

**FRUITLAND PARK CITY COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES
June 25, 2015**

A regular meeting of the Fruitland Park City Commission was held at 506 W. Berckman Street, Fruitland Park, Florida 34731 on Thursday, June 25, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.

Members Present: Mayor Christopher Bell, Vice Mayor Christopher Cheshire, Commissioners Ray Lewis and Rick Ranize.

Commissioner John L. Gunter, Jr. was absent which was previously excused.

Also Present: City Manager Gary La Venia, City Attorney Anita Geraci-Carver, Finance Clerk Sue Parker, Lieutenant Dennis Cutter, Fire Chief George Fernandez; Fire Department Lieutenant Don Gilpin, Community Development Director Charlie Rector, Fruitland Park Library Director JoAnne Glendinning, Public Works Director Dale Bogle, and City Clerk Esther B. Coulson.

1. CALL TO ORDER, INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

After Mayor Bell called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m., Pastor “Walt” Martin, Trinity Assembly of God, gave the invocation and requested that those present remember the family members of Mayor Bell and the Shaws where their respective relatives recently passed away.

Interim Police Chief Lake County Sheriff’s Office Captain Todd English led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

2. ROLL CALL

At Mayor Bell’s request, Ms. Coulson called the roll and a quorum was declared present.

SUPPLEMENTAL ITEM

Proclamation – Memoriam - Marilyn C. Shaw

On behalf of the city commission, Mayor Bell read into the record a proclamation recognizing the life of Ms. Marilyn C. Shaw who recently passed away and extending heartfelt condolences and prayers to the entire Shaw family noting that her presence will be sorely missed and that her legacy will continue to live on for years to come in the many lives she has affected.

Mr. Murdoch Shaw and family members accepted the proclamation for such honor; expressed heart-felt appreciation in the outpouring support from the community, and requested the city commission’s ongoing support of the scout program.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Peter Hurtt, City of Fruitland Park resident, expressed condolences to Mayor Bell and family.

Fruitland Park City Commission Regular Minutes

Page 2 of 9

June 25, 2015

Mr. Hurtt referred to the recent installation of the fence and arches at Shiloh Cemetery. He suggested sending a newsletter with the water bill reflecting the city's ongoing activities for members of public to participate; thus, providing the ability to build trust in the community.

In response, Mayor Bell recognized that the city's newsletter is sent twice per year, indicated that the water bills have noteworthy items to the users, and addressed the opportunity for users to like the city's events posted on its Facebook™ page; however, he indicated that the city commission will review Mr. Hurtt's suggestion.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of Minutes

On motion of Commissioner Cheshire, seconded by Commissioner Lewis and unanimously carried, the city commission approved, with the exception of the March 19, 2015 workshop meeting minutes, the March 17 workshop and the June 11, 2015 regular meeting minutes as submitted.

5. REGULAR AGENDA

(a) City Chambers Recording and Sound System Upgrade

i. BIS Presentation

Mr. Bradley Uthe, Business Information System Inc. (BIS), gave a power-point presentation on digital audio recording and sound system upgrades for the city commission chamber. (A copy of the presentation is filed with the supplemental papers to the minutes of this meeting.)

ii. Quotations

The city commission considered its action to approve BIS Q-8008766-5.29.2015 for a digital court recorder software, mixer, amplifier, microphone, mount connector and wireless microphone system at \$19,377 and BIS Q-8007628-5.29.2015 for a digital audio/video recording software, audio mixer, software assurance, remote support, and on-site setup, installation and training

Mr. La Venia referred to the quotes received for chambers' AV upgrades from Soniclear Digital Recording at \$26,669 and the City of Mount Dora's procurement process for BIS at \$19,997; Data and Sound Specialties Inc., \$21,000, and Blackwater Integration LLC, \$64,529.53.

After much discussion, and on motion of Commissioner Ranize, seconded by Vice Mayor Cheshire and unanimously carried, the city commission approved the previously cited quote for digital audio recording and sound system upgrades for the city commission chamber and waived the existing procurement policies and procedures to piggyback with the City of Mount Dora. (Funds would be utilized from the Capital Improvement Program.)

Fruitland Park City Commission Regular Minutes

Page 3 of 9

June 25, 2015

(b) City Treasurer - Shortlisting, Ranking and Interview Discussion

The city commission discussed the city treasurer applicants' shortlisting, ranking and the tentative interview date of Wednesday, July 1, 2015.

