

**FRUITLAND PARK FIRE SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
November 29, 2016**

A meeting of the Fruitland Park Fire Services Advisory Committee was held at 506 W. Berckman Street, Fruitland Park, Florida 34731 on Tuesday, November 29, 2016 at 6:00 p.m.

Members Present: Messrs. Gary Towne, representing District (Group) 1
Edward R. Cihoski, Sr., representing District (Group) 2
Sydney “Dale” Arrowsmith, representing District (Group) 3
Edgar J. “Jerry” Elton, representing District (Group) 4
James P. Logan, representing District (Group) 5, and
William “Bill” K. Galbreath, business owner representative

(Steven “Steve” Whitaker, fire chief representative, entered the meeting room as reflected in the minutes of this meeting.)

Also Present: Mayor Chris Cheshire, Commissioners Ray Lewis, and Rick Ranize; City Manager Gary La Venia, City Attorney Anita Geraci-Carver, City Treasurer Jeannine Racine-Michaud; Interim Fire Chief Don Gilpin; Fire Department Deputy Fire Chief Tim Yoder, Firefighters Chris Lewis, David Campbell, Joshua Ranize and Sean Parker, Fire Department, and City Clerk Esther B. Coulson.

1. CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Logan called the meeting to order and led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

2. ROLL CALL

Ms. Coulson called the roll and a quorum was declared present.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On motion of Mr. Galbreath, seconded by Mr. Elton and unanimously carried, the committee approved the November 15, 2016 minutes as submitted.

After Mr. La Venia gave an overview of the committee’s task to review the future of the fire department, and cost scenarios and relayed Mr. Jerry Smith, Lake EMS Executive Director, expressed his willingness to appear before the committee regarding the current relationship with the city’s fire department.

By unanimous consent, Chair Logan took the following items out of order on this evening’s agenda until the arrival of Mr. Whitaker.

4. DISCUSSION ITEMS

(Mr. Whitaker entered the meeting room during the following item.)

(b) Current Fire Department

Interim Chief Gilpin gave a presentation “Fruitland Park Fire Rescue Firefighting:” under *Proposals, City Manager*; copies of which are filed with the supplemental papers to the minutes of this meeting.

(a) Fire Department Revised Ideas

Mr. Whitaker gave a power-point presentation of the under the *Revised Ideas, Committee Member Whitaker*; copies of which are filed with the supplemental papers to the minutes of this meeting.

(c) Fire Department Fiscal Year 2016-17 Budget

Ms. Racine-Michaud reviewed the budgetary items under *Fire Department Budget City Treasurer*; copies of which are filed with the supplemental papers to the minutes of this meeting.

5. COMMITTEE MEMBER QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

Earlier in the meeting, the chair explained that he was informed, this day, that the timeline for the committee to make recommendations to the city commission is early January 2017 and recognized the committee’s leeway because of the holidays, that it would not pose a problem if extra time in holding additional meetings is required.

Following extensive deliberations, Mr. Whitaker reviewed the county’s response times by Lake County and requested that Mr. Gilpin provide information on the city’s average fire protection and rescue service delivery response time to calls within city limits.

After Mr. La Venia addressed the need for him to review with Mr. Gilpin from a budgetary point of view, to eventually review retaining a fulltime fire chief or administrative staff trained in firefighting to administer the department, scheduling, payroll and so forth.

Later in the meeting, Interim Chief Gilpin was directed to report back to the committee with his vision of the fire department.

Additionally, Mr. La Venia concurred with the request suggesting that Interim Chief Gilpin provide the five-year capital improvement plan for the committee’s review.

6. STAFF COMMENTS

In response to a question posed by Mr. Whitaker, Mr. La Venia suggested that the committee ought to base its decisions on what it thinks is best for the city in terms of fire protection services.

7. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business to come before the committee at this time.

8. FUTURE MEETING DATES

9. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments at this time.


10. NEW BUSINESS


There was no new business to come before the committee.

11. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the city commission at this time, on motion made, second and unanimously carried, the meeting adjourned at 8:26 p.m.

The minutes were approved at the December 6, 2016 meeting.

Signed  _____
Esther B. Coulson, City Clerk

Signed  _____
James P. Logan, Chair