

**FRUITLAND PARK CITY COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES
December 12, 2013**

A regular meeting of the Fruitland Park City Commission was held at 506 W. Berckman Street, Fruitland Park, Florida 34731 on Thursday, December 12, 2013 at 7:00 p.m.

Members Present: Mayor Christopher Bell; Vice Mayor Albert O. Goldberg, Commissioners John L. Gunter, Jr., Christopher Cheshire and Sharon Kelly.

Also Present: Interim City Manager Rick Conner, Police Chief Terry Isaacs, Captain David Borst, City Treasurer Tannette Gayle, Community Development Director Charlie Rector, and City Clerk Esther B. Coulson.

1. **CALL TO ORDER, INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – 7:02 p.m.**
Mayor Bell called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.; Associate Pastor Chris Jones, Community United Methodist Church gave the invocation, and Girl Scouts, Troop 4711 led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

2. **ROLL CALL**
The city clerk called the roll and a quorum was declared present.

Presentation by Girl Scouts of Holiday Displays

Ms. Michelle Yoder, Parks and Recreation Director, recognized the donation of the family life-sized cut-out penguins and the bounce house management from the Girl Scouts North Lake Service Unit at the December 10, 2013 “Hometown Christmas” event.

After Ms. Karly Nelson, Girl Scouts Member, North Lake Service Unit, acknowledged the presence of girl scout troops 4711, 9721, and 4707 at this evening’s meeting, she explained the hard work of the senior and ambassador girls from troop 4711 in designing and making the cut-out penguins; presented same to the city commission, and expressed the opportunity to be of service to the city and look forward to a long relationship with the city.

The city commission thanked the girl scouts for their donation; mentioned the pictures they took at the event using the cut-out penguins, and expressed appreciation on a job well done with the bounce house.

3. **PROCLAMATIONS/SPECIAL RECOGNITION**

- **Proclamation – Major O. P. Rooks Founder’s Day (Viva Florida 500)**
Ms. Jo-Anne Glendinning, Library Director, recognized the 500th anniversary of Viva Florida 500 (1513-2013) whereby libraries in Florida had the opportunity to promote or commemorate the 500th birthday celebration. She recognized the city commission’s support of the event and described the library’s activities in this regard; “Welcome to the Park 1880 Fruitland Park” and the first place award that the library received for their displayed exhibit out of 15 other municipal libraries

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from Lake County Library Services. Ms. Glendinning indicated that the celebration is event drawing to a close with a proclamation honoring Major O. P. Rooks.

Mayor Bell read into the record a proclamation recognizing March 15, 2014 to be "Major O. P. Rooks Founder's Day" and from here henceforth, "Fruitland Park Day" will be "Founders Day" and urging all citizens of the City of Fruitland Park to take cognizance of this event and participate fittingly in its observance.

- Special Presentation

On behalf of the city commission], staff, and residents, Mayor Bell presented a plaque to Interim City Manager Rick Conner in recognition of his invaluable dedication and service to the City of Fruitland Park and that he will be missed.

Mr. Conner thanked the city commission for the honor.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Steve Fossell, City of Fruitland Park resident, recalled his previous proposal to the city commission to start a public relations campaign process regarding positive events taking place within the city. He invited the city commission, city staff and the public to attend an informal meeting with the new editor of the Daily Commercial on Monday, December 16, 2013 from 7:30 a.m. to 8:00 a.m.

Mr. Joe E. Hill, longtime Lake County resident (outside the City of Fruitland Park's city limits), recognized his wife, who was present at this evening's meeting; noted his previous involvement with the girl scouts, and mentioned the donation of their ranch home "Circle H Ranch" towards such cause.

Mr. ~~Hall~~ Hill referred to the 12-unit Adult Congregate Assisted Living Facilities (ACLF) adjacent to the proposed development and a mile from "The Villages" project and other planned developments. He expressed concerns on water usage of over fifty percent and recalled the St. John's River Water Management District's (SJRWMD's) predictions on the over pumping of the aquifer. He requested that the city require all new developments to use alternative methods; referred to the extensive research conducted by the University of Florida's Institute of Food and Agricultural Services (IFAS) on underground coverage for saline water, and described the uses, savings, irrigation, and fertilization which would prevent harm to the aquifer.

