FRUITLAND PARK CITY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
February 28, 2013

MEETING STATISTICS. A regular 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 28, 2013 beginning at 7:00 p.m

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

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

ELECTED OFFICIALS PRESENT. Commissioner John L. Gunter, Jr., Commissioner Chris Cheshire, and Mayor Christopher J. Bell. Commissioner Albert O. Goldberg had asked to be excused due to a work conflict. Vice Mayor Sharon Kelly requested to be excused due to illness. Both members were excused.

MUNICIPAL OFFICIALS/OTHERS PRESENT. Interim City Manager (ICM) Stephen Cottrell, Police Chief (PC) Terry Isaacs, City Treasurer (CT) Jeannine Racine Michaud, Community Development Director (CDD) Charlie Rector, Recreation Director (RD) Michelle Yoder, and City Clerk (CC) Diane Gibson Smith.

01. CITIZENS COMMENTS - None

02. HEARD PRESENTATION ON THE US 441/27 RELIEVER ROAD. Pam Richmond of the Lake Sumter MPO introduced John Moore from FDOT and Dave Mulholland from GMB (engineers).

Mr. Moore presented information on the US 441/27 Reliever Road comprehensive planning study. (A copy of the presentation is attached.) Three options included are: looking at operational improvements along 441/27, capacity improvements along 441/27, doing nothing, and looking at alternative alignments. He stated the next meeting with elected officials and city officials is scheduled for May 15, 2013 at 5:30 p.m. in Lady Lake Public Library.

Mayor Bell stated if they are looking for input from the City, how close to the project can the City give input that may affect decisions. Mr. Moore stated they would accept input whenever.

Pam Richmond reassured the Commission that the City's input would be valuable on this project.

Commissioner Gunter spoke about the issues we are having in being heard by FDOT especially in regards to moving the light from 25A to the end of Miller on 441. Ms. Richmond stated she may be able to help with this issue.

Mr. Moore suggested a public meeting with citizens could be held, if needed, before the May meeting. Mayor Bell suggested perhaps a Saturday morning meeting could be scheduled. Commissioners are to bring calendars to the next meeting to schedule a date.

ICM Cottrell questioned the expected outcome of the 441/27 project now. Ms. Richmond noted 441/27 cannot be widened again and the 2035 projections indicated an alternate route may be needed.

Mr. Mulholland provided a time table. He again mentioned the alternatives meeting in mid- May. He noted the Reliever Study is really focusing on 441/27 and what else is out there that can be done.

03. TABLED RESOLUTION 2013-005 UNTIL MARCH 28, 2013. Mayor Bell moved Resolution 2013-005 up on the agenda as there was a request to table the item.

Commissioner Cheshire moved and Commissioner Gunter seconded to table Resolution 2013-005 until March 28, 2013. The motion carried with all Commissioners voting aye.

04. CONSENT
Mayor Bell presented the Consent Agenda for approval.

Commissioner Cheshire moved and Commissioner Gunter seconded to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. The motion carried with all Commissioners voting aye. The following items were approved: minutes of the February 14, 2013 CRA meeting and the minutes of the February 14, 2013 City Commission meeting.

05. CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT - none

06. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT
Mayor Bell introduced Interim City Manager Steve Cottrell.

ICM Cottrell gave a brief summary of his background. He stated he would like to set-up a workshop to look at priorities as we move towards the budget process. Issues include comprehensive plan updates, rate studies, etc. Scheduling of this meeting will be done at the next meeting.

07. PUBLIC HEARINGS - none

08. OLD BUSINESS

1. ICM Cottrell stated previously an update for the brush truck in the fire department was reviewed. The retrofit will cost approximately $3,000. Would like to fund this out of the General Fund Contingency.

   Commissioner Gunter moved and Commissioner Cheshire seconded to approve using not more than $3,000 out of the contingency fund to retrofit the brush truck. The motion carried with all Commissioners voting aye.

   Commissioner Gunter noted as of March 11, 2013 the fire department pagers are being discontinued. This is of concern and will need to be addressed at budget time.

09. NEW BUSINESS

1. RD Yoder stated we have a sand volleyball court and she has purchased a new net and new balls. She is requesting permission to do a free volleyball night to get the idea of a volleyball program started.

   She further stated a resident called her and asked about starting a fun swim team. The problem is there are no lanes in the pool. The resident's previous programs have attracted 100 kids which would bring in $3,000 in revenue. The ages are 4 – 12 and they learn how swim meets work. RD Yoder is requesting to put in five lanes to accommodate this idea. Total cost for the lanes would be under $4,000.

   Mayor Bell noted the installation of lanes had been looked at before.

   RD Yoder stated additional lanes would also increase the lap swim being offered.

   Commissioner Cheshire questioned if 100 kids could really be expected. RD Yoder stated we have better relationships with the schools so that improves our pool of kids from which to draw.

   Mayor Bell suggested bringing back quotes on having the lanes installed.

   Commissioner Gunter noted he recently saw a training session for that age group for learning how to do marathons. Many kids were participating.

   Mayor Bell asked how Fruitland Park Days are coming. RD Yoder updated everyone on the events and acts she has scheduled.

2. PC Isaacs provided additional information regarding an officer at the elementary school. He stated he had begun this program at the request of our school principal. The School Board then picked up the officer cost for the month of January. We kept an officer there through mid-February. Currently we are reviewing "neck alarm" systems and other security ideas. Chief Isaacs noted he may need some funds added to the overtime budget at the end of the year. At this time, we will not schedule an officer to be at the school full-time. Instead, we will be parking a spare squad car on sight during the day. Also, the principal and staff have the direct phone lines to members of our Police Department. We are only a block away.

3. Approved 12% retroactive pay as Acting City Manager for City Clerk. Mayor Bell shared information from the memo prepared by the City Treasurer. Mayor Bell stated 15% had been suggested at one meeting.

   Commissioner Cheshire questioned if there was money left over from Ralph leaving to cover this. CT Michaud stated giving the 15% may leave the department a couple hundred short.

   Commissioner Gunter moved and Commissioner Cheshire seconded to give 12%. The motion carried with all Commissioners voting aye.

10. COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

a) Commissioner Cheshire – stated will be attending the County Commission meeting on 3/12 to receive recognition for his service on the Recreation Advisory Board.

b) Commissioner Gunter– stated he is the Liaison for the Fire department. He used their services recently and learned it takes about 3 minutes to get to his house. He appreciated their response. They did a great job.

11. MAYOR BELL'S COMMENTS. Mayor Bell welcomed new Interim City Manager Cottrell on the job.

Commissioner Gunter questioned if we were advertising for a new City Manager yet or not. Mayor Bell stated this will be discussed at a future meeting.

Mayor Bell reviewed the upcoming events.

Commissioner Gunter asked if notices will be sent out regarding the dumpsters being provided by Waste Management. More advertising will be done this year.

12. ADJOURNMENT. There being no further business to discuss, Commissioner Cheshire moved to adjourn the regular meeting. The meeting adjourned at 8:26 p.m.

Christopher J. Bell, Mayor

Attest:

Diane L. Gibson Smith, CMC, City Clerk