Mayor Bell referred to the city commission discussions on ranking and interviewing the opportunity to expand the process with the candidates.

Mr. La Venia referred to a former longtime municipal treasurer who is willing to work for the city on a per diem basis at 20 hours a week for six months until the end of the year. He explained that the individual is away until June 29; referred to the email dated June 23, 2015, and indicated that he will apprise the city commission on the status. (A copy of the email is filed with the supplemental papers to the minutes of this meeting.)

After discussion and **by unanimous consent, the city commission accepted the city manager's recommendation to extend the search for the city treasurer position; review the prospective candidates in six weeks, and (based on the outcome of his conversation on June 29, 2015 with Ms. Diane Reichard) consider her position for the period to October 1 or December 31, 2015 at the July 9, 2015 regular meeting.**

After discussion, Commissioner Ranize suggested that Ms. Reichard train the succeeding staff member who can be promoted instead of recruiting outside; that the city commissioners provide Mr. La Venia with a shortlist of candidates to determine the status, and that he report back to the city commission at the July 9, 2015 meeting.

(c) Exercise Class – Agreement - Infinity Fitness and Spa Inc. (city attorney)

Consideration to enter into an agreement between Infinity Fitness and Spa Inc. and the City of Fruitland Park for Infinity Fitness and Spa members to use the city's swimming pool at Gardenia Park for water fitness exercises for its members at a rate of \$1.50.

After discussion and **on motion of Vice Mayor Cheshire, seconded by Commissioner Lewis and unanimously carried, the city commission approved the agreement as previously cited.**

(d) Fruitland Park Library Status Update

Ms. Glendinning gave a report on the approval for a second grant from Lake County and noted the grand total awarded to the city to be \$991,423.94. She addressed her anticipation of receiving one more matching grant of \$500,000 which is forthcoming and that although she will be on vacation on July 1, 2015, she will keep the city commission apprised in that regard.

Fruitland Park City Commission Regular Minutes

Page 4 of 9

June 25, 2015

Ms. Glendinning referred to the concern previously addressed regarding the expansion of the Fruitland Library building; indicated that the documents are with the Lake County Attorney, and anticipated receiving information on the county commission's consideration of same on its regular July 7 or July 21, 2015 agenda.

In response to Commissioner Lewis' question, Ms. Glendinning referred to the city commission's June 9, 2015 action and confirmed that the county commission agenda documents would include the written confirmation on its agreement to allocate funds towards the plan and design of the new Fruitland Park Library construction.

(e) City Center Property

Mr. La Venia referred to the estimate from T.A. Youngblood & Sons Building Movers Inc. reflecting the estimated costs of \$103,000 to relocate the Casino Community Center and pointed out Mr. Rector's memorandum dated June 11, 2015 regarding Casino Options in that regard; copies of which are filed with the supplemental papers to the minutes of this meeting.

After discussion, Commissioner Lewis voiced his opinion on why he believes it is not feasible to utilize city funds to accomplish the relocation of the Casino building.

Following further discussion, Commissioner Ranize questioned the cost effectiveness of relocating and renovating the casino to where it is usable. He relayed Mr. Rector's concept of taking photographs and locating a company to implement a scale-model drawing of the casino building and the old school house at city hall and if there is enough information, place same in the new library's foyer. Commissioner Ranize addressed his willingness to make a donation and work on obtaining more for such cause.

Vice Mayor Cheshire referred to the Daily Commercial's recent newspaper articles on 'What to do with the Casino?', 'Fate of Casino up in the Air', and 'Historians Hope to Save the Casino'; copies of which are filed with the supplemental papers to the minutes of this meeting.

Vice Mayor Cheshire cited reasons why he feels it is fiscally right to tear down the casino building; questioned the process of the application filed by the Historical Society to the National Register of Historic Places, and inquired about the city's liability and responsibility in this regard.

In response, Ms. Geraci-Carver stated that she will review the issue.

After Commissioner Lewis recognized that events are scheduled, the casino is currently being used, and the construction would not yet be developed, Vice

Fruitland Park City Commission Regular Minutes

Page 5 of 9

June 25, 2015

Mayor Cheshire addressed the time the public has in which to advocate saving and relocating the casino and voiced his agreement with Commissioners Ranize and Lewis on the expenditure.

