

**FRUITLAND PARK CITY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING AGENDA**

March 13, 2025

City Hall Commission Chambers
506 W. Berckman Street
Fruitland Park, Florida 34731
6:00 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER, INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Invocation – Chuck Padgett – Trinity Assembly of God

Pledge of Allegiance – Interim Police Chief

2. ROLL CALL

3. PRESENTATION

(a) Proclamation – “Irish American Heritage Month”

4. CONSENT AGENDA

Routine items and items not anticipated to be controversial are placed on the Consent Agenda to expedite the meeting. If a commissioner, staff member or member of the public wish to discuss any item, the procedure is as follows: (1) Pull the item(s) from the Consent Agenda; (2) Vote on remaining item(s); and (3) Discuss each pulled item separately and vote.

(a) Approval of Minutes (city manager/interim city clerk)
February 27, 2025 regular meetings.

5. REGULAR AGENDA

(a) Resolution 2025-017 Audit Selection Committee Sunset (city manager/city clerk)

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE
CITY OF FRUITLAND PARK, FLORIDA, TO SUNSET
THE AUDIT COMMITTEE PREVIOUSLY ESTABLISHED
BY THE ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION 2024-058; THE
AUDIT COMMITTEE HAS ACCOMPLISHED TH
EPURPOSE FOR WHICH IT WAS CREATED; AND
PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

6. PUBLIC HEARING

(a)

7. QUASI-JUDICIAL PUBLIC HEARING
(a)

END OF QUASI-JUDICIAL PUBLIC HEARING

END OF PUBLIC HEARING

8. (a) City Manager

(b) City Attorney

**i. Wayne Goodridge and Tammy Goodridge v. City of
Fruitland Park, Lake County Case No. 2022-CA-1628**

**ii. Linda Harold v. City of Fruitland Park, Lake County Case
No. 2025-CA-000116**

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

10. PUBLIC COMMENTS

This section is reserved for members of the public to bring up matters of concern or opportunities for praise. Action may not be taken by the City Commission at this meeting; however, questions may be answered by staff or issues may be referred for appropriate staff action.

Note: Pursuant to F.S. 286.0114 and the City of Fruitland Park's Public Participation Policy adopted by Resolution 2013-023, members of the public shall be given a reasonable opportunity to be heard on propositions before the City Commission. Accordingly, comments, questions, and concerns regarding items listed on this agenda shall be received at the time the City Commission addresses such items during this meeting. Pursuant to Resolution 2013-023, public comments are limited to three minutes.

11. COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

(a) Commissioner Cosenza III

(b) Commissioner Mobilian

(c) Commissioner Bell

(d) Vice Mayor DeGrave

12. MAYOR'S COMMENTS

13. ADJOURNMENT

DATES TO REMEMBER

- Tuesday, March 25 Beer & Cheese Tasting
4:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Library
- Thursday, March 27 City Commission Meeting
- Thursday, March 28, 2025 Friday Night Street Party
6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
- Friday, March 29, 2025 Fruitland Park Day
10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

For additional events, please visit [Calendar | City of Fruitland Park Florida](#).

Please note that in addition to the city commission meetings, more than one city commissioner may be present at the above-mentioned events.

Any person requiring special accommodation at this meeting because of disability or physical impairment should contact the City Clerk's Office at City Hall (352) 360-6727 at least forty-eight (48) hours prior to the meeting. (§286.26 F.S.)

If a person decides to appeal any decision made by the City of Fruitland Park with respect to any matter considered at such meeting or hearing, he or she will need a record of the proceedings and ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based. The city does not provide verbatim records. (§286.0105, F.S.)

PLEASE TURN OFF ELECTRONIC DEVICES OR PLACE IN VIBRATE MODE.

**CITY OF FRUITLAND PARK
AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY SHEET
Item Number: 3a**

ITEM TITLE: Presentations

MEETING DATE: Thursday, March 13, 2025

DATE SUBMITTED: Thursday, February 6, 2025

SUBMITTED BY: (see below)

BRIEF NARRATIVE: Special Presentations:

3a Irish American Heritage Month Proclamation (city clerk)

FUNDS BUDGETED: None

ATTACHMENTS: Proclamation

RECOMMENDATION:

ACTION:



The Ancient Order of **HIBERNIANS** Irish · Catholic · American

Office of the Florida State Secretary

Greg Seán Canning

Gríoghár Seán Ó Canannáin

National Deputy Secretary, Past National Director & Past FL State President

20 January 2025

Mayor Chris Cheshire
Fruitland Park City Hall
506 W Berckman St
Fruitland Park, FL 34731-3239

Dear Mayor Cheshire,

Once again, Florida's Irish American community will be celebrating its Irish heritage during the month of March. Ever since the military governorship of Irish American Andrew Jackson, Irish Americans in Florida have provided leadership and service to their state, counties, and local communities. Irish Floridians can look back with pride on the legacy of their Irish forebears, who have contributed significantly to education, business, sports, literature, science, engineering, medicine, science and the arts. Today, we continue to recognize and honor the service of our current State, County and Town/City Council leaders and the contributions of fellow Irish Floridians.

