

FRUITLAND PARK SPECIAL CITY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

April 2, 2013

MEETING STATISTICS. A special meeting of the Fruitland Park City Commission was conducted in the Commission Chambers of City Hall, 506 West Berckman Street, Fruitland Park, Florida on Tuesday, April 2, 2013 beginning at 6:40 p.m.

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

ROLL CALL. Mayor Bell asked City Clerk Diane Gibson Smith to call the roll.

ELECTED OFFICIALS PRESENT. Commissioner Christopher Cheshire, Commissioner John L. Gunter, Jr., and Mayor Christopher J. Bell. Commissioner Albert O. Goldberg and Vice Mayor Sharon Kelly requested to be excused. The Commission excused them.

MUNICIPAL OFFICIALS/OTHERS PRESENT. Police Chief (PC) Terry Isaacs, City Clerk (CC) Diane Gibson Smith, City Treasurer (CT) Jeannine Racine Michaud, Community Development Director (CDD) Charlie Rector

01. CITIZENS COMMENTS

- a) Rick Ranize, a concerned citizen, stated he would like the Valley Road storm water project near his home done as it is designed and the money is in the budget. He requested the project be added to the next agenda. Mr. Ranize requested the opinion of each commissioner present.

Commissioner Cheshire stated tonight's meeting is to discuss the City Manager. Capital projects are to be discussed on May 18th.

Commissioner Gunter stated he was okay with the topic being put onto the next agenda.

02. NEW BUSINESS

- a) Resignation of interim City Manager. Mayor Bell stated this resignation did come after a discussion he had with Mr. Cottrell. Mayor Bell clarified that an offer was not made; a review of the employment agreement indicated there were two options – a 15 day notice worked out or to pay him for the 15 days and allow him to leave immediately.

CA Gerken stated the contract did lay out a 15 day notice.

CT Michaud provided information on the payout amount to Mr. Cottrell.

Mayor Bell stated he did tell Mr. Cottrell that in the past when a Department Head has decided to leave, we have preferred to pay them for the time rather than work out the notice. The decision will be made by the Commission.

Commissioner Cheshire questioned since Mr. Cottrell had resigned, do we need to pay him the 15 days. CA Gerken stated we could require Mr. Cottrell to work the 15 days. He is requesting the Commission to pay out his 15 day notice in lieu of working it out.

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Commissioner Gunter stated Mr. Cottrell is resigning instead of being terminated. CA Gerken stated yes.

Commissioner Gunter moved and Commissioner Cheshire seconded to accept the resignation of Mr. Cottrell per the employment agreement. The motion carried with all Commissioners present voting aye.

b). Appointed Police Chief Isaacs as Acting City Manager for 45 days. Mayor Bell stated he did not believe an Interim City Manager was necessary unless no manager has been selected during the time. Mayor Bell suggested Police Chief Isaacs as the Acting City Manager.

Commissioner Gunter stated we have had the Police Chief in the past.

Commissioner Gunter moved and Commissioner Cheshire seconded to appoint Chief Isaacs as Acting City Manager for 45 days. The motion carried with all Commissioners present voting aye.


Chief Isaacs stated he would accept the position

02. COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

- a) Commissioner Cheshire - stated this is very unfortunate. This type of thing happens. Commented to Mr. Ranize that we have a list of pending projects which we are hoping to move along. Mr. Ranize's project is on the top of the list. These will be reviewed on the 18th. Fruitland Park Day - any special time to be there. CC Gibson Smith stated you will meet Saturday morning at 9:00 a.m. at Sta-Rite Carts. The Recreation Director will call to verify.
- b) Commissioner Gunter - stated Mr. Cottrell interviewed very well. Can usually judge a person quickly, but apparently I am a bad judge. He did have some good ideas.


03. MAYOR BELL'S COMMENTS. Mayor Bell stated Mr. Cottrell did interview well. Mayor Bell stated perhaps we need to look at the size of the cities the manager has been at and take the time to interview our selection more thoroughly. We expect the City Manager to follow the Commissions will. When things are working well, the Commission is not involved, but does become involved when things are not working well.

04. ADJOURNMENT. There being no further business to discuss, Commissioner Cheshire moved to adjourn the regular meeting. The meeting adjourned at 7:03 p.m.



Christopher J. Bell, Mayor

Attest:



Diane L. Gibson Smith, CMC, City Clerk