Following further discussion, Commissioner Ranize indicated that staff would need direction from the city commission as to whether it wishes to continue with the Fruitland Park Library construction project and if so, the casino will need to be demolished and if between this day's date the construction timeframe anyone have funds to relocate it, the city would comply.

If the city commission makes a decision at this evening's meeting to demolish the casino or if someone claims the building within the timeframe, Mr. Rector addressed the requirement for an asbestos survey to be conducted before sending same to a laboratory for testing which will take approximately a month and noted other minor procedures to take place before commencing with the procurement process for demolition services which would also take approximately another month. He gave his understanding, according to Ms. Michelle Yoder, Parks and Recreation Director, that the casino has been reserved for events in the summer; he does not see the city's urgency except to give direction to staff to demolish the building or donate it at the final minute.

With respect to the library construction, Mr. Rector addressed the need for action in order to develop the conceptual site plan, parking, water retention areas and whether the location would be the ultimate destination for the library. He relayed the question on the relocation of the casino to the state park; pointed out his tour of the proposed route with T.A. Youngblood & Sons Building Movers Inc., and described the many tasks required involving various organizations to relocate the casino.

Commissioner Lewis proffered that the city commission direct staff to initiate obtaining proposals for demolition services to demolish the Casino Community Center.

Mayor Bell questioned whether Commissioner Lewis would include directing staff to initiate obtaining proposals for demolition services to demolish the Casino Community Center which would not be part of the new city center.

Commissioner Lewis made a motion to direct staff to initiate obtaining proposals for demolition services to demolish the Casino Community Center and that it be excluded as part of the new city center development.

Mayor Bell relayed his conversations and efforts he made with the Lake Griffin State Park, State of Florida Division of Recreation and Parks Manager; the Heritage Community Church, and the First United Pentecostal Church regarding the donation of the Casino Community Center. He recalled previous discussions

Fruitland Park City Commission Regular Minutes

Page 6 of 9

June 25, 2015

in allowing the casino to remain and the cost of at least \$250,000 to renovate same to bring it up to standard. Mayor Bell relayed remarks from various individuals who are in favor of keeping the casino but do not want to invest funds into same. He referred to the three articles from the Daily Commercial; stated that he did not see any responses in offering funds to save the casino, and indicated that he does not see leaving it where it is as an alternative solution.

Commissioner Lewis restated the motion which was seconded by Commissioner Ranize that the city commission direct staff to initiate obtaining proposals for demolition services to demolish the Casino Community Center and that it be excluded as part of the end design construction of the new city center development.

Mayor Bell called for a vote on the motion and declared it carried unanimously carried.

PUBLIC HEARING

By unanimous consent, Mayor Bell opened the public hearings.

- (f) **Second Reading and Public Hearing - MSTU Ordinance 2015-006** (city manager)

It now being the time advertised to hold a public hearing to consider the enactment of Ordinance 2015-006.

After Ms. Geraci-Carver read the title, the substance of which is as follows, Mayor Bell called for interested parties to be heard:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF FRUITLAND PARK, FLORIDA, CONSENTING TO THE INCLUSION OF THE CITY OF FRUITLAND PARK, FLORIDA, WITHIN THE COUNTY-WIDE MUNICIPAL SERVICE TAXING UNIT (MSTU) OF THE PROVISION OF AMBULANCE AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES, AS ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF LAKE COUNTY, FLORIDA; PROVIDING FOR THE CITY TO BE INCLUDED WITHIN SAID MSTU FOR A SPECIFIED TERM OF THREE (3) YEARS; PROVIDING FOR CODIFICATION; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE. (The first reading was held on June 11, 2015.)

There being no one from the public and **by unanimous consent, Mayor Bell closed the public hearing.**

Fruitland Park City Commission Regular Minutes

Page 7 of 9

June 25, 2015

On motion of Vice Mayor Cheshire, seconded by Commissioner Ranize and unanimously carried, the city commission enacted Ordinance 2015-006 to become effective immediately.

6. NEW BUSINESS

There were no new business to come before the city commission at this time.

7. OFFICERS' REPORTS

(a) City Manager

i. Budget

Mr. La Venia reported on the commencement of the budget process as it relates to meetings he held with the city departments.

ii. Police Chief

Mr. La Venia explained that he has conducted interviews and intend to make an announcement of a new police chief at the next meeting.

iii. FLC Legislative Growth and Economic Development Subcommittee

Mr. La Venia addressed his plan to attend the Florida League of Cities' Growth and Economic Development subcommittee meeting on June 26, 2015 in Orlando.