In the past, March has been designated "Irish American Heritage Month" throughout the United States to coincide with the celebration of St. Patrick's Day on the 17th. Across the State of Florida, the Ancient Order of Hibernians and other Irish organizations will be conducting parades, celebrations, and cultural events.

The Florida Ancient Order of Hibernians respectfully requests that your office issue a Proclamation designating March 2025 as "Irish American Heritage Month" in recognition of the long history of Irish American contributions to the State of Florida. To assist you in this request, I have taken the liberty of providing a few "WHEREAS" for your consideration and possible use.

On behalf of the Ancient Order of Hibernians in America, I would like to thank you for your kind consideration of this request. Should you have any questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

In Friendship, Unity, & Christian Charity,


Greg Seán Canning

AOH Florida State Secretary

Past Florida State President and National Director



Greg Seán Canning, FL AOH State Secretary, 4530 Caladium Ct., Kissimmee, FL 34758-2156

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Grioghar@mac.com

The Florida State Board of The Ancient Order of Hibernians: <https://floridaaoh.org/>



Suggested “WHEREAS” for Irish American Heritage Month

WHEREAS, by 1776 nearly 300,000 Irish nationals had emigrated to the American colonies and played a crucial role in America’s War for Independence; and

WHEREAS, five signers of the Declaration of Independence were of Irish descent and three signers were Irish born; and

WHEREAS, Irish Americans helped to fashion a system of government for our young Nation; and

WHEREAS, twenty-two Presidents have proudly proclaimed their Irish American heritage; and

WHEREAS, in 1792 Irish born James Hoban provided the architectural plans for the the White House and served as one of the supervising architects for the construction of the Capitol; and

WHEREAS, Irish born Commodore John Barry was recognized by the United States Congress in September of 2002 as the “First Flag Officer of the United States Navy”; and

WHEREAS, Commodore John Barry fought the last sea battle of the American Revolution off the coast of Florida; and

WHEREAS, in 1813, Captain Oliver Perry, An Irish American, achieved a major naval victory in the Battle of Lake Erie; and

WHEREAS, in 1942, the 5 Sullivan brothers made the ultimate sacrifice for democracy and freedom during the Naval Battle of Guadalcanal and later had the Destroyer USS Sullivan commissioned in their memory; and

WHEREAS, the Irish first came to Spanish “*La Florida*” in the 1500s - first as missionaries and mercenary soldiers and then as planters, traders, businessmen, doctors and administrators; and

WHEREAS, three of the Spanish Governors of “*La Florida*” were actually Irish military officers; and

WHEREAS, Fr. Richard Arthur, an Irish-born priest from Limerick who was appointed parish priest for St. Augustine in 1597 and ecclesiastical judge of “*La Florida*,” established the first public school in America and opened it to both boys and girls of all races; and

WHEREAS, Andrew Jackson, whose family came from County Antrim, served as Florida’s military governor following its acquisition by the United States; and

WHEREAS, Irish Americans, since America’s inception, have provided and continue to provide leadership and service to this nation’s political, business and religious establishments; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting and proper to celebrate the rich cultural heritage and the many valuable contributions of Irish Americans





Proclamation

WHEREAS, in 1776, nearly 300,000 Irish nationals had emigrated to the American colonies and played a crucial role in America's War for Independence; and

WHEREAS, five signers of the Declaration of Independence were of Irish descent and three signers were Irish born; and

WHEREAS, Irish Americans helped to fashion a system of government for our young nation; and

WHEREAS, twenty-two presidents have proudly proclaimed their Irish American heritage; and

WHEREAS, in 1792, Irish born James Hoban provided the architectural plans for the White House and served as one of the supervising architects for the construction of the Capitol; and

WHEREAS, in 1813, Captain Oliver Perry, an Irish American, achieved a major naval victory in the Battle of Lake Erie; and

WHEREAS, in 1942, five Sullivan brothers made the ultimate sacrifice for democracy and freedom during the Naval Battle of Guadalcanal and later had the Destroyer USS Sullivan commissioned in their memory; and

WHEREAS, the Irish first came to Spanish "*La Florida*" in the 1500s first as missionaries and mercenary soldiers and then as planters, traders, businessmen, doctors and administrators; and

WHEREAS, three of the Spanish governors of "*La Florida*" were Irish military officers; and

WHEREAS, Fr. Richard Arthur, an Irish-born priest from Limerick who was appointed parish priest for St. Augustine in 1597 and ecclesiastical judge of "*La Florida*" established the first public school in America and opened it to both boys and girls of all ages, and

WHEREAS, Andrew Jackson, whose family came from County Antrim served as Florida's military governor following its acquisition by the United States, and

WHEREAS Irish Americans, since America's inception, have provided and continue to provide leadership and service to this nation's political, business, and religious establishments; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting and proper to celebrate the rich cultural heritage and the many valuable contributions of Irish Americans; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED that I Chris Cheshire, Mayor of the City of Fruitland Park, Florida", on behalf of the city commissioners, do hereby proclaim the month of March 2025 as *Irish-American Heritage Month* in recognition of the long history of Irish-American contributions to the State of Florida. Proclaimed this 13th day of March 2025.