Mr. Hill relayed his suggestion to require all new developments to implement alternate use for water and conveyed SJRWMD's response to him that such requirements would need to be decided by the individual municipalities.

Mr. ~~Hall~~ Hill gave his experience and efforts made to restrict water use whilst he served on the SJRWMD and the Lake County Water Authority boards; addressed the long-term cost savings involved with alternative water uses, and the utilization of ornamental

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peanuts. He addressed the possibility for the city to be an example to the Florida municipalities to initiate this effort and confirmed that they have not adopted such method. Mr. Hall Hill mentioned his plan to present the issue of saving water to Mr. H. Gary Morse, President of The Villages of Lake-Sumter Inc.

Commissioner Gunter, in concurring with Mr. Hall's Hill's remarks; stated that he and Mayor Bell served on the Lake County Water Authority and stated that the board previously addressed the issue of alternative water sources.

Mayor Bell indicated that Mr. Hall's Hill's information will be circulated to the city commission and that they would be considering the subject issue in future.

Mr. Mario Wayne, City of Fruitland Park resident, referred to the property at the proposed Planned Unit Development (PUD) and relayed concerns raised at a previous Planning and Zoning meeting which were not clarified to the residents.

In response, Mr. Gerken indicated that a public hearing item has been scheduled for later on in this evening's agenda and suggested he or anyone else that wishes to speak will have an opportunity to address their concerns at that time.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

(a) Approval of Minutes

On motion of Commissioner Kelly, seconded by Commissioner Cheshire and unanimously carried, the city commission approved the November 14, 2013 special city commission meeting minutes and the November 21, 2013 regular city commission meeting minutes as submitted.

(b) Property Purchase and Sale Contract – Robert R. Ruiz

On motion of Commissioner Kelly, seconded by Commissioner Cheshire and unanimously carried, the city commission approved a contract to purchase vacant land from Robert R. Ruiz for \$24,150 as well as surveying the property and installing fencing along the western boundary of the property. This is contingent upon the Community Redevelopment Agency's approval of the funding necessary to purchase such property pursuant to the terms of the contract

After Mr. Conner explained that the Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) meeting has been scheduled for January 9, 2014 to transfer the funds, Mr. Gerken indicated that the city commission's approval of the property purchase is contingent upon the CRA's approval of the funding necessary to purchase said property pursuant to the terms of the contract.

6. REGULAR AGENDA

(a) Board/Committee Members Appointments

The city commission considered its action to approve the following recommendations to appoint or reappoint members to the city's

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committees/boards and appoint a city representative as the City of Fruitland Park's on the Lake County Metropolitan Planning Organization Citizens' Advisory Committee:

- **On motion of Commissioner Kelly, seconded by Commissioner Cheshire, and unanimously carried, the city commission reappointed Ms. Janet Goldberg, Vice Chair, and Mr. Jimmy Posse who agreed to serve a three-year term on the Code Enforcement Board.**
- **On motion of Commissioner Gunter and seconded by Commissioner Kelly and unanimously carried, the city commission reappointed Mr. Colin M. Crews who agreed to serve a three-year term on the Planning and Zoning Board.**
- **On motion of Vice Mayor Goldberg and seconded by Commissioner Cheshire, and unanimously carried, the city reappointed Lieutenant Michael Laming and Charles Themm who agreed to serve a two-year term on the Board of Trustees Firefighters Pension Trust Fund.**
- **On motion of Commissioner Kelly, seconded by Commissioner Cheshire, and unanimously carried, the city commission appointed Mr. John L. Schaller, who currently serves as the Planning and Zoning Chair, to serve on the Lake-Sumter Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Citizens' Advisory Committee.**
- **Upon Mayor Bell's suggestion and by unanimous consent, the city commission postponed the appointment of a representative to serve on the Lake-Sumter MPO Technical Advisory Committee until the arrival of the new city manager to the next meeting for consideration.**

Mr. Conner relayed Commissioner Kelly's recognition on her service representing the city commission during the past year at the recent Lake-Sumter MPO governing board meeting.

(b) Records Management Policy

The city commission considered its action to develop a records management policy and research a software program to manage electronic records.

Ms. Coulson addressed the need to develop a records management policy to meet the state's annual requirement that the city is complying with state law by maintaining a records management program and disposing its records.

