

The Fruitland City Council met in Regular Session at City Hall on Tuesday, May 10, 2016, at 7:30 p.m. with the following members present:

President Darlene Kerr, Treasurer Gloria Ortiz, Councilor Raymond Carey, Councilor Roland Palmer and Councilor Charles Nichols.

Also present at the table were:

City Manager John Psota, Public Works Director Gibbons, Chief Michael Phillips, Deputy Treasurer Mark Swift, City Clerk Raye Ellen Thomas and City Solicitor Andrew Mitchell.

Our guests included:

Bob Marvel, Cornella P. Harmon, Katherine McAllister, Delegate Carl Anderton, Keith Dashield, Alexis Dashield, Eric Davis, Wilson Davis, Kenny Mills, Delegate Anderton's Legislative Assistant Bunky Luffman, Troy Tilghman, Milton Walls and two others that did not sign in.

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 March and called for additions or corrections. As there were none, **Treasurer Ortiz moved to adopt the minutes as presented; Councilor Palmer seconded and the motion passed on a vote of five to zero.**

Treasurer Ortiz delivered the April Treasurer's Report. For April 2016, the City recorded \$657,953 of revenues for the month; this includes \$589,000 of utility billing. This brings the total revenues to just under \$7.8 million for the fiscal year, including real estate taxes and four quarters of utility billing. The City incurred \$520,316 of expenses for the month of April including \$44,000 for the ENR upgrade. The total expenses for the fiscal year to date are \$6.3 million, including \$2,013,000 related to the ENR upgrade. The net deficit for the City for the month of April is \$137,637 and the net income for the fiscal year to date is \$1,476,760. **Councilor Carey moved to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented. Councilor Nichols seconded and the motion passed on a vote of five to zero.**

Chief Phillips gave the Police and Code Enforcement reports. During his police report he stated that the person who they believe robbed the Post Office had been apprehended.

City Manager Psota gave his report as part of the budget.

Public Works Director Mike Gibbons gave the Public Works Department report. He stated that the dam project; being done by the County will be starting in June resulting in road closures for Division Street.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. **Paid Bills**

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

2. **Impact Fee Extension Discussion**

Council President Kerr stated that this moratorium was put in place to encourage people to build residential units and businesses. City Manager Psota recommended extending the moratorium for six months. He stated that it has been accounted for in the budget. Eric and Wilson Davis approached the Council representing Camden East Subdivision. They are also in favor of extending the moratorium. Eric Davis asked if the deadline of June 30, 2016 for the certificate of occupancy could be extended due the weather the work has not been completed. He has checked with the County and they consider that factor and use the permit date as reference. Council President Kerr stated that the Council will review all the information and will be meeting soon to make a decision.

3. Unruly Tenant Ordinance Discussion

City Solicitor Mitchell, Chief Phillips and Lieutenant Swafford have met and discussed this ordinance. At this time they do not think this is needed. The Police Department is proactive with the tenants when they are moving in. City Solicitor Mitchell stated that if the Council is in agreement, he will check with Princess Anne after its ordinance has been in place a while to see how the ordinance is working for the town. Council President Kerr stated this ordinance will be set aside at this time and if needed the Council will revisit it.

4. Online Bill Payments

Deputy Treasurer Swift advised that he has received the proposed agreement from PNC. The only significant term for consideration is a three year agreement with the merchant service side. If the contract is broken early, the fee will be \$25.00 a month until the three year term is completed. City Manager Psota and Council President Kerr agree that the citizens are interested in paying online and this will be beneficial to them. Deputy Treasurer Swift advised that a letter will be sent out to residents stating that online payments will be available; however the office will still receive cash and check payments.

On a motion made by Councilor Palmer to allow City Manager Psota to sign the agreement to institute the online payment process and the testing thereof to the Finance Department, seconded by Councilor Nichols, the motion was approved by a vote of five to zero.

