

FRUITLAND PARK CITY COMMISSION SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
October 17, 2013

A special meeting of the Fruitland Park City Commission was held at 506 W. Berckman Street, Fruitland Park, Florida 34731 on Thursday, October 17, 2013 at 6:00 p.m.

Members Present: Mayor Christopher Bell; Commissioners John L. Gunter, Jr.; Christopher Cheshire and Albert O. Goldberg.

Vice Mayor Sharon Kelly entered the meeting room during the minutes of this meeting.

Also Present: Interim City Manager Rick Conner, City Treasurer Tannette Gayle, Chief of Police Terry Isaacs, Community Development Director Charlie Rector, and City Clerk Esther B. Coulson.

1. CALL TO ORDER, INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Bell called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.; Pastor Sidney Brock, Southern Baptist – Heritage Community Church, gave the invocation, and Commissioner Cheshire led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

2. ROLL CALL

Mayor Bell requested that the city clerk call the roll and a quorum was declared present.

By unanimous consent, the city commission took the following item out of order on this evening's agenda.

4. OTHER BUSINESS

- (a) **Resolution 2013-022 City of Leesburg Resolution Initiating the ISBA Process**
The city commission considered its action to adopt Resolution 2013-022 regarding the City Commission of Leesburg's adopted Resolution 9271 for the City of Fruitland Park to participate in the negotiation of an Interlocal Service Boundary Agreement (ISBA) authorized by F.S. 171.203.

Mr. Rector reviewed the ISBA Area Map; noted the potential changes and the forthcoming process, and explained that the City of Leesburg will be reviewing the City of Fruitland Park's ISBA. (A copy of the map was submitted for the record and filed with the supplemental papers to the minutes of this meeting.)

(Vice Mayor Sharon Kelly entered the meeting room during the following discussion.)

After discussion and **on motion of Commissioner Gunter, seconded by Commissioner Goldberg and unanimously carried, the city commission adopted Resolution 2013-022 as previously cited.**

3. CITY MANAGER SELECTION

The city commission considered its action to approve the employment agreement with Mr. Gary F. La Venia as City Manager of the City of Fruitland Park. (A copy of the agreement and the outline of comparison offers are included in the supplemental papers to the minutes of this meeting.)

Mayor Bell pointed out his recent discussions with Mr. La Venia and the permission given for Mr. Colin Baenziger, Colin Baenziger and Associates, to communicate with him. Mayor Bell reviewed the comparison of offers and counter offers they had for the city manager position.

After discussion, a motion was made by Vice Mayor Kelly and seconded by Commissioner Goldberg that the city commission approve the employment agreement with Mr. Gary F. La Venia as City Manager of the City of Fruitland Park effective starting date to be January 6, 2014 with the city paying him:

- the current retirement plan;
- the automobile allowance at four hundred dollars (\$400) per month;
- the life insurance valued at seventy-five thousand dollars (\$75,000);
- cash in lieu of the monthly health insurance premiums;
- vacation of three weeks which will increase to four weeks the second year of his employment;
- five thousand dollars (\$5,000) in relocation expenses;
- severance of sixteen (16) weeks;
- a salary of ninety-nine thousand, nine hundred and fifty dollars (\$99,950.00), and
- dues for International City/County Management Association (ICMA) membership and not the ICMA National Conference (the Florida League of Cities conference is included)

and the three-month evaluation to be conducted between March 1 and April 1 and the six-month evaluation between and June 1 and July 1, 2014.

Mayor Bell called for a roll call vote on the motion with the city commission members voting as follows:

Commissioner Gunter	No
Commissioner Goldberg	Yes
Commissioner Cheshire	Yes
Mayor Bell	Yes
Vice Mayor Kelly	Yes

The motion was declared carried on a four to one vote.

4. **OTHER BUSINESS**

(b) **The Villages Agreement**

Commissioner Gunter referred to previous discussions with Messrs. Conner and Bob Williams, attorney, regarding The Villages agreement; indicated that Mr. Williams represent The Villages with the City of Leesburg, and anticipated that the city's agreement is expected to be executed shortly. Commissioner Gunter stated that the city received financing for the utilities and electric lines installation for The Villages project and recognized the Fruitland Park City Commission's recent action in this regard. He believes that the city ought to be providing electrical service and that negotiations ought to be taking place on erecting the lines at SECO Energy™, the city's major supplier in The Villages.

After discussion on the purchase of electricity from the City of Leesburg, Mr. Conner concurred with Mayor Bell's suggestion to meet with Mr. Scott Gerkin, City Attorney, and research whether the utility is within the city's district and city limits and if the city's current franchise agreement has expired as it is the intent to execute same as well as what the city is required to do, what the rates are, and the deadline.

In response to Commissioner Cheshire's statement, Mr. Conner mentioned his plan to meet with Mr. Gary L. Moyer, The Villages of Lake-Sumter Inc. (Village Center Community Development District), to inform him of the city commission's position on the subject issue. Mr. Conner recognized the preliminary conversations held; noted some issues with power being currently available to the right location as well as deficiency in service capacity which could be addressed, and his intent to keep the city commission informed.

5. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no other business to come before the city commission at this time, on motion of Commissioner Cheshire, seconded and unanimously carried, the meeting adjourned at 6:59 p.m.

The minutes were approved at the November 21, 2013 meeting.

Signed 

Esther B. Coulson, City Clerk

Signed 

Christopher Bell, Mayor