After discussion and by **unanimous consent, the city commission approved the development of a records management policy and directed the city clerk to**

report back to the city commission with recommendations on available programs especially in the management of electronic records.

(c) City Engineer/Public Works Director Advertisement

Discussion and possible action to direct staff to begin the process of securing candidates for the city engineer/public works director position.

After extensive discussion and by **unanimous consent, the city commission directed the interim city manager to begin the process of securing candidates and place an advertisement for the public works director position.**

Vice Mayor Goldberg was absent from the meeting room at this time.

By unanimous consent, the city commission recessed its regular meeting at 8:00 p.m. to the Local Planning Agency meeting and reconvened at 8:31 p.m.

QUASI-JUDICIAL PUBLIC HEARING

By unanimous consent, the city commission took the following items out of order on this evening's agenda and considered public hearing Items 6. (e) and (f) together.

(e) First Reading – Ordinance 2013-014 – Rezoning Property Generally Located North of Poinsettia Avenue and North of Spring Lake Road from Single-Family Medium Density (R-2) to Planned Unit Development (PUD) and First Public Hearing on Master Development Agreement - Petitioner: Jonathan Penner

It now being the time advertised to hold a public hearing, after Mr. Gerken read into the record the title of the proposed ordinances the substance of which are as follows, Mayor Bell called for interested parties to be heard:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF FRUITLAND PARK, FLORIDA, REZONING APPROXIMATELY 14.27 ACRES OF PROPERTY GENERALLY LOCATED NORTH OF POINESETTIA AVENUE AND NORTH OF SPRING LAKE ROAD FROM SINGLE FAMILY MEDIUM DENSITY (R-2) TO THE DESIGNATION OF PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT (PUD) WITHIN THE CITY LIMITS OF FRUITLAND PARK; APPROVING A MASTER DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT FOR THE PROPERTY; PROVIDING FOR CONDITIONS AND CONTINGENCIES; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE. (The second reading and public hearing will be held on January 9, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.)

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- (f) **First Reading – Ordinance 2013-012 – Small Scale Comprehensive Plan Amendment – Amending the Future Land Use Designation for Property Generally Located North of Poinsettia Avenue and North of Spring Lake Road from Single Family Medium Density to Multiple Family High Density - Petitioner: Jonathan Penner**

The agenda item shown above is incorrect; however, the following notice for this evening's meeting was advertised correctly.)

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 SINGLE FAMILY MEDIUM DENSITY IN THE CITY OF FRUITLAND PARK TO MULTIPLE FAMILY HIGH DENSITY ON THE FUTURE LAND USE MAP ELEMENT OF THE CITY OF FRUITLAND PARK'S COMPREHENSIVE PLAN FOR APPROXIMATELY 9.04+ ACRES OF PROPERTY GENERALLY LOCATED NORTH OF POINSETTIA AVENUE AND NORTH OF SPRING LAKE ROAD; DIRECTING THE CITY CLERK TO TRANSMIT THE AMENDMENT TO THE APPROPRIATE GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 163, FLORIDA STATUTES; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE. (The second reading will be held on January 9, 2013.) (City Attorney/Community Development Director)

Mr. Gerken explained that the subject properties were addressed before the Local Planning Agency (LPA) who considered the comprehensive plan amendment change from medium density to multiple family high density and recommended the approval to rezone the property from single family to PUD for the 14 acres.

After Mr. Gerken mentioned the need to approve the master plan agreement, Mr. Rector, in response, explained that it has not been discussed with the owner, the engineer, the city attorney's office, or staff.

Mr. Gerken explained that the Land Development Code requires that the agreement needs to be finalized which staff will review before the January 9, 2014 second public hearing and confirmed that the conceptual plan is already included.

Mr. Rector, who was previously sworn, described the subject proposed use as recommended by the Planning and Zoning Board and relayed the request that the

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original plan with set-back requirements would be revised and moved inward onto the property to allow 85 to 95 feet for parking outside the building which has been agreed to.

With respect to the roadway improvements, Mayor Bell recalled the property having no northbound exit and relayed the Florida Department of Transportation's (FDOT's) comments on their determination that the traffic counts did not allow for southbound single lanes with a left turn permitted for emergency vehicles whereby Mr. Rector noted the approval of the traffic count received from Lake County.