7:40 p.m. Public Hearing – Proposed Fiscal Year 2016-2017 Budget

President Kerr convened a Public Hearing to discuss the Proposed Fiscal Year 2016-2017 Budget and then yielded the floor to City Manager Psota for presentation of the budget.

City Manager presented the proposed 2016-2017 Utilities Department Budget, acknowledging that there are no planned increases for water or sewer rates. City Manager Psota stated that the extension for the Impact fee moratorium was figured in the budget, pending the Council’s decision on that issue.

City Manager Psota stated that a tier system is proposed for water / sewer usage. For users that use 1000 – 3000 gallons the bill will be cut by 1/3. For users that use under 1000 gallons the bill will be cut in half. The rates for the Morris Mill Urban Service are also included. There was no further discussion on the Utilities Budget.

City Manager Psota presented the proposed 2016- 2017 General Operating Budget Revenues and Expenditures. City Manager Psota stated that real estate and personal property tax rates will remain the same. There was no discussion on the General Operating Budget Revenues and Expenditures.

There will now be a \$10.00 fee for picking up items with freon.

City Manager Psota proceeded with presentation of the 2016 -2017 Capital Improvement Budget, and continued with the 2016 -2021 Five Year Capital Improvement Plan. City Manager Psota stated that included in the proposed budget are an electronic gate for the Waste Water Treatment entrance and a snow plow and salt spreader to attach to the dump truck. The City Hall rehabilitation funds will be carried over to next fiscal year and used for roof replacement. A high priority is paving. Brown Street, West Cedar, East Main Street and the intersection of Clyde and Camden will be among the first streets to have paving work done. Concrete restoration is needed from the Eastern to the Western City lines on Main Street, including fixing cracks and installing ADA ramps. As part of the five year improvement plan a production well is included. Council President Kerr stated that Public Hearing for the budget will be on June 14, 2016 at 7:40 p.m.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Appointment of Mary Stevens to Board of Supervisors of Elections

City Clerk Thomas explained that Kim Marshall has requested to step down from the Board of Elections Supervisors but to continue as an alternate. Mary Stevens who has served the Board as an alternate has agreed to be appointed. **Councilor Palmer made a nomination for Mary Stevens to serve on the Board of Supervisors of Election to fill out Kim Marshall’s term seconded by Councilor Nichols, the nomination passed by a vote of five to zero.**

2. Re-appointment of Greg Olinde to Board of Zoning Appeals

City Clerk Thomas stated that Administrative Assistant Powell had spoken with Greg Olinde who agreed to remain on the Board of Zoning Appeals. **Treasurer Ortiz made a nomination to re appoint Greg Olinde to the Board of Zoning Appeals, seconded by Councilor Carey, the nomination passed by a vote of five to zero.**

3. Other

City Council President Kerr introduced the Council's proposal to recognize Veterans who have been honorably discharged from the service, who live in and are an owner of a residence located in City limits and pay taxes on that residence, by giving \$50.00 deduction on their real estate taxes. The Veterans must provide the proper paperwork. **On a motion made by Councilor Nichols to institute the \$50.00 deduction, seconded by Treasurer Ortiz, the motion passed by a vote of five to zero.** Council President Kerr explained this will also be voted on in June as part of the budget per City Solicitor Mitchell.

Chief Phillips stated forfeited property that was seized has recently been turned over to the Police Department. He would like to add those items as surplus. The items are listed below:

2014-1046 (Item 4) – Apple Mac Book Pro Model A1286 s/n W80123MLAGW with carrying case.

2014-1046 (Item 5) – Canon EOS Rebel TS Camera s/n 062072067582 with accessories in a camera bag.

2014-1046 (Item 6) – Targus TFP60T Tri Pod for Canon camera.

On a motion made by Councilor Carey to have the listed items turned over for use of the Police Department, seconded by Treasurer Ortiz, the motion passed on a vote of five to zero.

