

The Fruitland City Council met in Regular Session at City Hall on Tuesday, January 9, 2018 at 7:30 p.m. with the following members present:

*President Darlene Kerr, Treasurer Gloria Ortiz and Councilor Chuck Nichols.*

Also present at the table were:

*City Manager Psota, Chief Michael Phillips, Deputy Treasurer Mark Swift, City Clerk Raye Ellen Thomas and City Solicitor Andrew Mitchell.*

Our guests included:

*Mike Hammond, Matt Solova and Marc Henderson.*

President Kerr called the regular Council meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. and welcomed all in attendance. Treasurer Ortiz led all in prayer and all recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

President Kerr acknowledged receipt of the minutes of the Regular Meeting of December and called for additions or corrections. As there were none, **Treasurer Ortiz moved to adopt the minutes as presented; Councilor Nichols seconded and the motion passed on a vote of three to zero.**

#### **Reports- Treasurer, City Manager and Department Heads**

**Treasurer Ortiz** delivered the December Treasurer's Report. For December 2017, the City recorded \$196,102 of revenues. The total billed revenues for the fiscal year are just under \$5.2 million, including real estate taxes and two quarters of utility billing. The City incurred \$1,488,624 of expenses for the month, including \$25,000 for the basketball court, \$70,000 for water meters, \$93,000 for highway paving projects, \$234,000 for Maryland State Retirement, \$271,000 for loan payments and \$308,000 for the ENR upgrade. The total expenses for the fiscal year to date are \$3.9 million. The net deficit for the City for the month of December is \$1,292,522 and the net income for the fiscal year to date is \$1.25 million. **Councilor Nichols moved to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented. Treasurer Ortiz seconded and the motion passed on a vote of three to zero.**

**Chief Phillips** delivered his report on behalf of the Police Department and Code Enforcement.

- Two Officers are starting the academy this month.

**Public Works: City Manager Psota reported for Director Gibbons** on the Water and Sewer Departments.

- Drilling for the test well will begin within the next few weeks.

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

1. **Paid Bills**

Treasurer Ortiz acknowledged receipt of the paid bill report. **On a motion made by Treasurer Ortiz and seconded by Councilor Nichols, the paid bills were approved by a vote of three to zero.**

2. **ENR Upgrade Change Order # 5 – Screen Bypass Ratification**

- City Manager Psota advised that at last Council Meeting approval was received for a bypass valve. The original quote was for \$9,311.55, GMB has contacted City Manager Psota since approval advising that the work must be insulated, which increases the cost an additional \$922.30, making the total \$10,233.85. City Manager Psota is requesting permission to sign change order # 5.

**On a motion made by Councilor Nichols to approve the ENR change order upgrade # 5 and allow City Manager Psota to sign for the additional \$922.30, making the total \$10,233.85, seconded by Treasurer Ortiz, the motion was approved by a vote of three to zero.**

**7:40 Public Hearing – Ordinance # 286 Amend Landlord and Rental Registration Ordinances - City Solicitor Mitchell**  
City Solicitor Mitchell read Ordinance # 286, which is an Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Fruitland, Maryland, repealing Ordinance # 266 and # 280, and enacting Ordinance # 286 thereby replacing section 114 of Title XI, business regulations of the Fruitland Code of Ordinances. This request was put in by Code Enforcement Officers. **On a motion made by Treasurer Ortiz to adopt Ordinance # 286 Amend Landlord and Rental Registration as read by City Solicitor Mitchell, seconded by Councilor Nichols, the motion was approved by a vote of three to zero.**

**7:42 First Reading – Ordinance # 287 Adoption of the 2018 Property Maintenance ICC Code**  
Council President Kerr advised that this is the first reading of Ordinance # 287, adopting the 2018 Property Maintenance ICC Code. Code Enforcement Officer Solova provided copies of the new property maintenance code. City Solicitor Mitchell advised that Ordinance # 287 is an Ordinance of the City Council of Fruitland, Maryland adopting the International Property Maintenance Code, 2018 Edition as the Property Maintenance Code for the City of Fruitland. The Public Hearing will be held February 13, 2018 at 7:40 p.m. The Councilors, by consensus, not with vote accepted the Ordinance for the first reading.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

**1. Reappoint Leland Bonneville to Planning Commission**

Council President Kerr advised that Leland Bonneville would like to remain on the Planning Commission and the Council agreed to reappoint Mr. Bonneville.

**2. General Liability/Workers Comp Insurance Renewal Ratification – City Manager Psota**

- City Manager Psota advised that the premium for the General Liability /Workers Comp through Travelers is \$17,000 less than last year.
- The result is because of low claims.
- City Manager Psota is requesting approval and ratification to renew with Travelers Insurance as brokered through Cooper Insurance and Avery W. Hall Insurance and to sign the documents required.

**On a motion made by Councilor Nichols to approve the ratification of the General Liability/Workers Compensation Insurance Renewal through Travelers Insurance and to authorize City Manager Psota to sign any paperwork necessary, seconded by Treasurer Ortiz, the motion was approved by a vote of three to zero.**

**3. Police Department Bathroom Repairs – Chief Phillips**

- Chief Phillips advised there was a backup in the main bathroom two months ago.
- Lines were flushed out.
- There is separation in the pipes.
- Another backup has occurred.
- The lines will be flushed out by the City after the weather is better.
- The City may also send a camera through the lines.
- If the flushing of the line does not work the floor may need to be removed.
- Chief will update the Council after more information is obtained.

**4. Coastal Association of Realtors Presentation – Sarah Rayne**

Sarah Rayne was unable to attend.

**5. Cellular Water Meter Purchase Request – City Manager Psota**

- 250 meters need to be replaced throughout the City.
- The meters are dying quicker than anticipated.
- 250 meters have been ordered, however, City Manager Psota would like to order 500 more meters and lids.
- Cost would be approximately \$300 per meter and lid, for a cost of \$150,000 for 500 meters.

**On a motion made by Treasurer Ortiz to approve the purchase of 500 meters not to exceed \$160,000 and be place in the ground asap, seconded by Councilor Nichols, the motion was approved by a vote of three to zero.**

**Public Comment/General Discussion**

With no further business to discuss or comments, **on a motion made by Councilor Nichols to adjourn at 8:06 p.m., seconded by Treasurer Ortiz, the motion passed by a vote of three to zero.**

*Raye Ellen Thomas*  
Raye Ellen Thomas / City Clerk  
[Approved, February 13, 2018](#)