

The Fruitland City Council met in Regular Session at City Hall on Tuesday, December 11, 2018 at 7:30 p.m. with the following members present:

President Darlene Kerr, Treasurer Ray Carey, Councilor Mark Miciotto, Councilor Lee Outen Jr. and Councilor Mike Hammond.

Also present at the table were:

City Manager John Psota, Chief Brian Swafford, Deputy Treasurer Mark Swift, City Solicitor Andrew Mitchell and City Clerk Raye Ellen Thomas.

Our guests included:

Public Works Director Michael Gibbons, Bob Marvel, Katherine McAllister from GMB, Don Schweitzer, Jonathon Pelissero, Cornella Harmon, Miguel Martin, prospective Officers Rhyheem Johnson and Jeremie Hook who was accompany by his wife.

At 7:30 p.m. President Kerr called the regular Council meeting to order. President Kerr led all in the Lord's Prayer and all recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Reports- Treasurer, City Manager and Department Heads

Treasurer Carey delivered the Treasurer's Report. For December 2018, the City recorded \$193,000 of revenues, including \$105,000 in income taxes. The total billed revenues for the fiscal year are \$4.9 million, including real estate taxes and two quarters of utility billing. The City incurred \$945,000 of expenses for the month including \$245,000 for the annual Maryland State Retirement contribution and \$84,000 for Camden Avenue paving. The total expenses for the fiscal year to date are \$3.9 million. The net deficit for the City for the month of November is \$752,000 and the net income for the fiscal year to date is \$966,000. **Councilor Hammond moved to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented, Councilor Miciotto seconded, and the motion passed on a vote of five to zero.**

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

- Code Enforcement is a year ahead of schedule doing rental inspections.
- All Citizens should remember to lock their vehicle especially with the Holiday's approaching.
- Officers ran radar on West Main Street after the complaints from last Council Meeting. There were 46 stops and Officers will continue to monitor the area.
- Sergeant Jackson and Officer Weirsburg were recognized at the MADD breakfast.

City Manager Psota delivered his report.

- Tree lighting hosted by the Chamber was a success and thank you to all the employees that helped.

Public Works Director Gibbons delivered his report on the Roads, Water and Sewer Departments.

- The footing for the Pole Building has been poured.
- Service line replacement has begun on West Main Street.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Paid Bills

President Kerr acknowledged receipt of the paid bill report. **On a motion made by Councilor Outen and seconded by Councilor Carey, the paid bills were approved by a vote of five to zero.**

FIRST READING: Ordinance #290 Fruitland Economic Development Commission (FrED) Dissolution

City Solicitor Mitchell read Ordinance #290 which is an Ordinance to dissolve the Fruitland Economic Development Commission known as FrED by repealing Ordinance # 251. A public hearing will be held January 8, 2019, 7:40 p.m. at the next Council Meeting. **On a motion made by Councilor Hammond to accept the first reading as read by City Solicitor Mitchell, seconded by Councilor Carey, the motion was approved by a vote of five to zero.**

NEW BUSINESS

1. Fruitland Volunteer Fire Company Presentation

Members of the Fire Company were unable to attend.

2. Introduction of New Officers

Chief Swafford introduced Jeremie Hook and Rhyheem Johnson. They both will be starting the academy in January.

3. Backhoe Purchase Approval

Public Works Director Gibbons received three quotes for the purchase of a new backhoe for Public Works. All three prospective backhoes were delivered to the Public Works Department and operated and evaluated by the employees. The Caterpillar was unanimously chosen by staff for its overall performance. Public Works Director Gibbons is recommending the purchase of a 416-F2 Caterpillar backhoe from Alban Cat of Baltimore in the amount of \$93,037.65. This machine comes with a three year/5000-hour warranty. The Caterpillar backhoe was the lowest bid received. Councilor Miciotto asked if the employees using the machine will have training. Public Works Director Gibbons advised that they will receive training from the Alban Cat representative. **On a motion made by Councilor Miciotto to approve the purchase of the Caterpillar Backhoe Model -416-F2 from Alban Cat not to exceed \$93,037.65, seconded by Councilor Outen, the motion was approved by a vote of five to zero.**