After the city commission discussed the need to have a traffic data that is warranted, Mayor Bell called for interested parties to be heard.

After Mr. Viral, City of Fruitland Park resident who was previously sworn, referred to the Mr. Rector's comments on the reasons for the proposed 9.06 acres, Mr. Gerken explained the adoption procedures at the state level which is shorter for small-scale comprehensive plans for less than ten acres and the longer process for transmittal and final adoption hearings for more than ten acres.

A motion was made by Commissioner Cheshire and seconded by Commissioner Gunter that the city commission approve the Local Planning Agency's recommendation of approval on previously cited Ordinance 2013-014 as amended to read "9.06 acres".

Mayor Bell called for a roll call vote on the motion with the city commission members voting as follows:

Commissioner Kelly	No
Commissioner Cheshire	Yes
Commissioner Gunter	Yes
Mayor Bell	Yes

The motion was declared carried on a three to one (3-1) vote.

The master development agreement will be considered at the January 9, 2014 public hearing.)

A motion was made by Commissioner Cheshire and seconded by Commissioner Gunter that the city commission approve the Local Planning Agency's recommendation of approval on Ordinance 2013-012, as amended to read "9.06 acres".

Mayor Bell called for a roll call vote on the motion with the city commission members voting as follows:

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Commissioner Cheshire	Yes
Commissioner Gunter	Yes
Commissioner Kelly	No
Mayor Bell	Yes

The motion was declared carried on a three to one (3-1) vote.

(g) Second Reading and Quasi-Judicial Public Hearing – Ordinance 2013-011 – Annexation and Rezoning from Lake County Community Facilities District (CFD) to Public Facilities District (PFD) Within the City of Fruitland Park – Petitioner: Countryside Baptist Church

It now being the time advertised to hold a public hearing, after Mr. Gerken read into the record the title of the proposed ordinance the substance of which is as follows, 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 3.60± ACRES OF LAND GENERALLY LOCATED NORTH OF REGISTER ROAD AND EAST OF US 27/441; REZONING THE PROPERTY FROM LAKE COUNTY “CFD” (COMMUNITY FACILITIES DISTRICT) TO PUBLIC FACILITIES DISTRICT WITHIN THE CITY LIMITS OF FRUITLAND PARK; 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 SECRETARY OF STATE OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE (City Attorney/Community Development Director). (The first reading was held on November 21, 2013.)

Mr. Rector, who was previously sworn, described the proposed designated use for the subject properties.

There being no comments from the public and **by unanimous consent, the public hearing was closed.**

A motion was made by Commissioner Cheshire and seconded by Commissioner Kelly that the city commission enact Ordinance 2013-011, as previously cited, to become effective immediately as provided by law.

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Mayor Bell called for a roll call vote on the motion with the city commission members voting as follows:

Commissioner Gunter	Yes
Mayor Bell	Yes
Commissioner Cheshire	Yes
Commissioner Kelly	Yes

The motion was declared carried unanimously.

- (h) Second Reading and Quasi-Judicial Public Hearing - Ordinance 2013-010 – Small Scale Comprehensive Plan Amendment Amending the Future Land Use Designation from Lake County Urban Medium Density to Institutional on the Future Land Use Map of the City of Fruitland Park - Petitioner: Countryside Baptist Church**

It now being the time advertised to hold a public hearing, after Mr. Gerken read into the record the title of the proposed ordinance the substance of which is as follows, 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 URBAN MEDIUM DENSITY TO INSTITUTIONAL ON THE FUTURE LAND USE MAP OF THE CITY OF FRUITLAND PARK'S COMPREHENSIVE PLAN FOR APPROXIMATELY 3.60± ACRES OF PROPERTY GENERALLY LOCATED NORTH OF REGISTER ROAD AND EAST OF US 27/441; DIRECTING THE CITY CLERK TO TRANSMIT THE AMENDMENT TO THE APPROPRIATE GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 163, FLORIDA STATUTES; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE (City Attorney/Community Development Director). (The first reading was held on November 21, 2013.)