Chief Phillips explained that a camera system was employed throughout the City years ago and was not very effective. Chief Phillips stated that he has a way to refurbish the cameras at this time and locations to place the cameras which would be effective. Chief Phillips is requesting tag reader technology. There are stationary versions of the readers, which he would like to place at the entrance and exits of the City. By installing the readers they would be able to search for vehicles that are wanted. Chief Phillips will provide more information on the cameras and tag readers to the Council when obtained.

Chief Phillips stated that the card reader at the main door of the Police Department building is down. He has been in contact with the company that installed the readers and the cost to replace the reader and upgrade the software would range from \$7599.00 - \$12,000.00. Chief Phillips has contacted a local company that could replace the board and still use the readers installed for an amount of \$7599.56. **On a motion made by Councilor Carey to replace the card reader in the entrance of the Police Department and upgrade the software not to exceed \$7800.00, seconded by Treasurer Ortiz, the motion passed on a vote of five to zero.**

The Council previously agreed to use the funds from the Beckford cameras to purchase new vehicles for the Police Department. At this time the funds are available to purchase another police vehicle. Councilor Palmer questioned if any tax payer money would be used and Chief Phillips stated no. **On a motion made by Treasurer Ortiz to allow Chief Phillips to purchase another Tahoe to add to the fleet from Beckford funds, seconded by Councilor Carey, the motion passed on a vote of five to zero.**

Public Comment/General Discussion

Alexis Dashield approached the Council. She had written a letter suggesting naming Morris Street after the founder of the Fruitland Community Center, Mrs. Gladys Jones. The Council has agreed give the street an honorary name after Mrs. Jones, but the official name will remain Morris Street. City Manager Psota has spoken with Mrs. Dashield in reference to having sidewalks installed down the street in front of the Community Center, it will be considered at a later time when the budget allows. Children crossing signs will be placed near the center, and Public Works will install a sign with Mrs. Jones's name on it.

Cornella Harmon questioned if the bid for Morris Street twenty years ago was for the whole street or certain areas. City Manager Psota stated that he could not answer that question, but believes that by looking at the street, it was attempted to repair certain areas.

An unidentified male also complained of the road conditions on Morris Street. He stated that it floods easily and the roads are deteriorating due to the number of large trucks using the road. City Manager Psota stated that he will have the Police Department enforce the area for the trucks. Council President Kerr asked for a motion to have Public Works Department with the assistance of the Police Department install signs with a truck weight limit on Morris Street. Chief Phillips asked what the weight limit would be, it was undetermined at this time, Chief Phillips will find out the weight of trucks and advise the Council at a special meeting May 23, 2016.

Milton Walls from East fields Development questioned the water bills and why they are so high. He stated he was glad to hear that it was budgeted to reduce the water bill by amount of usage, but would like to know how that was determined. City Manager Psota explained how the City determined the amounts and the usage. Mr. Walls then asked how the water was processed and if restoration fees could be waived. Deputy Treasurer Swift explained that the State is in charge of the Bay Restoration Fee and the money from that goes directly to the State.

Mr. Wall's cousin Troy Tilghman asked the Council why extensions were not granted for payment of high usage water bills. He stated he had a large water bill and it was due to a leaky toilet that the City found. He called and asked for an extension but was not granted it; City Manager Psota explained that he was given an extension. City Manager Psota explained that an extension is granted if a leak is found by a plumber with documentation. Mr. Tilghman claimed that the Finance Department employees were "nasty" to him and should be dealt with. That assertion was challenged by the Council. Mr. Tilghman thanked the Council for the explanation of the bills.

Delegate Carl Anderton spoke to the Council and the Public regarding the way the funds are distributed through legislative procedure.

With no further business to discuss or comments, **Treasurer Ortiz made a motion to adjourn at 9:24 p.m., seconded by Councilor Nichols. The motion passed on a vote of five to zero.**

Raye Ellen Thomas

Raye Ellen Thomas / City Clerk

Approved, June 14, 2016
