

**FRUITLAND PARK SPECIAL CITY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES**  
**February 21, 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 Thursday, February 21, 2013 beginning at 6:00 p.m

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

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

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

MUNICIPAL OFFICIALS/OTHERS PRESENT. Interim City Manager (ICM) Stephen Cottrell, Police Chief (PC) Terry Isaacs, City Clerk (CC) Diane Gibson Smith.

01. Mayor Bell announced the Shade meeting which would have the following members present: Vice Mayor Kelly, Commission Goldberg, Interim City Manager Cottrell, Commissioner Cheshire, Commissioner Goldberg, Mayor Bell, City Attorney Scott Gerken, and a court reporter. The estimated time is approximately 30 minutes.

The meeting went into closed session at 6:05 p.m. CC Gibson Smith and PC Isaacs left the room.

The regular meeting went back into session at 7:10 p.m. CC Gibson Smith and PC Isaacs returned to the meeting.

02. COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

- a) Commissioner Gunter – none
- b) Vice Mayor Kelly –none
- c) Commissioner Goldberg – requested to be excused from the February 28 City Commission meeting due to a conflict with a scheduled conference.
- d) Commissioner Cheshire – stated he was upset with Lauren Ritchie’s reference to Fruitland Park community as “Hillbillies”. He stated he has written a letter that he would like to submit to the editor. He asked if others would like to join in or would make changes.

Commissioner Goldberg agreed with Commissioner Cheshire, but noted Lauren Ritchie hides behind the term “opinionator.”

CA Gerken noted she is very careful to state she is a commentator. He suggested the best way to handle this is to take the high road and ignore.

Vice Mayor Kelly stated the letter should be sent and her name can be added.

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Commissioner Gunter questioned who would receive the letter. Commissioner Cheshire stated the editor, the managing editor, and the publisher would receive it.

Commissioner Cheshire stated she continues to make us look bad.

Mayor Bell noted he is okay with this.

ICM Cottrell stated he tries to forge good relationships with the press. He did not recommend sending the letter as it could be more damaging. He noted he would not fault anyone for sending the letter. The press can destroy people's careers just by quoting them.


By consensus, the letter will not be sent.

Commissioner Goldberg noted the pot will be stirred for a bit by this person and then nothing will be written for a while.

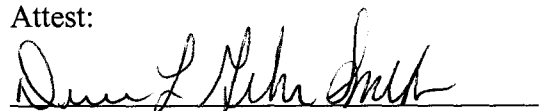
03. MAYOR BELL'S COMMENTS. Mayor Bell asked if everyone had had a chance to sit down with the Interim City Manager.

ICM Cottrell noted he has not had a chance to sit down with everyone yet. Has been a busy 4 days and is learning much about the city.

04. ADJOURNMENT. There being no further business to discuss, Commissioner Cheshire moved to adjourn the regular meeting. The meeting adjourned at 7:24 p.m.

  
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Christopher J. Bell, Mayor

Attest:

  
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Diane L. Gibson Smith, CMC, City Clerk