

FRUITLAND PARK CITY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

June 13, 2013

MEETING STATISTICS. A regular meeting of the Fruitland Park City Commission was conducted in the Commission Chambers of City Hall, 506 West Berckman Street, Fruitland Park, Florida on Thursday, June 13, 2013 beginning at 6:11 p.m.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE. Mayor Bell delivered the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led also by Mayor Bell.

ROLL CALL. Mayor Bell asked Acting City Clerk Marie Azzolino to call the roll.

ELECTED OFFICIALS PRESENT. Commissioner John L. Gunter, Jr., Commissioner Chris Cheshire, Commissioner Albert O. Goldberg, Vice Mayor Sharon Kelly, Mayor Christopher J. Bell

Mayor Bell announced a closed session for the Richardson lawsuit. Attending will be Vice Mayor Sharon Kelly, Commissioner John Gunter, Commissioner Chris Cheshire, Commissioner Al Goldberg, City Attorney Scott Gerken, Mayor Chris Bell, Reporter Susan Davis, Attorney Mike Roper and estimated time of meeting 45 minutes.

Regular scheduled meeting resumed

MUNICIPAL OFFICIALS/OTHERS PRESENT. Interim City Manager Police Chief (PC) Terry Isaacs, Acting City Treasurer (ACT) Susan Parker, Community Development Director (CDD) Charlie Rector, and Acting City Clerk (ACC) Marie Azzolino.

Time is 7:10p.m. Police Chief Terry Issacs delivered the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Commissioner Al Goldberg.

ROLL CALL. Mayor Bell asked the Acting City Clerk Jen Potenzzone to call the roll.

ELECTED OFFICIALS PRESENT. Commissioner Cheshire, Mayor Bell, Commissioner Goldberg, Vice Mayor Kelly and Commissioner Gunter.

01. CITIZENS COMMENTS - Phillip Purlee - Understand that there was a closed meeting to discuss the Richardson Lawsuit and want to express his feelings about not settling the case. Mr. Purlee loves the City and feels that Mr. Richardson is just a bully. Mr. Purlee wants to urge the City not to settle with Mr. Richardson. The citizens took him out of office and put a new Commissioner in because Mr. Richardson was trying to bully the Commission and it must be stopped. The other issue is the Valley Road drainage problem. Mr. Purlee is not sure if he agrees with the engineers.

02. CONSENT - Minutes from the Special Meeting. Commissioner Goldberg made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Commissioner Cheshire seconded.

03. CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT - Scott had no report, but there is mediation in the Richardson case tomorrow but any settlement would have to be approved by the Commission and brought to a public meeting.

04. OLD BUSINESS - The Valley Road Drainage issue. Charlie Rector, (CDD) met with contractors Drew Logan and with Mike Baylee. The plans that the engineers designed are a major overkill for \$45,000. Colin Crews and Rick Ranize are the ones that are affected by the water. If we can stop the water from jumping the road

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we can solve the problem. We will cut the two driveways and put in a French drain or a covert. The French drain would be the worst case. The swells would be reshaped and new sod will be placed in the yard area. The cost with the sod would be around \$22,000 if it is a French drain and the covert would be about \$18,000. Utilities involved are gas, water, electric, cable and phone.

Vice Mayor Kelly asked how much money do we have in the storm water.

Charlie said we haven't used any. We have around \$80,000.

Mayor Bell said are there any question about doing this with the utilities there.

Charlie said that with a French drain there would be no problem. There is a tree in the way if we do a covert but the neighbors said they don't care if it has to be removed.

Vice Mayor Kelly wanted to make sure that this would not cause any problem for any more neighbors on the street.

Charlie said there would be no problem to any residents.

Commissioner Gunter wants to go ahead with the project. He made a motion and it was seconded by Vice Mayor Kelly. All in favor, no nays.

Concerning potholes. Charlie said that Chet, the auditor said we have around \$60,000 to spend. Charlie said that Tri-State asphalt does all repairs to pot holes for the Villages. They charge \$21.44 per square yard. Charlie suggests that every neighborhood has a pothole problem. We will number each pothole and tell them which area we want them to do first. They will bill us every day and we can cut them off at anytime.

