

**FRUITLAND PARK COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY  
MEETING MINUTES  
December 14, 2023**

A meeting of the Fruitland Park Community Redevelopment Agency was held at 506 W. Berckman Street, Fruitland Park, Florida 34731 on Thursday, December 14, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.

**Members Present:** Mayor Chris Cheshire, Vice Mayor Patrick DeGrave, Commissioners John L. Gunter Jr., and Chris Bell.

**Members Absent:** Commissioner John Mobilian

**Also Present:** City Manager Gary La Venia; City Attorney Anita Geraci-Carver; City Treasurer Gary Bachmann; Captain Henry Rains, Police Department; Public Works Director Robb Dicus; Human Resources Director John Klein; Michael “Mike” Rankin, Interim Community Development Director, LPG Urban & Regional Planners Inc. (consultant retained by the city); Lieutenant Barry Fitzgerald, Battalion Chief, Lake County Fire Rescue, and City Clerk Esther B. Coulson.

**1. Call to Order**

Mayor Cheshire called the meeting to order.

ACTION: 6:19:32 p.m. No action was taken.

**2. Roll Call**

After Mayor Cheshire requested that Ms. Coulson call the roll where a quorum was declared present, and Commissioner Mobilian’s absence was acknowledged.

ACTION: 6:19:36 p.m. **By unanimous consent, the CRA excused the absence of Commissioner John Moblian.**

**3. Approval of Minutes**

The CRA considered its action to approve the September 14, 2023 minutes:

ACTION: 6:19:56 p.m. **On motion of Vice Mayor DeGrave, seconded by Commissioner Bell and unanimously carried, the CRA approved the September 14, 2023 minutes as submitted.**

**4. CRA ACFR and Audit Engagement Letter**

The CRA considered its action to approve the CRA Annual Comprehensive Financial Report, September 30, 2022 and Audit Engagement Letter, McDirmit Davis, Certified Public Accountants.

Mr. La Venia gave reasons why he is recommending that the CRA continue to retain McDirmit Davis, CPA for FY 2023-24; recalled the city commission’s directive at its March 9, 2023 regular meeting to proceed with the request for proposals (RFP) for auditor

services prior to the FY 2023-24 budget process, and indicated that if it is the governing body's desire in that regard, the RFP procedures would commence March 2024.

**ACTION:** 6:20:11 p.m. After much discussion and **on motion of Vice Mayor DeGrave, seconded by Commissioner Bell and unanimously carried, the CRA accepted the audit engagement letter (March 2023-June 2023) and the CRA Annual Comprehensive Financial Report, as previously cited, and agreed to retain McDirmit Davis, Certified Public Accountants, to conduct the 2023 audit in 2024.**

**5. CRA REDEVELOPMENT TAXES – FY 2023-24**

The CRA considered its action to approve payment from the general fund to the redevelopment fund for redevelopment taxes for FY 2023-24.

Mr. Bachmann addressed the issue of the total payment for \$434,708 being over the budget of \$416,426 due to the Lake County Property Appraiser's Office providing the city with property values (in September 2023) which increased after the city commission established its 2023-24 budget in July and August 2023. He explained the opportunity for an amendment and recommended that the invoices be paid.

**ACTION:** 6:25:15 p.m. **On motion of Vice Mayor DeGrave, seconded by Commissioner Bell and unanimously carried, the CRA approved the payment to the redevelopment fund as previously cited.**

**6. Five-Foot Sidewalk Installation – Fountain Street and College Avenue Row and Civil Engineering and Surveying Services Design Proposal – Halff Inc.**

Motion to consider the approval of a five-foot sidewalk installation at the south right-of-way line of Fountain Street and the west right-of-way line of College Avenue and civil engineering and surveying services design proposal at city hall complex from Halff Inc.

Mr. La Venia gave reasons why he is recommending denial of the subject item due to the expense and suggested that the CRA wait out same.

**ACTION:** 6:26:52 p.m. **On motion of Vice Mayor DeGrave, seconded by Commissioner Gunter and unanimously carried, the CRA postponed indefinitely its action to approve the five-foot sidewalk installation as previously cited.**

**7. CRA 2024 Meeting Schedule**

The CRA considered its action to approve the 2024 CRA meeting schedule.

**ACTION:** 6:29:22 p.m. **On motion of Vice Mayor DeGrave, seconded by Vice Mayor Gunter and unanimously carried, the CRA approved the 2024 CRA meeting schedule as submitted.**

**8. Public Comments**

There were no public comments at this time.

ACTION: 6:29:30 p.m. No action was taken.

**9. Unfinished Business**

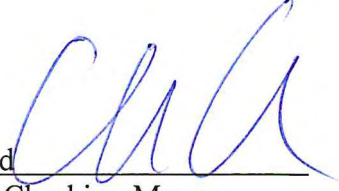
There was no unfinished business to come before the CRA at this time.

ACTION: 6:30:08 p.m. No action was taken.

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

  
Signed  
Esther B. Coulson, City Clerk, MMC

  
Signed  
Chris Cheshire, Mayor