4. Backhoe Repair Approval

Public Works Director Gibbons advised the old backhoe at Public Works needs to be repaired. The backhoe is 30 years old and still in useful condition. It was taken to Meadows Hydraulics for an estimate to repair. The estimate was \$6,431 and Public Works Director Gibbons advised the trade in value of the backhoe is \$3,500. Public Works Director Gibbons would like to have the backhoe repaired and use it at the Public Works shop to load salt and other uses at the yard. **On a motion made by Councilor Outen to allow Meadows Hydraulics, Inc. to repair the old JCB backhoe not to exceed \$7000.00, seconded by Councilor Miciotto, the motion was approved by vote of five to zero.**

5. General Liability/Workers Compensation Renewal Approval

City Manager Psota stated that the current General Liability Insurance expires on January 9, 2019. The General Liability Insurance includes commercial liability and worker's compensation insurances. Cooper Insurance, our current insurance broker obtained quotes and in doing so it is recommended by City Manager Psota that the City renew with its current insurance carrier, Travelers. The quote for time January 9, 2019 – January 8, 2020 is \$198, 675, which is \$15,000 less than was budgeted in the Fiscal Year 2018 -2019 budget. **On a motion made by Councilor Outen to renew the General Liability/Worker's Compensation Insurance through Travelers Insurance with Cooper Insurance as the broker and allow City Manager Psota to sign any necessary paperwork, seconded by Councilor Carey, the motion was approved by a vote of five to zero.**

6. **City Website Redesign**

City Manager Psota advised he will report next month once Administrative Assistant Powell receives more information from potential web designers.

7. **Resolution 2018-12 Adopt Supplement to Code of Ordinances**

City Solicitor Mitchell read Resolution # 2018 -12 which is a resolution to adopt a supplement to the City of Fruitland Code of Ordinances. **On a motion made by Councilor Miciotto to approve Resolution 2018 – 12 as read by City Solicitor Mitchell, seconded by Councilor Hammond, the motion was approved by a vote of five to zero.**

8. **Purchase of Police Chevrolet Tahoe Vehicles Approval**

Chief Swafford advised that two Chevrolet Tahoe's that were previously discussed in the budget are available for purchase at this time. The two Tahoe's will be purchased and outfitted at the State Contracted price utilizing Brekford funds. The combined cost of the vehicles is \$94,977. Chief Swafford advised that these vehicles will replace two Crown Victoria's that will be available for auction. The auction will be held on March 9th at the Police Department with Eastern Shore Auctions. **On a motion made by Councilor Miciotto to approve the purchase of the two 2019 Chevrolet Tahoe's, not to exceed \$96,000, seconded by Councilor Carey, the motion was approved by a vote of five to zero.**

Public Comment/General Discussion

Don Schweitzer from Brown Street advised that the trench drain on Brown Street by Colonial Village is clogged. He does not believe the drain has been cleaned since installed and asked if there is a schedule in place to have drains cleaned. Public Works Director Gibbons will have someone clean it by the end of the week.

Jonathon Pelissero from Colonial Village asked about the snow plow schedule. He advised that during the first snow storm last year Colonial Village was cleared quickly, however, with the second storm it was not. He advised the second storm was on a holiday weekend and it made it impossible for anyone to get out of the development unless they had four-wheel drive. Mr. Pelissero advised that several people from the development had called to complain and it was still not taken care of. City Manager Psota advised that if there is a problem to contact City Hall and that all streets are cleaned in a timely matter, however, sometimes the wind could cause them to cover over again. Councilor Outen also advised that he believes that was when the blizzard happened, and the wind was covering streets as soon as they were plowed.

Councilor Outen asked if the City had completed the transportation priority letter yet. He would like something put in the letter about the students that walk to Bennett Middle School. There is no walk way along Route 13 due to the guard rail/ditches and the students must walk in the turn lane. Councilor Outen would like to ask for a walking path. City Manager Psota advised that he look into adding it in the next round.

Council President Kerr wished all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

With no further business to discuss or comments, on a motion made by Councilor Carey to adjourn at 8:00 p.m., seconded by Councilor Hammond, the motion passed by a vote of five to zero.

Raye Ellen Thomas
Raye Ellen Thomas / City Clerk
[Approved, January 8, 2019](#)