Commissioner Gunter asked about the cul-de-sac problems.

Charlie said he went out there and realized that the center of the cul-de-sac are not the proper size so the trucks cannot get around but we are not going to do the cul-de-sac with this money. This is only for the potholes.

Attorney Scott Gerken wanted to know if this money was from General Funds or CRA funds, because if it is CRA it would have to be authorized.

Mayor Bell asked for a Motion.

Commissioner Goldberg made a motion if the funds are available \$20,000 would be a ceiling. Vice Mayor Kelly second. All in favor aye.

05. NEW BUSINESS – Mayor Bell said that after hearing from the Recruiting firm we decided to go ahead with the firm.

Commissioner Gunter contacted Colin Baenziger firm and asked if the firm could provide us with an Interim City Manager. Commissioner Gunter also asked if they could take some money off the price.

Colin Baenziger said they could provide an Interim, Mr. Rick Conner and they would be willing to come in and discuss with Commission.

Commissioner Gunter said both Mr. Baenziger and Mr. Conner are here tonight.

Commissioner Gunter asked Mr. Conner how long he was City Manager in Sunny Isles.

Mr. Conner said he was there for three years as City Manager.

Mr. Baenziger said he is the owner of the company and has known Rick for about 10 years.

Mayor Bell asked Mr. Baenziger what would be the price for finding the City Manager.

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Mr. Baenziger would bring in around 6 to 10 candidates for \$20,000. He would meet with each Commissioner and try to find out what you all are looking for in a candidate.

Attorney Scott said that the record shows \$20,000 as the stated price.

Commissioner Cheshire wanted to know how that money gets paid.

Mr. Baenziger said it is done in phases. The first phase is to gather information and prepare recruiting material. Phase two is to recruit candidates. Phase three is the screening of candidates. Phase four is the actual coordination and the fifth phase is the contract. The \$20,000 is a flat fee including expenses.

Commissioner Gunter made a motion to go with the Recruiting Firm. Vice Mayor Kelly second. All in favor, none opposed.

Mr. Baenziger will meet with each Commissioner for a half hour on the 20th.

Mayor Bell wanted to know if Mr. Conner had any skeletons in his closet.

Commissioner Gunter wanted to know if a background check was done on Mr. Conner.

Mr. Baenziger said that yes a background check was done and there would not be any problems with Mr. Conner.

Mr. Conner has been in many different cities throughout his career.

Commissioner Cheshire wants to know how much do we have to pay him or is it free! I guess we should take Mr. Conner on since the company is recommending him.

Commissioner Gunter said we would pay him every two weeks at the current City Manager's pay with no housing and no travel expenses.

Mr. Conner said he would get temporary lodging for the week and then travel home on the weekend. Mr. Conner just asked that he would not spend too many long nights here but would give 10 to 11 hours a day if needed.

Mayor Bell said to get with Scott to set up the contract to hire Mr. Conner as Interim City Manager. Mr. Conner will start on Tuesday. Motion made by Vice Mayor Kelly and second by Commissioner Cheshire.

Mr. Conner said that if two weeks down the road you don't want or need me it is not a problem.

Commissioner Gunter said that Mr. Conner asked him what they wanted of him and Commissioner Gunter said we just want him to run the ship with no surprises.

All in favor said aye, none opposed.

Scott said that when Mr. Conner starts on Tuesday then Marie will go back to Acting City Clerk. Motion made by Commissioner Goldberg and second by Vice Mayor Kelly. All in favor, none opposed.

Mayor Bell said that three applicant are here for the finance position, Donna Wright, Fredrick Coultier, and Jennifer Fortin. Jennifer applied for the Clerk Position not the finance position.

Jennifer Fortin worked in New Hampshire came here on vacation and got a job here and received here Clerk's certification December of last year. Worked for Planning Board, Parks and Rec, Fire Pension Board, and also worked on payroll.

Mayor Bell asked how big of a city did you work for.

Jennifer said 2200.

Commissioner Gunter asked if she worked on budget.

Jennifer said they would send it out but had to review it.