(b) City Attorney

i. Discretionary Local Option Infrastructure Sales Surtax to Purchase Vehicles

Ms. Geraci-Carver referred to Commissioner Ranize' remarks regarding the use of police vehicles addressed at the June 12, 2015 regular meeting.

Ms. Geraci-Carver pointed out AGO 94-46 regarding the use of discretionary local option infrastructure sales surtax funds which can be used for police vehicles whereby the five-year life expectancy is not attached to police and fire department vehicles which she forwarded to Mr. La Venia to provide to the auditor.

Mr. La Venia confirmed that he has placed a telephone call to the auditor.

ii. Animal Control Services - Lake County Sheriff Assignment - ILA

Ms. Geraci-Carver referred to Lake County's Assignment of the interlocal agreement the city has for the animal services and noted that the county would like to assign same to the sheriff's office. She requested, with the city's permission, to place the item on the next agenda for consideration.

The city commission had no objection to Ms. Geraci-Carver's request.

Fruitland Park City Commission Regular Minutes

Page 8 of 9

June 25, 2015

iii. Qualifying

Ms. Geraci-Carver referred her conversations to Ms. Emogene W. Stegall, Lake County Supervisor of Elections Office, regarding when the city's qualifying period for elections would be if it went to a primary election before the general election, and confirmed that the qualifying period would be established by the state.

Ms. Geraci-Carver stated that if no changes are made by the legislature for 2016, the qualifying period would be a four-day period beginning noon on June 20 and ending on noon June 24, 2016 from which the city would establish when the districts would be in place by moving 150 days back to January 2016. She relayed her discussions with Mr. Greg Beliveau, LPG Urban and Regional Planners Inc., who is in agreement.

Ms. Geraci-Carver indicated that that the commission can make the redistricting change as a charter referendum, based on population, and she will work with Mr. Beliveau to bring more information to the city commission in November 2015.

After discussion, Mayor Bell in recapitulating Ms. Geraci-Carver's remarks suggested that the city commission can hold a workshop in the first part of October, the first reading in November, and the second reading in December 2015.

8. COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

(a) Commissioner Ranize

Commissioner Ranize stated that he has nothing to report.

(b) Commissioner Lewis

Commissioner Lewis commended Commissioner Ranize for his initiation in presenting the expenditure for police vehicle purchase due at a previous meeting; expressed concerns on the city commission's dependence on receiving professional advice, guidance and opinions, and anticipate receiving more information from Mr. La Venia.

(c) Vice Mayor Cheshire

Vice Mayor Cheshire stated that he has nothing to report.

(d) Commissioner Gunter, Jr.

Commissioner Gunter was absent from this evening's meeting.

9. MAYOR'S COMMENTS

(a) Bills – Florida Governor's Vetoed

Mayor Bell referred to Florida Governor Rick Scott's final 2015 veto list; relayed his call to District 33 State Representative H. Marlene O'Toole's office who

Fruitland Park City Commission Regular Minutes

Page 9 of 9

June 25, 2015

confirmed that the \$2.5 million remains earmarked for the CR 466A road improvements, and recognized that funding for the water wastewater sewer connection lines was vetoed.

Based on the governor's signature, Mayor Bell suggested approaching Lake County to utilize some of the funds to continue construction up to CR 468, from Sunny Court to west of intersection CR 468, whereby Mr. Rector confirmed that all except two parcels have been taken as eminent domain.

Mayor Bell suggested that Mr. La Venia write a letter to Lake County expressing the city commission's position.

(b) Condolences

Mayor Bell made reference to the acknowledgement of the passing of his 31 year-old niece due to cancer and expressed gratitude as she outlived the six-month period extended to her.

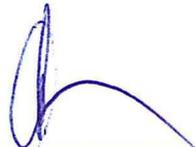
(c) Dates to Remember

Mayor Bell suggested that based on the determination of the city treasurer's position addressed earlier in this evening's agenda, that the July 1, 2015 special meeting would be cancelled and the matter would be considered at the July 9, 2015 regular meeting.

10. 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 8:47 p.m.

The minutes were approved at the regular July 9, 2015 regular meeting.

Signed 

Esther B. Coulson, City Clerk

Signed 

Christopher Bell, Mayor