

The Fruitland City Council met in Regular Session on Tuesday, May 11, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. with the following members present:

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

Also present were: City Manager Marc Henderson, Chief Brian Swafford, Deputy Treasurer Mark Swift, City Clerk Raye Ellen Thomas, Public Works Director Michael Gibbons and City Solicitor Andrew Mitchell.

Our guests included: Katherine McAllister, Luzette Jones, Brandon Zisha, Bowser Jones and two unknown guests.

At 7:00 p.m. President Kerr called the Council meeting to order.

President Kerr acknowledged receipt of the minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 13, 2021 and called for additions or corrections. As there were none, **Councilor Outen moved to adopt the minutes as presented; seconded by Councilor Hammond, the motion passed on a vote of five to zero.**

Reports- Treasurer, City Manager and Department Heads

Treasurer Carey delivered the Treasurer's Report. During the month of April, the City recorded \$847,000 of revenues and \$949,000 of expenses for net deficit of \$101,400. Year to date the City has recorded \$9.2 million in revenues and \$7.5 million in expenses for a net surplus of \$1.7 million. **Councilor Hammond moved to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented, Councilor Outen seconded, and the motion passed on a vote of five to zero.**

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

- There were 16 part one crimes. 936 Traffic violations and 2650 total calls for the month of April.
- Two police officers have been nominated for State awards. Corporal Butch Mills and Officer Krah Plunkart.

City Manager Henderson delivered the Code Enforcement and City Manager's report.

- City Manager Henderson advised that Code Enforcement opened 53 cases in the month of April. There have been 99 cases year to date.
- There were 36 rental violations for the month of April.
- There were 51 new building inspections and 233 year to date.

Public Works Director Gibbons delivered his report.

- Mosquito spraying is being performed throughout the City.
- The meter recalibration at the wastewater treatment plant is showing improvement of the flow.
- Herbicide spraying is being done throughout the City.

Deputy Treasurer Swift had nothing to report.

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 Hammond the paid bills were approved by a vote of five to zero.**

2. Water Plant Project Update

Public Works Director Gibbons advised change order #5 has been approved by MDE and the chlorinated smart pump upgrade should be completed by the end of May.

3. Water Plant Solar Project Update

Public Works Director Gibbons advised the materials have been received and McIntyre Electric is waiting for confirmation from Miss Utility to begin work.

4. Other

City Solicitor Mitchell advised that EDU allocation has again been raised in the Planning Commission. He recommended that those named in Ordinance # 234 should follow up on the directions for study therein. He noted that some issues may no longer apply. He stated Code 50.04 and 156.03 from Ordinance #234 and #268.

FIRST READING OF PROPOSED BUDGET FISCAL YEAR 2021 – 2022

Deputy Treasurer Swift provided the Fiscal Year 2021- 2022 Budget highlights.

Both the General Fund and Utility Fund budgets are balanced.

The proposed real estate tax rate is unchanged at \$0.9200 per \$100 of assessed value. This rate is above the constant yield rate as calculated by the State of Maryland.

The water and sewer user rates remain the same.

The sanitation rate will increase \$5 per quarter to \$49.25 to help cover the cost of outsourcing the trash pickup.

All personal and business tax rates will increase to \$2.30 per \$100 of assessed value.

The military veteran's rebate program remains in effect.

The proposed budget includes:

\$250,000 for road paving:

Clyde Avenue from Camden Avenue to Main Street

Dulany Avenue from Cedar Lane to Main Street

\$72,000 for water main line replacements:

Clyde Avenue and Dulany Avenues

\$200,000 for slip lining:

Poplar Street

Deputy Treasurer Swift reviewed all pages of the budget with the Council and audience.

There were no comments from the Council or audience regarding the proposed budget, **on a motion made by Councilor Outen to approve the first reading of the proposed fiscal year 2021-2022 budget, seconded by Treasurer Carey, the motion was approved by a vote of five to zero.**

NEW BUSINESS

1. 106 Poplar Street Subdivision

City Manager Henderson advised that the Planning Commission had been presented the property 106 Poplar Street at their meeting inquiring making the property a subdivision to two properties. It currently has two dwellings on the property and the Planning Commission has approved the subdivision. 106 Poplar Street will be the main dwelling and the 206 Holly Street will be the address of the second dwelling. The Council all agreed with the decision the Planning Commission.

2. Wastewater Treatment Plant Control Panel Upgrade

Public Works Director Gibbons advised that the control panel had the wastewater treatment plant had a problem last week and operators had to stay at the plant 24 hours a day for monitoring. The control panel runs the entire plant and was put in service in 2003. The parts are hard to replace, and the panel needs to be replaced. Public Works Director Gibbons held a bid opening on May 5, 2021, for a new panel. Two bidders responded Atlantic Controls from

Delmar and Integrated Controls from Kansas. Integrated Controls did the original plant and upgrade. Public Works Director is asking to use Integrated Controls in the amount of \$61,121. They will also need to work with Shore Rite to install the communication radio system in the amount of \$9,944. The amount of the total project will be \$71,065, which he would like to include a 5% contingency bringing the amount to \$74,000. **On a motion made by Treasurer Carey to accept the bid submitted by Integrated Controls to replace the control panel at the wastewater plant in the amount of \$71,065, not to exceed \$74,000 including contingency, seconded by Councilor Outen, the motion was approved by a vote of five to zero.**

3. Proposed Car Wash

City Manager Henderson advised that plans were submitted to the Planning Commission for a proposed car wash where the Sonic was. Brandon Zisha was present on behalf of the developer and seller of the property. He provided the Council with plans for the car wash. City Manager Henderson and City Solicitor Mitchell both advised that this matter would have to be presented to the Planning Commission. Brandon was inquiring if enough EDUs are available at this time and if the zoning could be changed for this type of business. City Solicitor Mitchell advised that Ordinance #234 regarding the EDUs must be reviewed before considering the car wash. Council President Kerr advised that this matter would have to be looked into and the project would still need to go before the Planning Commission.

Public Comment/General Discussion

Luzetta Jones discussed an issue that had occurred on April 5, 2021, involving the Police Department. Chief Swafford has previously discussed the matter with her and will be continuing to speak with her.

With no further business to discuss, **Treasurer Carey made a motion to adjourn at 7:29 p.m., seconded by Councilor Outen, the motion was approved by a vote of five to zero.**

Raye Ellen Thomas
Raye Ellen Thomas / City Clerk
[Approved, June 8, 2021](#)