Mayor Bell asked what is involved in getting Certified Municipal Clerk.

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Jennifer said 3 years of classes and summer classes and a week long program which total 100 points.

Mayor Bell wanted to know if this focused on Florida.

Jennifer said it is good in any state.

Vice Mayor Kelly wanted to know if Jennifer knew about record keeping and when to destroy records.

Jennifer said she had taken a course for that.

Commissioner Cheshire asked why she left her position.

Jennifer said she wanted career advancement and didn't see that there.

Commissioner Cheshire said so you just resigned.

Jennifer said yes.

Mayor Bell wants Jennifer to supply Marie with some references and salary history.

Jennifer said \$34,049 and \$25,000 in New Hampshire.

Mayor Bell thanked Jennifer for coming.

Mayor Bell asked Donna Wright to come up next.

Donna said she is currently working in Leesburg in the finance Department. Experience as full charge bookkeeper with a Master's in administration. Work with grants and payroll and did some budget work.

Mayor Bell asked why she left Eustis.

Donna answered because her husband had been transferred.

Commissioner Gunter wanted to ask if Donna had any experience with the Trim.

Donna said she did but does not know the Munis system, or Utility billing.

Commissioner Cheshire said that the budget is coming up and have you managed before.

Donna said yes three other people and she would supply references. Donna wanted to know the salary.

Mayor Bell said around \$60,000.

Mayor Bell asked Fredrick Coultier to come in and speak.

Fredrick worked in a billing department long ago and worked in accounting for a law firm. Has a Bachelor of Science degree and worked for a CPA firm in Orlando. Now I work in the budget department, and have received another Master's Degree. Went to the City of Soul to study their City government and depressing to see all the stuff they do that we don't.

Mayor Bell asked if he is at Seminole County now.

Fredrick said yes he is, but looking to work in Lake County.

Commissioner Gunter wants to know if he has ever worked with the Trim notice.

Fredrick has done all that and payroll but does not know the Munis system.

Mayor Bell asked if he has ever supervised.

Fredrick said that he had supervised a staff and now they try not to have anyone over a staff but just try to work together.

Vice Mayor Kelly asked Fredrick to supply a list of references and salary history.

Frederick said he is making \$72,000.

Mayor Bell said our position is paying \$55,000 to \$60,000.

Fredrick said that the ad didn't state salary but that it would not work for him to make a change.

Commission thanked him for his time.

Mayor Bell said to plan on a meeting June 20th at 7:00pm.

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06. COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

- a) Commissioner Gunter – The firm we hired will be making up a pamphlet to hand out, which we can have local restaurants and companies advertise in.
- b) Vice Mayor Kelly – It's been a long process and happy this coming to an end.
- c) Commissioner Goldberg – Happy to hire the firm and looking forward to working with the Colin Baenziger.
- d) Commissioner Cheshire – Glad with the decision and was hoping Michelle would be able to speak tonight about the ideas for the Recreation Department. Everyone has been doing a great job for us.

08. MAYOR BELL'S COMMENTS. Michelle can come next Thursday night and speak at that meeting. The staff has done a great job working together. Spoke to Chief and Marie and happy things are running smoothly. Governor Scott sent a note and asked if we needed him to call any businesses for us. Next Thursday Marie will set up the meetings with Colin Baenziger before the meeting and we will review the three applicants from tonight and Michelle will give her presentation. Regular meeting will be on the 27th. Charlie, the situation with Wingspread and The Glen are they trying to work things out?

Charlie said they are trying to get the Homeowners association to meet and settle without the City getting involved. Charlie said that we are planning on billing Wingspread all costs that are associated with the vacate.

Scott said The Glen wants the gate kept open and Wingspread wants it open only for the emergency purpose.

Mayor Bell wants the two Homeowners' Association notified that they will be the spokesmen for the homeowners at the next meeting. Scott will provide a memo summarizing the background for both sides.

09. ADJOURNMENT. There being no further business to discuss, Commissioner Cheshire moved to adjourn the regular meeting. The meeting adjourned at 9:40p.m.

Christopher J. Bell, Mayor

Attest:

Marie Azzolino, Acting City Clerk