

**FRUITLAND PARK CITY COMMISSION "SPECIAL MEETING" MINUTES
MAY 23, 2013**

MEETING STATISTICS. A special 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, May 23, 2013 beginning at 6:30 pm. To interview City Treasurer candidate Mr. Mr. Juan C. Alvalle Zayes.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE. Commissioner Chris Cheshire delivered the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag led by Commissioner John Gunter.

ROLL CALL. Mayor Bell asked Tracy Kelly to call the roll.

ELECTED OFFICIALS PRESENT. Mayor Christopher J. Bell, Commissioner Christopher Cheshire, Commissioner Albert O. Goldberg, Commissioner John L. Gunter Jr; and Vice Mayor Sharon Kelly.

MUNICIPAL OFFICIALS/OTHERS PRESENT. Acting City Manager (ACM) / Police Chief Terry Isaacs, Community Development Director (CDD) / Public Works Director (PWD) Charlie Rector, Administrative Assistant Tracy Kelly, Administration Assistant Marie Azzolino, Accounts Payable Clerk Susan Parker.

INTERVIEW BEGAN:

Mayor Bell began by introducing City Treasurer candidate, Mr. Juan C. Alvalle Zayes. Mayor Bell asked Mr. Zayes if he could take the floor and discuss his qualifications for the position.

Mr. Zayes stated he was a CPA and owner of his own firm for approximately ten years. He provided services in the tax preparation as well as investigations and auditing to acquire benefits, preparation of the financial statements for his clients in accordance with state laws and regulations. In his previous position in Baja, Puerto Rico he was the Finance Director. He was responsible for the operating budget, financial statement, supervise and oversee all the finances department operations. Previous to that Mr. Zayes was the Finance Director the city of Maya West. This was a larger municipality but he was conducting some of the same general duties as was previously mentioned. Prior to that Mr. Zayes stated he was working as a Senior Auditor, with governmental clients, performing investigation and financial statement preparations and auditing reports. He concluded by saying that this encompasses my resume for my career spanning the last fifteen years in the governmental industry.

Mayor Bell asked, the last time you worked as a Treasurer for a City was what year?

Mr. Zayes responded, the year 2001. Mr. Zayes further stated that within the last ten years he still maintained open communication with the City and during that time he also had the opportunity to assist the Finance Director with the budget and the Mayor's message to the Citizens. This was outside his main tax preparation and auditing duties.

Mayor Bell asked, when was the last time you worked in Finances?

Mr. Zayes stated in the year 2009. Further explaining, this was because of transitioning to Orlando due to the economics in Puerto Rico taking a decline and also to continue his education in the Culinary Arts field, aside his wife.

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Mayor Bell asked if the Commission had any questions.

Commissioner Cheshire asked if Mr. Zayes is currently a CPA.

Mr. Zayes replied that he is a CPA, but his license is not currently active. He does not currently hold a Florida license but is in the process of obtaining certification in Florida.

Commissioner Cheshire asked if his license in Puerto Rico was valid.

Mr. Zayes said, yes it is but it has expired. He is looking to reactivate it in order to obtain the Florida license

Mayor Bell asked if he could obtain his license for Puerto Rico again and then transfer that to FL.

Mr. Zayes stated that is correct.

Vice Mayor Kelly asked if a test is required for the certification to again be active.

Mr. Zayes stated that an endorsement would apply in his case and another CPA exam would not be required.

Mayor Bell asked what year he originally obtained the CPA license.

Mr. Zayes replied, in 2003.

Commissioner Cheshire asked, what would you do if the City Manager or Commission wasn't following proper protocol with regards to the City finances? If the City Manager or the Counsel were not following the proper protocol regarding the City finances, what would you do?

Mr. Zayes stated he would confront them and let them know that he would inform them of the proper procedures and direct them to the current law with regards to these procedures and what transactions are legal and what are not. The state and City laws are very clear in this regard. That would be the guide.

Commissioner Gunter asked if Mr. Zayes would hesitate if the City Manager or Council directed him to cut a check that was not proper. Would he notify the remaining Council if he felt there was some illegal activity in this regard?

Mr. Zayes responded yes, I would definitely let someone know, as required by law.

Mayor Bell asked Vice Mayor Kelly if she had any further questions. Vice Mayor Kelly replied, no, I have asked all the questions I have at this time.

Mr. Zayes asked for a moment of the Commissioners time and stated; I consider myself a professional. I am a serious person and a father. I have my family there in front of me. I would not do anything that would be illegal or out of order in accordance with the laws and regulations of the City or the State or Federal government as it pertains to federal assistance programs.

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Commissioner Gunter stated that at a previous discussion it was asked if Mr. Zayes had any prior knowledge about the Munis system and the Trim notice. Gunter asked, when you were in Puerto Rico was there such a thing as Trim notice or ad valorem tax within the City.

Mr. Zayes responded, I have never directly seen the Munis program but within a short time of training on the system I feel that I have the capabilities to do the job. This position is similar to previously held. It is just a matter of training on this system. I am familiar with ad valorem taxes.

Commissioner Gunter asked again if Mr. Zayes was familiar with the trim notice or not.

There was some discussion between Vice Mayor Kelly and city resident, former City of Fruitland Park Treasurer, Jeannine Racine Michaud from the audience but a majority was inaudible on the tape. It was stated that this is Florida specific.

Mayor Bell reiterated, Mr. Zayes you are familiar with the budgeting processes?

Mr. Zayes confirmed that he is.

Commissioner Gunter asked if Mr. Zayes had reviewed the previous year budget and Mr. Zayes confirmed that he had reviewed the FY 2010 financial statements from the City website and stated it is very similar to that in Puerto Rico. The overall information was similar to that previously maintained when in Puerto Rico. Mayor Bell asked if he had previously managed. Mr. Z stated that he had fifteen at one employment and ten at another and approximately thirty-five at another. Mayor Bell thanked Mr. Zayes and stated further discussion would be had with the Commission.

ADJOURNMENT. The meeting adjourned at 6:55pm.

Attest:



Marie Kelley, Administrative Assistant
Marie Kelley ACC



Christopher J. Bell, Mayor