

**FRUITLAND PARK CITY COMMISSION WORKSHOP
AMENDED MEETING MINUTES
August 8, 2017**

A workshop meeting of the Fruitland Park City Commission was held at 506 W. Berckman Street, Fruitland Park, Florida 34731 on Tuesday, August 8, 2017 at 6:30 p.m.

Members Present: Mayor Chris Cheshire, Vice Mayor John L. Gunter, Jr., Commissioners Christopher Bell, Ray Lewis, and Rick Ranize.

Also Present: City Manager Gary La Venia, , City Treasurer; Jeannine Racine; Captain Eric Luce; Executive Administrative Assistant Karen McKillips, Police Department; Interim Fire Chief Don Gilpin; Deputy Fire Chief, Tim Yoder, Fire Department; Community Development Director Charlie Rector; Public Works Director Dale Bogle; Deputy City Clerk Dana Coleman and City Clerk Esther B. Coulson.

1. CALL TO ORDER

After Mayor Cheshire called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m., Captain Luce led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

2. ROLL CALL

At Mayor Cheshire's request, Ms. Coulson called the roll.

3. FY 2017-18 BUDGET

• Unrestricted Reserves

Ms. Racine pointed out the general fund's unrestricted reserves on the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report FY 2017-18 and the alternative fund balance reflected in the General Funds Unrestricted Reserve for the end of FY 2016-17 noting that \$125,000 would be budgeted after all changes have been made. (A copy of the respective document is filed with the supplemental papers to the minutes of this meeting.)

• Redevelopment

Ms. Racine addressed the need to relocate the CR 466A utilities project (originally budgeted at \$160,000 and resulting in more than \$322,000 for FY 2017-18) which was moved to utilities; gave reasons why she moved \$172,000 back to the Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) redevelopment fund and left the remaining \$150,000 in utilities. She explained the remaining revenue in the utilities department due to the \$2.5 million loan and the \$750,000 in grant funding which will return to the bank balance and gave reasons why she believed the city ought to expend extra funds on water wastewater capital projects.

Much later in the meeting, and after Commissioner Ranize referred to Lake County's projections on the cost of \$322,741 on the redevelopment system improvements to relocate the city's phase II infrastructure project, Mr. La Venia recognized the phase I infrastructure project (CR 466A) for approximately

\$328,000 where no invoices were received from the county and the city's advanced payment to the county prior to its award of the project.

After discussion, Mr. La Venia concurred with Commissioner Ranize' request to receive invoices from the county.

- Roads and Streets

Commissioner Ranize requested the city commission's decision to utilize approximately \$120,000 towards the city's roadway projects for FY 2016-17 and \$132,000 for FY 2017-18 and how CRA funds would be utilized as redevelopment projects.

In response, Ms. Racine referred to the second page of the handout reflecting a fund balance of about \$136,022 for the end of FY 2017-18 and addressed the anticipation of receiving more revenue as the CRA property value increases.

After recognizing the availability of \$50,000 for road resurfacing in the general fund for FY 2016-17, Mr. La Venia addressed the need for the city commission to consider in the future Wingspread and The Glenn developments (which are not in the CRA) to which Mayor Cheshire suggested that City Attorney Anita Geraci-Carver would need to establish \$2,000 in restricted funds by resolution.

Subsequent to further discussion on the need to perform cost analysis on the replacement of the city's roadways and as suggested by Commissioner Ranize, **the city commission, by unanimous consent, directed staff to report back to the city commission on the grading of the city's roadways in need of repair.**

Following much discussion and **by unanimous consent, the city commission recommended that the city treasurer divide the funds.**

Commissioner Lewis' inquired about the utility fund balance and supplanting \$150,00 into utilities.

In response, Ms. Racine addressed her findings on the FY 2016-17 end fund balance recognizing the difficulty in making predictions and determining the accuracy until she receives information from the auditors and Mr. La Venia indicated that he will communicate with Ms. Geraci-Carver in this regard.

- Public Works Department Building

Ms. Racine noted the constant changes in figures for the proposed construction of the public works department building and requested the city commission's authorization to allocate \$400,000 towards FY 2017-18 budget (leaving a fund balance in capital improvements) where any overages can be placed in the utility department.

Mayor Cheshire referred to Mr. Rector's memorandum dated August 8, 2017 regarding the Public Works Building Location on Lime Street, Old Public Works Yard with the accompanied proposed public works building study plans; copies of which are filed with the supplemental papers to the minutes of this meeting.

Mr. La Venia noted the maximum cost of \$421,000 for the potential construction on the existing site which can be changed; addressed the likelihood to rework the site where annual improvements can be made, and described the features where costs were lowered.

