

**FRUITLAND PARK CITY COMMISSION BUDGET WORKSHOP MEETING  
MINUTES  
August 4, 2015**

A workshop meeting of the Fruitland Park City Commission was held at 506 W. Berckman Street, Fruitland Park, Florida 34731 on Tuesday, August 4, 2015 at 6:00 p.m.

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

**Also Present:** City Manager Gary La Venia; City Treasurer Jeannine Racine Michaud; Fire Department Chief George Fernandez; Community Development Director Charlie Rector, Public Works Director Dale Bogle, Deputy City Treasurer Sue Parker, Human Resources Administrator/Deputy City Clerk Marie Azzolino; Finance Clerk Teri J. Bogle, and City Clerk Esther B. Coulson.

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

Mayor Bell called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm

Commissioner Gunter gave the invocation and Mr. La Venia led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

**2. ROLL CALL**

After Mayor Bell requested that Ms. Coulson call the roll.

On behalf of the city commission, Mayor Bell thanked Ms. Azzolino for preparing the food.

**3. 2015/16 FISCAL YEAR BUDGET**

- Executive – City Clerk

After Mayor Bell referred to the August 8, 2013 special meeting verbatim transcript, Mr. La Venia gave a background on the subject issue noting the city commission's responsibility to hire the city clerk, city treasurer, and city manager.

Mr. La Venia relayed his discussions with Ms. Coulson regarding a letter dated September 6, 2013 from Mr. Rick Conner, Former Interim City Manager, on the change in the basic offer of salary which was subsequently executed by Ms. Coulson, and recognized the shortfall of \$40,000 -- less than Ms. Tannette Gayle, the former city treasurer, less than the previous year's budget allocated for the city clerk, and less than what was being paid to the former city clerk. (Copies of the respective documents are filed with the supplemental papers to the minutes of this meeting.)

The city commission recollected its discussions on the salary range and offer to Ms. Coulson and Mr. La Venia recalled the previous increase of salaries for Mses. Coulson and Gayle.

## Fruitland Park Budget Workshop Minutes

Page 2 of 4

August 4, 2015

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The city commission recollected its discussions on the salary range and offer to Ms. Coulson and Mr. La Venia recalled the previous increase of salaries for Mses. Coulson and Gayle.

After considerable discussion, **the city commission, by unanimous consent, directed the city treasurer to identify the city clerk's annual salary adjustment in the budget and report back to the city commission.**

### Public Works

Mr. Bogle disseminated lists on the city's toilets and public works vehicles; copies of which are filed with the supplemental papers to the minutes of this meeting.

Following much discussion regarding solid waste collection, the city commission agreed for a Waste Management Inc. representative to appear at a future meeting to give a presentation.

After extensive discussions regarding street sweeping, the city commission agreed with Mr. Bogle's request to remove the funding for a tablet from the community development department and earmark it towards the public works department's street repairs contractual services.

With reference to maintenance, the city commission addressed the lack of a soccer field and anticipated that the issue will be part of city commission discussions to maintain the softball field as well.

Following further discussion, Ms. Michaud explained, in response to Vice Mayor Cheshire's question, that the income from the cemetery funds are allocated at the end of the year into the general fund and that she will review whether the public works department could maintain the cemetery.

After discussion ensued regarding proposing an ordinance and providing advance notice on the potential increase of cemetery prices for residents and nonresidents, and in concurring with the proposed increase, Mr. Rector recommended that the city commission consider another future property adjacent to the ball fields.

The city commission agreed that Mr. Bogle review the installation of fencing for monuments at the cemetery.

With respect to redevelopment expenditures and after noting the description of proposed roadway improvements around Mirror Lake, the city commission discussed the costs of conducting a survey for approximately \$65,000 from Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) funds; agreed to consider during 2016, the scheduling of resurfacing work, and Commissioner Gunter suggested applying for stormwater treatment grants in this regard.

## Fruitland Park Budget Workshop Minutes

Page 3 of 4

August 4, 2015

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After discussion and recognizing the plans to generate a list and conduct surveys for CRAs and Capital Improvement Program funding, Mr. La Venia suggested that the city commission ought to make a determination, after the budget cycle, to review on an annual basis the five-year plan to include the initiation of the water wastewater connection project, streets and roads, and roadway equipment..

After much discussion and in response to Mayor Bell's question, Mr. La Venia addressed the plan to seek proposals to implement website design services with the ability to accept online payments which will be addressed with Ms. Machaud.

Following further deliberations and with respect to the utility expenditure, Mr. Rector recognized the estimated buildout figure provided to him; addressed his plan to inform Ms. Michaud on the percentage of the target population for 2016, and indicated that the city commission would be involved with determining the number.

Subsequent to considerable discussion, Mr. La Vennia addressed, in response to Commissioner Ranize' concerns, staff's intent to review the Comcast phone service costs for \$10,000 and address same with Ms. Michelle Yoder, Parks and Recreation Department Director.

Following extensive discussions and **by unanimous consent, the city commission agreed to approve a balanced budget of 4.7371 mills.**

After much discussion, Commissioner Ranize indicated that he will be absent from the August 27, 2015 regular meeting as he will be away from the area; requested that during the consideration of the Casino Community Center building and the demolishing of same that an effort be made to contact the heirs of the estate on the forthcoming plans, and suggested naming the new library "George W. Clark" after the individual who donated the property; thus, the rooms be given the historical name "Gardenia Room, to which Mayor Bell and Mr. Rector voiced their concurrence.

In response, Mr. La Venia relayed his conversations with Ms. Anita Geraci-Carver, City Attorney, regarding her plans to prepare the complaint for Declaratory Judgement against the Fruitland Park Historical Society on the casino property; her intent to contact the heirs identified on the deed, and her plan to file litigation in this regard.

After Commissioner Ranize made a suggestion to transform the library into a recreational center where history can be embraced with a casino room being made as a gathering place, Mayor Bell recommended that the city commission discuss the concept with full commission attendance at its future meeting between the first and second reading on the budget.



**Fruitland Park Budget Workshop Minutes**

Page 4 of 4

August 4, 2015

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**4. OTHER BUSINESS**

Mayor Bell thanked Ms. Michaud and acknowledged former Interim City Treasurer Ms. Diane Reichard for their support during the difficult period.

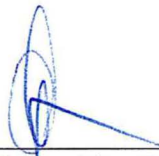
**5. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no other business to come before the city commission at this time, the workshop concluded at 9:12 p.m.

The minutes were approved at the November 12, 2015 regular meeting.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Esther B. Coulson, City Clerk



Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Christopher Bell, Mayor

