

**FRUITLAND PARK CITY COMMISSION WORKSHOP MEETING
MINUTES
March 19, 2015**

A workshop meeting of the Fruitland Park City Commission was held at 506 W. Berckman Street, Fruitland Park, Florida 34731 on Thursday, March 19, 2015 at 6:30 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 Tannette Gayle, Interim Police Chief Todd English, Lieutenants Dennis Cutter and Beckie Sirolli, Sergeant Erik Luce, Senior Officer Kenny Prater, Police Department; Fire Chief George Fernandez and Tim Yoder, Fire Department; Community Development Director Charlie Rector, Public Works Director Dale Bogle, Parks and Recreation Director Michelle Yoder, Finance Clerk Sue Parker, and City Clerk Esther B. Coulson.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Bell called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

2. DISCUSSION ITEMS - City of Fruitland Park's Five-Year Plan Presentation -

A. Public Works Department

Mr. Bogle referred to his memorandum dated March 11, 2015 and supporting documents listing supplies and equipment requested for the public works department to which Mr. La Venia interjected relates to capital improvement plan (CIP) items; copies of related documents are filed with the supplemental papers to the minutes of this meeting:

Mayor Bell inquired about considering the possibility of widening one side of Mirror Lake to four feet with a dividing line for pedestrians and recognized the boundary right-of-way (ROW) issues previously addressed before the city commission.

In response, Mr. Rector agreed to provide assistance; encouraged the city commission to involve the affected area residents for input, and requested that they be informed on potential plans, if the city commission intends to pursue the idea.

Mr. Bogle recalled the city commission's previous discussion on the sidewalk problems and addressed his preference to provide information to complete sidewalk repair work in the area first.

In response to remarks made on locating grant funding to improve sidewalks from the State of Florida Department of Transportation, Mayor Bell referred to Lake County's planned roadway improvements at the intersection of Miller Boulevard and Dixie Avenue and suggested the installation of sidewalks in the area to which Messrs. Bogle and Rector acknowledged the drawings in staff's possession.

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After Mr. Bogle requested that the city commission review the list noting the poor condition of the property at the rear of the public works department at 202 West Berckman Street, Mr. La Venia noted the utilization of Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) funds to implement same similar to FY 2013/14.

B. Parks and Recreation

Mr. Bogle reviewed the list outlining the supplies and equipment requested for parks and recreation; a copy of which is filed with the supplemental papers to the minutes of this meeting.

C. Water and Wastewater Treatment Plant Agreement

In reviewing the list for supplies and equipment requested for the water and wastewater treatment plant, Mr. Bogle gave a summation of needed items; outlined the recent problems experienced, and described the work involved; a copy of said list is filed with the supplemental papers to the minutes of this meeting.

After discussion regarding available grants from St. Johns River Water Management District and current financing for meter reading, Mr. Bogle indicated that he will review the issue further and confirmed that staff is currently working on implementing CRA funds for Mirror Lake and Dixie Avenue where Mr. La Venia addressed the need to prioritize the replacement of current needed equipment.

Following Mr. La Venia's statements on his intent to provide more information on utilizing \$135,000 in CRA funds for street paving by the end of the month (similar to what was implemented during FY 2013/14), Messrs. Rector and Bogle outlined the procedures, timelines, and costs involved with the anticipated paving improvements; thus, Ms. Yoder confirmed that such events would not interfere with the annual Fruitland Park Day.

Mr. Rector described the location and identified the need to pave the city's portion of Berckman Street which is not part of The Villages and relayed their remarks that they will provide the city with the supplies. He indicated that they will proceed with the implementation of the whole roadway segment and questioned the cost involved.

The city commission discussed reviewing and proceeding with the resurface costs for streets and sidewalks on Mirror Lake to be included in the FY 2015/16 budget and suggested including repaving work for the police and fire departments at the end of the list.

Following further deliberations and **by unanimous consent, the city commission agreed to direct staff to proceed in obtaining prices and prioritizing the following streets and sidewalks with resurfacing costs earmarked at \$135,000 for the FY 2015/16 budget:**

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1. **Berkman Street,**
2. **Palm Street (Penn Street to Highway 27/441),**
3. **Fountain Street (Rose Avenue to Dixie Avenue),**
4. **Rose Avenue (between Shiloh Street and CR 466A)**

D. Parks and Recreation Department

City Parks

- Ms. Yoder depicted the items on the summary list; described the existing problems and disrepair at the parks, and identified the structural needs and estimated costs to upgrade same. She mentioned the review of potential grant funding for the tennis courts and playground equipment; relayed the positive feedback from residents regarding the setup of picnic tables and umbrellas, and addressed her preference on outside furniture for the pool area and around the parks.

Ms. Yoder referred to Pope's Precision Projects' proposal for \$2,500 regarding Veterans Park's Basketball Court, a copy of which is filed with the supplemental papers to the minutes of this meeting.

Casino Community Center

- Ms. Yoder gave a report on the approximate costs involved for the Casino Community center's roof replacement and the quotations received for the exterior paint and flooring.