There being no comments from the public and by **unanimous consent, the public hearing was closed.**

A motion was made by Commissioner Cheshire and seconded by Commissioner Gunter that the city commission enact Ordinance 2013-010, as previously cited, to become effective thirty-one (31) days as provided by law. Mayor Bell called for a roll call vote on the motion with the city commission members voting as follows:

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Mayor Bell	Yes
Commissioner Gunter	Yes
Commissioner Cheshire	Yes
Commissioner Kelly	Yes

The motion was declared carried unanimously.

(i) Second Reading and Public Hearing – Ordinance 2013-009, Correcting a Scrivener’s Error on Ordinance 2013-003 – Water Service Base Rate

It now being the time advertised to hold a public hearing, after Mr. Gerken read into the record the title of the proposed ordinance the substance of which is as follows, Mayor Bell called for interested parties to be heard:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF FRUITLAND PARK, FLORIDA CORRECTING A SCRIVENER’S ERROR IN THE BASE RATE INCLUDED IN CITY OF FRUITLAND PARK ORDINANCE 2013-003 SETTING FORTH THE BASE RATE APPLICABLE TO OUTSIDE CITY LIMITS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR REPEAL OF CONFLICTING ORDINANCES, AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE (City Attorney). (The first reading was held on November 17, 2013.)

There being no comments from the public and **by unanimous consent, the public hearing was closed.**

A motion was made by Commissioner Gunter and seconded by Commissioner Kelly that the city commission enact Ordinance 2013-003, as previously cited, to become effective immediately as provided by law.

Mayor Bell called for a roll call vote on the motion with the city commission members voting as follows:

Commissioner Gunter	Yes
Commissioner Cheshire	Yes
Mayor Bell	Yes
Commissioner Kelly	Yes

The motion was declared carried unanimously.

By unanimous consent, the city commission recessed the meeting at 8:55 p.m. and reconvened at 9:07 p.m.

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(d) First Reading – Ordinance 2013-016 – Establishing City Commissioners' Retirement Benefits

Mr. Gerken read into the record the title of the proposed ordinance the substance of which is as follows:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF FRUITLAND PARK, FLORIDA, ESTABLISHING BENEFITS FOR CITY COMMISSION MEMBERS AFTER SUCH MEMBERS HAVE COMPLETED AT LEAST FIFTEEN CONSECUTIVE YEARS OF SERVICE AS A CITY COMMISSIONER; PROVIDING FOR AMOUNTS OF SUCH RETIREMENT BENEFITS AND REQUIREMENTS TO QUALIFY FOR SUCH BENEFITS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR REPEAL OF CONFLICTING ORDINANCES; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE (The second reading will be held on January 9, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.) (Interim City Manager).

Mr. Gerken referred to a previous meeting recognizing two city commission members who were commended for more than 20 years of service and recognized them as possibly one of the longest serving elected local government officials in the county. He referred to the state statute's requirement on mandatory retirement benefits for local government officials where such provisions qualifies elected officials serving 20 years and entitle them to a lifetime half salary benefits; however, the statute specifically provides and anticipates that a local government can have its own requirements and rules on who would qualify for benefits and what they would be which is addressed in the subject proposed ordinance.

Mr. Gerken referred to his conversations with Mr. Conner; explained that a commissioner would be entitled to retirement benefits once they have served 15 years service at 50 percent of the salary the last time they served and would increase to 100 percent after 25 years of service and noted that their present pay is \$500 a month.

Mr. Conner explained believed that the retirement benefits would not be part of the Florida Retirement System (FRS) but would be allocated from a line item in the city's budget. He noted that a few municipal officials have tenures but does not believe that they addressed the subject issue.

Mr. Gerken explained that the law requires that whenever retirement benefits are established, an actual analysis would be required before final passage. He also indicated that the ordinance stated that the elected official are entitled (as indicated in the state statutes) if they voluntarily resign or retire.

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A motion was made by Commissioner Gunter and seconded by Commissioner Kelly that the city commission approve Ordinance 2013-016 as previously cited.

Mayor Bell called for a roll call vote on the motion with the city commission members voting as follows:

Commissioner Gunter	Yes
Commissioner Kelly	Yes
Mayor Bell	Yes
Commissioner Cheshire	Yes

The motion was declared carried unanimously.

7. NEW BUSINESS

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

8. OFFICERS' REPORTS

(a) City Manager

- School Board Property

Mr. Conner pointed out the city commission's previous direction for staff to provide further information on the possible sale of the School Board of Lake County's available properties.

