

**FRUITLAND PARK CITY COMMISSION SPECIAL MEETING  
MINUTES  
October 11, 2013**

A special meeting of the Fruitland Park City Commission was held at 506 W. Berckman Street, Fruitland Park, Florida 34731 on Friday, October 11, 2013 at 6:00 pm.

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

**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**

Mayor Bell called the meeting to order at 6:41 pm; Chief Isaacs gave the invocation, and Mayor Bell led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

**2. ROLL CALL**

Mayor Bell requested that the city clerk call the roll and a quorum was declared present.

**3. INTERVIEWS WITH CITY MANAGER APPLICANTS**

Mayor Bell welcomed the city manager candidates to this evening's meeting.

After Mayor Bell outlined the procedures for this evening's meeting, the candidates were excused from the meeting room in order for the city commission to conduct one-and-one interviews.

Mr. Colin Baenziger, Colin Baenziger and Associates, gave suggestive guidelines on the manner in which the interviews will be conducted. The following applicants were interviewed and responded to questions posed by the city commission:

· Arthur Sciorra

Mr. Sciorra gave an overview of his background; his point of view relating to the development of The Villages, and his opinion of the city. He outlined how he would deal with underperforming employees and his interaction with the elected officials; highlighted his professional experiences and expertise, and gave reasons why he believes that he is the right person for the job.

· Donald Levens

Mr. Levens addressed his specialty and mentioned his relocation to the area regardless of the outcome of this evening's interview. He described how he would deal with employees if he felt that they were not conducting their jobs satisfactorily and recalled an unfavorable experience he had as a city manager relating to a project he oversaw. Mr. Levens gave his view of the city; described

his method of interaction with the elected officials, and addressed the highlights of his profession. He stated that his resume speaks for itself and that he is the right person for the job.

Konrad Hildebrand

Mr. Hildebrand indicated that he would be willing to stay on the job long term, if offered and addressed his vision of the city in ten years. He explained how he would establish relationships with the developer, interact with the elected officials, and communicate with the residents in various forms. Mr. Hildebrand cited reasons why he should be the city manager.

Gary La Venia

Mr. La Venia recognized the city's major developments and his ability to foresee what should be implemented. He addressed how he keeps elected officials informed, deals with employees' unsatisfactory job performances, and plans to communicate with residents, city groups and business associations. Mr. La Venia gave his view of the city; thus, envisioning what he believes it would be like in ten years and explained why he would be the person for the position.

**By unanimous consent, Mayor Bell recessed the meeting at 8:35 pm and reconvened the meeting at 8:48 pm.**

After discussion, the city commission ranked the candidates with the following results:

<b>Candidate</b>	<b>Rank</b>
Gary La Venia	One
Konrad Hildebrand	Two
Donald Levens	Three
Arthur Sciorra	Four

Following further deliberations, and **on motion of Commissioner Goldberg, seconded by Commissioner Cheshire and unanimously carried, the city commission offered the city manager position to Gary La Venia contingent upon negotiation, acceptance and signing the city manager's employment contract with the City of Fruitland Park with the following terms:**

<b>Yearly Salary</b>	<b>\$95,000</b>
<b>Monthly Vehicle Allowance,</b>	<b>\$400 (within three counties or more than 50 miles from the City of Fruitland Park)</b>
<b>Life Insurance,</b>	<b>\$50,000 (over the base \$25,000)</b>
<b>Health Insurance</b>	<b>(standard policy for employees)</b>
<b>Vacation,</b>	<b>Three Weeks (15 working days)</b>
<b>Moving Expenses</b>	<b>\$5,000</b>

After discussion, Mr. Conner explained that staff is working towards the implementation of the Florida Retirement System and will provide a report on a standard retirement plan to the city commission at a later date.

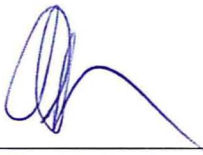
**On motion of Commissioner Goldberg, seconded by Commissioner Cheshire and unanimously carried, the city commission approved including in the proposed contract a standard retirement plan and 13 weeks' severance package.**

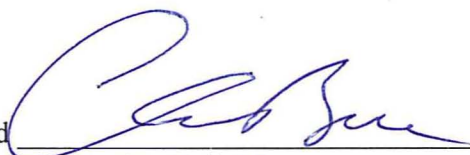
Mr. Conner explained that he will contact Mr. La Venia by telephone and agreed to work with Mr. Baenziger and Mayor Bell to negotiate the terms of the contract.

**4. 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 9:45 pm.

The minutes were approved at the November 21, 2013 meeting.

Signed   
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Esther B. Coulson, City Clerk

Signed   
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Christopher Bell, Mayor