. Geraci-Carver read into the record the following title of proposed Ordinance 2015-021, she swore-in those present who intended to testify:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF FRUITLAND PARK, FLORIDA, REZONING 13 ± ACRES OF THE PROPERTY FROM MULTIPLE FAMILY HIGH DENSITY (R-3) TO COMMERCIAL PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT (CPUD) WITHIN THE CITY LIMITS OF FRUITLAND PARK; REZONING 164 +/- ACRES OF PROPERTY FROM LAKE COUNTY AGRICULTURE TO COMMERCIAL PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT (CPUD) WITHIN THE CITY LIMITS OF FRUITLAND PARK; APPROVING A MASTER DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT FOR THE PROPERTY; 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. (Second reading will be held on January 14, 2016.)

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 Ranize that the city commission approve the Local Planning Agency's recommendation to approve the enactment of Ordinance 2015-021 as previously cited.

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

END OF QUASI-JUDICIAL PUBLIC HEARING

SUPPLEMENTAL AGENDA ITEM

(l) Best Price Self-Storage – Petitioner: Bobby Markwalter

The city commission considered its action to approve the master development agreement between the City of Fruitland Park and Bobby Markwalter with the conceptual site plan for Best Price Self-Storage at The Villages of Fruitland Park project located on the southeast corner of intersection CR 466A and Micro Racetrack Road.

Mr. Rector gave a background of the proposed project; acknowledged the presence of the representatives at this evening's meeting, and described the intended plan.

On motion of Commissioner Cheshire, seconded by Commissioner Lewis and unanimously carried, the city commission approved the master development agreement as previously cited.

(m) Creation of Lake~Sumter MPO ILA

The city commission considered its action to approve an interlocal agreement for the formation of a Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) among the Florida Department of Transportation, Lake County, Sumter County the Towns of Astatula, Howey-in-the-Hills, Lady Lake; Montverde, the Cities of Bushnell, Center Hill, Clermont, Coleman, Eustis, Fruitland Park, Groveland, Leesburg, Mascotte, Minneola, Mount Dora, Tavares, Umatilla, Webster, Wildwood; the Florida Central Railroad, School Boards of Lake County and Sumter County, and the Central Florida Expressway Authority. (Reason for supplemental agenda items: time sensitive.)

After further discussion, Mayor Bell requested that Commissioner Lewis, the city's MPO representative find out about the local government representation and the affected population numbers.

On motion of Commissioner Cheshire, seconded by Commissioner Ranize and unanimously carried, the city commission approved the interlocal agreement as previously cited.

8. NEW BUSINESS

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

9. OFFICERS' REPORTS

(a) City Manager

Mr. La Venia relayed the request to consider the proposal of installing a new black chain link fence around the baseball outfield at a cost of \$9,248 and if approved, cap the expenditure until a decision is reached on what is required.

Ms. Yoder gave reasons why the PVC fence is being withheld; referred to her recent email to Mr. La Venia on the quotation which he agreed could be considered at a

future meeting, and in describing the deterioration of the fence, she recommended replacing same for the football league with the black fence where no quotes are yet available.

Ms. Yoder anticipated the repairs to be accomplished before the TBall program begins in March 2016; thus, recognizing the football league's desire to join noting the difficulty find a location to place them.

After further discussion, Commissioner Ranize voiced concerns on the previous request previously made to the city commission where \$10,000 were allocated in capital improvements earmarked to make improvements at the fire department; identified areas where work remains incomplete, and questioned who would be completing the work and the timeline involved.

After Commissioner Ranize voiced his agreement to commence with the TBall program and addressed the need to develop an overall program with a deadline and costs involved to complete work at the parks, Mayor Bell acknowledged the plan for a commission workshop in this regard.

By unanimous consent, the city commission directed the parks and recreation director to report back to the city commission on the work and timeline involved and for the public works department director to provide more information in starting with a fence.

On motion of Commissioner Lewis, seconded by Commissioner Ranize and unanimously carried, the city commission approved the proposal from Fence-it In Inc. to install a 4' black chain link fence around outfield and 1-12' double drive gate with all sch 40 pipe and six gauge wire for \$4,248.

(b) City Attorney

Mayor Bell concurred with Ms. Geraci-Carver's remarks expressing gratitude in including her in the holiday party and commended Ms. Yoder on a job well done.

10. COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

(a) Commissioner Ranize

i. Holiday Party

Commissioner Ranize thanked Ms. Yoder and volunteers for the holiday party. He expressed appreciation to Ms. Michaud for controlling the city's budget and addressed the need to ensure that funds are identified before expenditure.

ii. CR 466A Improvements

After Commissioner Ranize addressed the need to plan for a city commission workshop on CR 466A for the type of lighting and landscaping required, he recognized the lack of a design architecture for all the buildings and implementation of work on same.

iii. **Backyard Gun Ranges**

Commissioner Ranize referred to the article entitled "Senate Committee Backs Anti-Gun Range Bill" featured in the November 19, 2015 Daily Commercial which was considered by the Senate Fiscal Policy Committee regarding CS/CS/SB 130 Discharging a Firearm and noted its likely passage by the legislature.

iv. **CR 466 A Roadway Improvement Project**

After discussion, Commissioner Ranize expressed disappointment in the lack of response received from the Lake County Commissioners and Lake County Manager Mr. David Heath to Mr. La Venia's recent letter sent at the city commission's direction at its November 12, 2015 regular meeting requesting funds earmarked towards the CR 466A Roadway Improvements prior to the commencement of construction. Commissioner Ranize stated that he made a request for each commissioner to call him two weeks ago and have not yet received a response.

Commissioner Ranize addressed the problems that Mr. Rector and a property owner at Miller Street are experiencing regarding an unusable property which should have been removed and the lack of contact at the county level.

v. **Hometown Christmas**

Commissioner Ranize addressed his plan to be present at the December 11, 2015 Hometown Christmas at 6:00 p.m.

(b) **Commissioner Lewis**

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

(c) **Commissioner Cheshire**

i. **Commission Workshop**

Commissioner Cheshire addressed the need to hold a commission workshop regarding the fire department to determine what can be carried out for the budget.

ii. **December 4, 2015 Christmas Party**

Commissioner Cheshire gave suggestions include children and families and the idea to include dancing and gifts at the next Christmas Holiday Party and wished everyone Happy Holidays.

(d) **Vice Mayor Gunter, Jr.**

Vice Mayor Gunter expressed his apologies for not being in attendance at the December 4, 2015 Christmas Party.

11. **MAYOR'S COMMENTS**

(a) **CR 468 Roadway - Speed Limit**

Mayor Bell read into the record a recent email received from Mr. Gary Blanchard, Wingspread Homeowners Association, expressing concerns and questioning how to reduce the speed limit to 45 miles per hour on CR 468 roadway; a copy of which is filed with the supplemental papers to the minutes of this meeting.

In response, Mr. La Venia suggested a consistent speed limit of 45 miles per hour and addressed his plan to write a letter and send the email as an attachment to the Lake County Board of County Commissioners and Mr. Heath with a copy to Mr. Jim Stivender Jr., Public Works Department Director, to which Mayor Bell suggested inviting him to a future city commission meeting.

(b) **Leesburg High School Sponsorship Request**

Mayor Bell read into the record a letter dated December 3, 2015 from Ms. Allison Auld, Leesburg High School, requesting support to purchase a picnic table for \$100 which will allow the Leesburg High School students to sit and eat during their lunch hour at the cafeteria.

Mayor Bell suggested that the letter be forwarded on to Operation Bless Fruitland Park who, although concentrating on the Fruitland Park Elementary School, may be interested.

(c) **Dates to Remember**

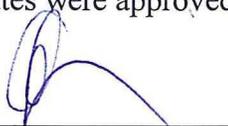
Mayor Bell recognized the following:

- December 11, 2015 Hometown Christmas at 6:00 p.m.
- December 12, 2015 Wreaths of America at 12:00 p.m., Shiloh Cemetery where the proclamation will be read again at the event and invited the city commission to attend.
- December 17, 2015 Joint Luncheon Meeting with Operation Bless Fruitland Park at Heritage Community Church, 509 W Berckman Street, Fruitland Park, Florida 34731 at 12:00 p.m.
- December 24, 2015, Christmas Eve – City Offices Closed
- December 25, 2015, Christmas Holiday – City Offices Closed
- January 1, 2016, New Year's Day – City Offices Closed, and
- January 14, 2016, Regular City Commission Meeting at 7:00 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 9:42 p.m.

The minutes were approved at the January 28, 2016 regular meeting.

Signed 
Esther B. Coulson, City Clerk

Signed 
Christopher Bell, Mayor