

FRUITLAND PARK CITY COMMISSION SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

July 19, 2012

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, July 19, 2012 beginning at 5:31 p.m.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE. Pastor Mulford of the Grace Bible Baptist Church delivered the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Commissioner Kelly.

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

ELECTED OFFICIALS PRESENT. Commissioner John L. Gunter, Jr., Commissioner Sharon Kelly, Commissioner Albert O. Goldberg, Mayor Christopher J. Bell. Vice Mayor Jim Richardson arrived at 5:34 pm.

MUNICIPAL OFFICIALS/OTHERS PRESENT. City Manager (CM) Ralph Bowers, Public Works Director (PWD) John Bostic III, City Treasurer (CT) Jeannine Racine Michaud, Community Development Director (CDD) Charlie Rector, and City Clerk (CC) Diane Gibson Smith.

1. Approved MPO Interlocal Agreement and MPO Budget for Fruitland Park. Pam Richmond, of the MPO, gave an explanation of the services the MPO provides.

Vice Mayor Richardson arrived at 5:34

Ms. Richmond stated they ask each city to provide funding for 1.5 persons. The amount requested is a 10% reduction over last year's request and is based on the population. She noted the regular voting seats are charged more.

Commissioner Gunter questioned where the rest of funding comes from. Ms. Richmond noted the rest of the funding comes from federal and state funding, grants, etc. The MPO is required to do many things every year. The organization is made up of one executive director and five staff members.

Commissioner Kelly moved and Commissioner Gunter seconded to approve the interlocal agreement. The motion carried with all Commissioners voting aye.

Commissioner Kelly moved and Vice Mayor Richardson seconded to approve the MPO budget amount for Fruitland Park. The motion carried with all Commissioners voting aye.

2. Adopted Proposed Millage Rate of 5.3370 mills.

CT Michaud reviewed the change being made to the ad valorem proposed millage due to a correction to the calculation of the roll back rate.

Mayor Bell reminded everyone this is for a proposed millage rate that we cannot exceed as we move forward with the budget. He stated last year's budget sessions were very stressful. This year, he would like to stick with a budget that is balanced at a 4 - 1 vote in order to relieve stress.

Vice Mayor Richardson stated he saw a \$120,000 transfer from the Utility Fund into the General Fund with \$100,000 coming from Fruitland Estates and questioned if we have plans.

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CM Bowers stated no.

Vice Mayor Richardson then asked if we know we are going to get that money.

CM Bowers stated there is no guaranty.

Commissioner Kelly asked if there were any expenses associated with the proposed income from Fruitland Estates in the budget.

CM Bowers stated there are no expenses against that income. He noted there is no guaranty we will receive any of the funds.

Commissioner Kelly questioned what was the budgeted increase. A discussion was held on the increases in utility.

Commissioner Kelly moved and Commissioner Gunter seconded to adopt 5.3370 as the proposed millage rate. The roll call vote was as follows:

Mayor Bell	Aye
Commissioner Goldberg	Aye
Commissioner Kelly	Aye
Commissioner Gunter	Aye
Vice Mayor Richardson	Nay

The motion carried with 4 ayes and 1 nay.

Mayor Bell announced the current roll back rate is 4.6442. He also announced the first public hearing to approve the tentative millage rate and tentative budget will be held on Thursday, September 13, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. The final public hearing to adopt the final millage rate and final budget will be held on Thursday, September 27, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. Both meetings will be held in the Commission Chambers at Fruitland Park City Hall.

3. Decided to get additional information prior to making a decision on SMW GeoScience Contract

CM Bowers stated if get negative results on the water testing, we will pull the plug on the project.

Vice Mayor Richardson questioned where the well is located.

CM Bowers stated it is approximately 100 yards after the corner.

Vice Mayor Richardson questioned the distance from our current lines.

Commissioner Gunter stated Pine Ridge Dairy has a PUD to put all this stuff in place.

CM Bowers stated he will get more information before moving forward with this proposal. He noted several items were discussed today in a meeting. Century Estates has offered to sell us their systems but we determined this was not a viable option. We are required by terms of CUP to replace Well 6 and take Well 6 out of production however, we do not meet

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our max/day without Well 6 so we need to do something within the next 3 years. Trying to find way to take care of this with available funds and not borrow funds. Logan's is available to us and water would be good, but cost is prohibitive. Pine Ridge Dairy property is probably the least expensive option.

Commissioner Kelly stated in the past we have put in lines and had people pay us back.

CM Bowers stated that is being looked at for the future.

Commissioner Gunter asked if we have the timeline yet.

CM Bowers stated we need to complete within 3 years.

CM Bowers if we don't test Pine Ridge Dairy, then test wells will need to be done. The Pine Ridge Dairy property well already has an active CUP which is a plus.

CDD Rector noted the Blueberry Farm has a large well.

Vice Mayor Richardson suggested perhaps this could be looked at if the Pine Ridge Dairy well doesn't work.

CM Bowers stated we will get information on the cost of the Pine Ridge Dairy lines before August 6, 2012 and bring this back.

Commissioner Kelly suggested to perhaps send a sample into our normal water tester.

PWD Bostic noted it will take at least 30 days to get results back.

Several suggestions were made on testing of the water and a discussion on how best to move forward took place.

Mayor Bell asked if Task 1 and Task 2 can be done in-house to save some money.

CM Bowers stated no; we are not professionals. More information will be brought back at the August 6th meeting.

04. CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT - none

05. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT - none

06. CITIZENS' COMMENTS

a. Michael S. Howard, a concerned citizen, stated as a city employee for Leesburg he has worked on many budgets. He stated he just attended FL Association of Code Enforcement where he learned a new round of foreclosures coming in the Fall may dwarf what we had a year ago. When thinking about increasing water rates, this will be a drop in the bucket as people will be vanishing from our city. He stated we may need to start looking at cuts and other ways to save money. Raising the millage rate to the proposed is not feasible to our citizens. The number one way of maintaining a budget is personnel. He noted he is all for looking in every direction.

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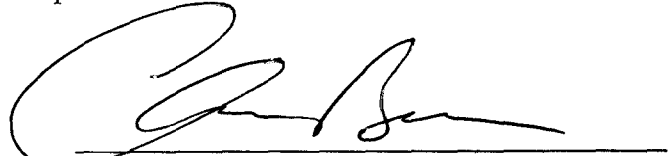
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07. COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

- a. Vice Mayor Richardson - none
- b. Commissioner Kelly - the millage sounds high but property values have gone down so it could end up being a decrease in taxes.
- c. Commissioner Gunter - none
- d. Commissioner Goldberg - none

08. MAYOR BELL'S COMMENTS. Mayor Bell reported the upcoming dates.

09. ADJOURNMENT. There being no further business to discuss, Commissioner Richardson moved to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 6:54 p.m.



Christopher J. Bell, Mayor

Attest:


Diane L. Gibson Smith, CMC, City Clerk