

**FRUITLAND PARK CITY COMMISSION WORKSHOP MEETING
MINUTES
July 23, 2015**

A workshop meeting of the Fruitland Park City Commission was held at 506 W. Berckman Street, Fruitland Park, Florida 34731 on Thursday, July 23, 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 Attorney Anita Geraci-Carver, Interim Police Chief Lake County Sheriff's Office Captain Todd English; Fire Chief George Fernandez; Fire Department Tim Yoder, Community Development Director Charlie Rector, Public Works Director Dale Bogle, Parks and Recreation Director Michelle Yoder, Deputy City Treasurer Sue Parker, and City Clerk Esther B. Coulson.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Bell called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

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

3. ISBA

Mr. La Venia pointed out a meeting held on June 26, 2015 among Messrs. Rector, Greg Beliveau, LPG Urban and Regional Planners Inc., and himself, with a Villages district representative in attendance, regarding consideration of any objections to the Interlocal Service Boundary Agreement (ISBA). Mr. La Venia explained that the plan would allow the city to annex properties established throughout the ISBA's noncontiguous areas; noted that no objections were raised by the City of Leesburg and the Town of Lady Lake regarding the boundaries and jurisdictions, and referred to the only objection received from Lake County for fire coverage who indicated that the ISBA, that allows for noncontiguous annexation, would not be executed unless the City of Fruitland Park either retains a full time fire department with paramedic staffing on each shift or the county's preference to transfer the fire services to them.

Mr. La Venia stated that Mr. Beliveau and himself worked on the ISBA, consistent with what the other municipalities were doing; recognized that the city does not have an advance life support (ALS) rating, and noted the requirement for a fulltime appointed department where one member of staff could be a paramedic.

Mr. Rector relayed the concern that if the City of Fruitland Park was allowed to annex noncontiguous property, the city would be the first responder and the county would be the secondary responder backup or vice versa and if not in an annexed area, the county would be the first responder and the city would be the backup to the county.

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Mr. La Venia conveyed Mr. Beliveau's agreement with him noting the purpose of noncontiguous water, wastewater extensions and the unlikelihood of retaining an individual to explore the city's connection lines for improved services. He conveyed a property owner's discussion with developers to sell property which could be developed as a resort with the county signing off on same as contiguous annexation. Mr. La Venia pointed out discussions held regarding the costs of water and wastewater paid for by the developers where the city could annex additional properties at no cost to them; otherwise the city would need to provide the fire service and bring it up to ALS requirements by retaining paramedics, supply certain equipment, or enter into negotiations with the county to take control as the city is currently exploring options of a fire assessment fee.

Mr. La Venia referred to the county's concurrence with Mr. Beliveau's findings under the Land Development Regulations and agreed with Mr. Rector that the city does not require an ISBA as the city could continue to:

- annex with contiguous boundaries;
- review and determine how it would fund fire department services and full time staff in-house with ad valorem or fire assessment;
- analyze the county's fire department system and mirror the Town of Lady Lake's;
- receive guidance in going through the city's fire assessment process for The Villages which is separate;

Commissioner Gunter voiced his continued support for the city's fire department; suggested that Chief Fernandez obtain a cost estimate from the county on the costs per residential unit, and -- in recognizing the expenses involved -- addressed the need to consider a full time paid instead of a volunteer fire department.

Mr. Rector referred to discussions held with Messrs. La Venia and Beliveau regarding the value of the city's fire department equipment, the county's waiver of same for one or two years whereby the city would continue to collect impact fees, provided the equipment is used for the purpose towards the build-out of The Villages and negotiated down for fire department building as planned. Mr. Rector described the location of Spring Lake Fire Station and recognized the expansion available to meet its needs. He suggested the city build a station at a location suitable for the city or change where the city would no longer have fire impact fees but consider proceeding with public safety fees which will be a different amount.

Depending on the timing of the process and the citizens' requirement to pay fire assessment fees, Mr. Rector suggested that the equipment, during the transition period, could be contracted to the county who would pay the city to utilize same and the fire impact fees paid for by The Villages would be allocated towards building a fire station

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managed for the city; however, if the city is giving the equipment to the county, there would be no need for a station and the city would be required to sunset the fee.

After discussion, Ms. Geraci-Carver reiterated that the city would not be charged the direct assessment fee if it is not going to use the fire station building for capital improvement as the county could. She stated that the city commission would need to review utilizing the impact fee generated through the study where it would have an adjustment of the fees; if it is the city's intent to build the fire station, own it, and lease it to the county.

After discussion, Commissioner Ranize referred to the April 23, 2015 special city commission meeting regarding discussions about the Lake Emergency Medical Services Inc.'s Automated Vehicular Locator (AVL) system installed in emergency response vehicles and indicated that the \$326,000 figure presented to the city included allowance, maintenance, and fuel.

Commissioner Gunter requested that Ms. Geraci-Carver submit a letter to the county stating that the city is working on the fire assessment.

4. OTHER BUSINESS

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

5. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the city commission at this time, the meeting adjourned at 6:58 p.m.

The minutes were approved at the October 22, 2015 regular meeting.

Signed



Esther B. Coulson, City Clerk

Signed



Christopher Bell, Mayor