At Commissioner Bell's request, Mr. Rector outlined the savings involved; addressed the advantages of the existing site location highlighting its dimensions and features, and described the proposed construction in comparison with the new building referenced at the July 13, 2017 workshop meeting.

Commissioner Ranize expressed concerns on the condition of the public works building and in reviewing the proposed plans; he gave comparison to a previous public work building where he worked, and expressed concerns on not seeing a plan with options, facts and figures to make a decision; expressed concerns on the stormwater runoff at the current location which should be paved, and requested an exact figure for the new library construction retention area.

After further discussion, Vice Mayor Gunter mentioned his previous tour of a similar building and addressed the makeup of same and the need for office space.

Following further deliberations, and **by unanimous consent, the city commission authorized the city treasurer to place an allocation of \$400,000 in the FY 2017-18 budget for the proposed construction of the public works building and postponed proceeding on same until more information is presented to the city commission at a future workshop meeting.**

- Police Department

Ms. Racine noted the change to include a third additional police officer to the last quarter instead of the last half of the fiscal year; indicated that the \$34,000 came out of the reserves and agreed with Mayor Cheshire's assessment from \$125,000 to \$142,000 which he believed ought to remain.

Following extensive discussions, Captain Luce explained that he does not foresee any changes precluding the need (mid-year FY 2017-18) for a law enforcement officer in April 2018; addressed the need for the police department to make preparations for said additional position, and requested that the city commission keep an open mind; thus, noting that Police Chief Mike Fewless intends to make his case before the commission.

~~After discussion and by unanimous consent, the city commission accepted the previous request made by the police chief at its June 20, 2017 workshop~~

~~meeting and recognized its position to address the third additional officer for \$34,293 during mid-year budget FY 2017-18.~~ The majority of the city commission agreed with the city treasurer's request to transfer said funds (\$125,000 to \$142,000) to the reserves.

After discussion and by unanimous consent, the city commission agreed with the city treasurer's request to transfer \$34,293 in the current budget to another line item to address the additional law enforcement officer and approved making a decision on same during mid-year budget FY 2017-18. The majority of the city commission agreed to transfer said funds (\$125,000 to \$142,000) to the reserves.

4. OTHER BUSINESS

(a) Code Enforcement Officer

Mr. La Venia referred to the city commission's consensus at its July 28, 2017 regular meeting to increase the FY 2017-18 budget to allow additional hours allotted towards the code enforcement officer's position. He relayed his conversations with Ms. Lori Davis, Code Enforcement Officer, who expressed her willingness to work three days a week. Mr. La Venia mentioned intent to address Mr. Rector's disagreement on utilizing funds from the community development department's permitting budget with Ms. Geraci-Carver for the code enforcement officers' compensation.

(b) FY 2017-18 Budget

Commissioner Lewis voiced his satisfaction with the FY 2017-18 budget at this time; addressed the plan to proceed, and gave his commitment to work with the city commission to approve what it has achieved in this regard.

Vice Mayor Gunter expressed his satisfaction with the millage rate.

(c) Public Comments

Earlier in the meeting, Ms. Coulson made reference to Mr. La Venia's comments made at staff meeting held earlier this day that there will be no change in the employee benefits health insurance and recognized the presence of Ms. Coleman at this evening's meeting.

Ms. Coleman expressed concerns on the affordability of the city employees' health insurance; pointed out the research she conducted on benefits and programs offered by local governments where she believed that better rates could be attained, and requested that the city commission review the issue and provide employees with options.

Ms. Coleman referred to the city commission's discussions regarding Ms. Davis; addressed her review of the State of Florida Division of Corporations, and her computation on the number of businesses in the city without business licenses.

In concurring with Ms. Coleman's statements on the expense of medical insurance, Mr. La Venia described the monthly coverages for dependents and payment by the city and addressed the consequences and cost difference of lowering payments to move to a plan with less medical benefits. He mentioned the possibility of reviewing other existing medical insurance health programs and questioned the city commission's position to address same beyond the employee and extend coverage to dependents with the possibility of piggybacking with other municipalities.

The city commission shared their experiences regarding medical insurance coverage costs for dependents; the various health insurance, community rating plans and options with tiers, and the problems relating to the claims process and costs designated based on the number of employees.

Mr. La Venia addressed his willingness to communicate with Ms. Tera Townsend, Lassiterware, the city's employee benefits consultant, on her insight in this regard as well as, in response to Commissioner Lewis' inquiry, reviewing the Florida League of Cities' Group Health Program.

In response to Ms. Coleman's inquiry, Mr. La Venia indicated that the State of Florida Division of Management Services' health insurance plans would be looked into.

5. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

The minutes, originally approved at the August 24, 2017 regular meeting, were amended and approved at the December 6, 2017 regular meeting.

Signed _____
Esther B. Coulson, City Clerk

Signed _____
Chris Cheshire, Mayor