Mr. Conner referred to recent discussions he had with the school staff who conveyed their willingness to work with the city to research the potential transfer of property to the city, if it is the city's desire to pursue.

Mr. Gerken addressed the need to update the Community Redevelopment Agency's plan to address the subject issue and the possibility to utilize the funds.

- The Villages

The city manager referred to the successful closing of The Villages property recently and referred to the subsequent email he received that plans are proceeding quickly.

- Fire Trucks

Mr. Conner recalled at the October 10, 2013 regular commission meeting, the city commission's approval of decommissioning the fire department's rolling stock units which were no longer needed; addressed the opportunity to sell them to two other municipalities at a good price, and referred to the Agenda Summary Sheet which referenced placing the trucks on a broker-listed website at no cost to the city and paying ten percent of the sale to the broker.

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Mr. Conner mentioned his discussion with the city attorney and stated that the items were declared as surplus property and referred to the supporting documents in this regard and whether it would be in order to change the process.

- **Appreciation**

Mr. Conner officially thanked the city commission for the opportunity.

(b) **City Attorney**

Mr. Gerken recognized that Mr. Conner arrived at the city at a tumultuous time; noted his guidance, and thanked him for everything he has done.

9. COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

(a) **Vice Mayor Goldberg**

Mayor Bell acknowledged Vice Mayor Goldberg's absence from this evening's meeting and explained that he is currently hospitalized and is in a stable condition.

(b) **Commissioner Kelly**

Commissioner Kelly explained that Mr. Conner followed through on a number of issues, led the city commission down the right road, and expressed her gratitude to him.

(c) **Commissioner Cheshire**

Commissioner Cheshire acknowledged Mr. Conner as a great leader who has been an asset to the city and indicated that it has been pleasure working with him.

(d) **Commissioner Gunter, Jr.**

Commissioner Gunter recognized his initial remarks to Mr. Conner which is to "steer the ship straight and keep it going" which he has implemented well. He stated that he enjoyed working with him and that he looks forward to next year's Christmas party. Thanked the Parks and Recreation Director, who is not present at this evening's meeting, for the outstanding job at the Christmas Dinner and Hometown Christmas events.

10. MAYOR'S COMMENTS

- **Holiday Lighting Contest**

Mayor Bell announced the following individuals who received awards for the holiday lighting contest:

First Place – Keith Sumner, 307 North Valley Road;

Second Place - Donnie and Christina Simmons, 305 West Berckman Street, and

Third Place - Jamie and Julie Summers, 508 Orange Street

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- **Lake County Meeting**

Mayor Bell referred to a recent meeting he and Mr. Conner attended with Messrs. David Keith, Lake County Manager and Sanford A. Minkoff, County Attorney, regarding "The Villages" project and County Road CR 466A.

Mayor Bell relayed the remarks from Lake County Commissioner Jim Conner who mentioned the intent to implement something soon; his desire to be placed on a future The Villages' Community Development District Board meeting agenda, and the concept of the city reviewing and coordinating with the Villages the Phase Three project and Lake County who is ready to implement Phase 1A; thus, allowing the Villages to carry out the work for the county.

Mayor Bell reported that an excellent job was conducted at CR 466A, The Villages and noted Mr. Keith's decision to be on board which is something that they are interested in.

Mayor Bell pointed out discussions held on the county park and the timeframe involved; the intent to prepare an interlocal agreement to be reviewed by the city at its commission meeting in January or February 2014 and present same to the Parks, Recreation and Trails Advisory Board sometime in March 2014.

- **Interim City Manager Rick Conner**

Mayor Bell expressed his pleasure in working with Mr. Conner who presented and followed through with new ideas proposed to the city commission and welcomes him back to visit the city.


By unanimous consent, the city commission recessed its regular meeting to the Attorney-Client Session (Police and Fire Service Fee Class Action Lawsuit, Case No. 2013 CA 400), pursuant to F.S. 286.011(8)(d) at 9:39 p.m. The city commission reconvened its regular meeting at 10:20 p.m.

11. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the city commission at this time, on motion made by Commissioner Cheshire and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 10:21 p.m.


The minutes were approved at the January 9, 2014 meeting.

Signed



Esther B. Coulson, City Clerk

Signed



Christopher Bell, Mayor