Skate Park

- Ms. Yoder noted the damages to the skate park and the city's liability; relayed the recent telephone she made regarding the waiting list to obtain the cost, and described the skate park's composition and costs to repair same. She also addressed the likelihood of increasing the costs up to \$5,000 if a squash park is preferred and noted the \$207,000 estimate. After Ms. Yoder recalled the city commission's previous discussions during 2014 regarding property acquisition for \$15,000 adjacent to the parks and recreation office at Gardenia Park, it was suggested that she obtain a price to utilize the location for parking.

E. Fruitland Park Library

With respect to the 16 year-old Fruitland Park library, Ms. Glendinning gave a report on the approximate cost of \$30,000 to replace the air conditioning unit; the carpet's wear and tear and the ongoing roof leak where the public works department have been making attempts to rectify same.

In concurring with Commissioner Gutner's suggestion to proceed with the new construction on the roof at the same time, Mr. Rector identified the work involved for the re-shingling, roof replacement and the demolishing of one side of the building.

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After discussion, Ms. Glendinning requested the city commission's permission to proceed in applying for grant funding; and recommended the purchase of an existing property close to the current library which is not yet listed; thus, owner is desirous to sell, where the land could be utilized as a temporary parking lot.

In response, Commissioner Gunter recalled his previous proposal for the existing library to be used as a multipurpose recreational/community room, purchase land, and build a new library. He recognized the anticipated \$500,000 grant to expand the present library.

Ms. Glendinning referred to the library grant awarded in 2014 which could be used towards the purchase of the property and indicated that the expected funds of \$500,000 would be allocated towards the library's expansion.

After further discussion, Ms. Glendinning confirmed that the grant application could be amended where Mr. La Venia suggested that she ought to proceed with same.

Ms. Glendinning referred to the Lake County Library Advisory Board's meeting held earlier this day and explained the county's negotiations with the City of Leesburg whose preference is to have its own communications system. She described the Fruitland Park library's Century Link's internet and phone line services; noted the periodical charges and cost savings involved, and mentioned the refund check that the city would receive based on the county's contract with the City of Leesburg.

After discussion, Ms. Glendinning indicated that she could invite the county's information technology specialist staff to appear before the city commission to address the subject issue.

Following further deliberations, Ms. Glendinning questioned the termination of the ILA where the county's IT support services with the City of Leesburg would discontinue and explained that same would be considered at its future meeting.

Upon Mayor Bell's suggestion and **by unanimous consent, the city commission agreed that, before roadwork is conducted on West Berckman Street, staff communicate with the City of Leesburg to obtain a price on the connection of telephone lines and possibly the computer system with fiber optic cables from public works and the recreation departments to city hall and provide the agreement to be considered on a future agenda.**

City Election/Redistricting

Mr. La Venia gave an update on the conversations he had with Mr. Greg Beliveau, LPG Urban and Regional Planners Inc. and recognized one of the agreements he has with the city for professional services to create a district wide map which was previously presented before the city commission. Mr. La Venia mentioned the need

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for the city commission to conduct a workshop in the near future to address the establishment of permanent districts, their locations, and mechanism and noted that more time would be required to deal with the city's runoff election whereby Mayor Bell referred to the City of Clermont's election process conducted at its primary election and requested that a copy of same be provided.

Mr. La Venia referred to the CIP under the five-year plan; requested that the city commission give consideration on how it wishes to prioritize the CIP and CRA and what it would like to be implemented during the year which he is currently working on.

Mr. Rector reported on The Villages District's expenditures of more than \$9,000 to upgrade the city's software computers.

Mr. Rector addressed the code enforcement's compliance issues, brought to his attention, have been dealt with; recognized the ongoing problem, close to the area of the Casino Community building, where contact has made with the respective individuals, and acknowledged the improvements made in the area. He referred to his recent conversations with and the advice offered from the special magistrate and mentioned that individuals ought to be informed of any problems. Mr. Rector anticipated improvements in the near future; indicated that staff will wait for the new attorney to be retained before reaching a decision, and requested that staff be informed if there are any code enforcement problems.

The following items were not addressed:

- **Records Management**
- **Additional Staffing**
- **Commission Sound System/Recording**
- **City Server**

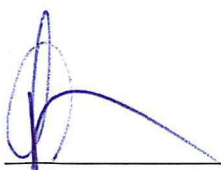
5. OTHER BUSINESS

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

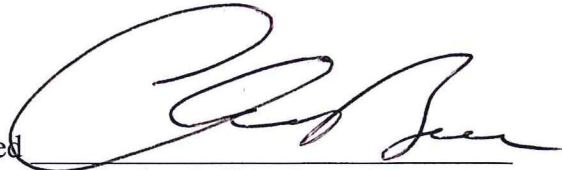
6. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the workshop at this time, on motion made, second and unanimously carried, the meeting adjourned at. 9:22 p.m.

The minutes were approved at the September 10, 2015 regular meeting.

Signed 

Esther B. Coulson, City Clerk

Signed 

Christopher Bell, Mayor