ATTEST:

Chris Cheshire, Mayor

Gwen Johns, MMC, City Clerk

**FRUITLAND PARK CITY COMMISSION REGULAR
MEETING MINUTES
February 27, 2025**

A regular meeting of the Fruitland Park City Commission was held at 506 W. Beckman Street, Fruitland Park, Florida 34731 on Thursday, February 27, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.

Members Present: Mayor Chris Cheshire, Vice Mayor Patrick DeGrave, and Commissioner John Mobilian

Members Absent: Commissioner Chris Bell and Joseph “Joey” Cosenza III

Also Present: City Attorney Anita Geraci-Carver, City Manager Karen Manila, City Treasurer Gary Bachman; Interim Police Chief Henry Rains; Human Resources Director John Klein; Administrative Manager Sharon Williams, Interim Community Development Director Michael Rankin, Public Works Director Robb Dicus, and Library Director Joanne Glendinning.

1. CALL TO ORDER, INVOCATION, AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

After Mayor Cheshire called the meeting to order, Pastor Brian Broome, of Heritage Community Church, gave the invocation and Interim Police Chief Rains led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

ACTION: 6:01:21 p.m. No action was taken.

2. ROLL CALL

After Mayor Cheshire called the meeting to order and announced the decorum for this evening’s meeting, he requested that Ms. Williams call the roll where a quorum was declared present.

ACTION: 6:01:38 p.m. No action was taken.

3. CONSENT AGENDA

(a) Approval of Minutes – January 9, 2025, January 23, 2025, and February 13, 2025, Regular Meetings.

ACTION: 6:01:51 p.m. A motion was made by Commissioner Mobilian and seconded by Vice Mayor DeGrave that the city commission approve the minutes of January 9, January 23 and February 13, 2025, as presented. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

4. REGULAR AGENDA –

(a) Resolution 2025-012 Ratifying Acceptance of Utility Easement Along Micro Racetrack Road

Ms. Geraci-Carver read into the record proposed Resolution 2025-012, the substance of which is as follows:

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF FRUITLAND PARK, FLORIDA, RATIFYING ACCEPTANCE OF AND APPROVING THE PERMANENT UTILITY AND INGRESS-EGRESS EASEMENT IN FAVOR OF THE CITY OF FRUITLAND PARK, FLORIDA FROM CODY A. OSTEEN AND LARRY OSTEEN JR. ALONG MICRO RACETRACK ROAD; RATIFYING THE MAYOR'S EXECUTION OF THE EASEMENT AND ITS RECORDING; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

ACTION: 6:02:25 p.m. A motion was made by Vice Mayor DeGrave and seconded by Commissioner Mobilian that the city commission adopt Resolution 2025-012 as previously cited.

Mayor Cheshire called for a roll call vote on the motion and declared it carried unanimously.

(b) Request for Extension of Preliminary Plan approval – Crystal Lake Vista (Continued from 02/13/2025)

Ms. Geraci-Carver introduced the request for extension of the Preliminary Plan for Crystal Lake Vista. She stated the preliminary plan would be good for 24 months if a development permit was issued. They have submitted for construction plan approval; however, they did not complete all the reviews. There were outstanding comments that were not addressed. The development permit construction plan approval was not obtained within the 24-month period and the permit, under the code, expired in January 2025. The request has been submitted, and staff have looked at what changes would apply to the property if they resubmitted an application and no code changes have taken place that would affect the project. If the applicant was required to resubmit an application and go through the preliminary plat process, it could result in the exact same product as was previously approved.

Dr. Eric Coe, applicant, resident of 114 Sleepy Hollow Road, Leesburg FL, was present to request the one-year extension and answer any questions.

ACTION: 6:07:35 p.m. After discussion, a motion was made by Commissioner Mobilian and seconded by Vice Mayor DeGrave that the city commission approve the requested 12-month Extension of Preliminary Plan Approval – Crystal Lake Vista. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

5. PUBLIC HEARING – There were none.

6. QUASI-JUDICIAL PUBLIC HEARING – There were none.

7. (a) City Manager

i. Discuss Commemoration of 100th Anniversary of City of Fruitland Park

Joann Glendinning spoke about having a time capsule to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the City of Fruitland Park. She explained the items she would like to purchase along with the capsule. She asked the City Commission when they would like to open the time capsule. The commissioners agreed to twenty-five years and Ms. Glendinning stated that the time capsule could be interred at the windmill. She noted that the community would also be invited to submit items to be placed in the time capsule. Every effort will be made not to have any scheduling conflict with the opening of the new Public Safety Building. The Commission agreed on October 2nd or 16th, 2025, for interment of the time capsule. Ms. Glendinning requested a letter from Mayor Cheshire to the future Mayor, and a map of the city to be placed in the time capsule.

ACTION: 6:17:15 p.m. Commission provided guidance to staff.

(b) City Attorney

- i. Wayne Goodridge and Tammy Goodridge v. City of Fruitland Park, Lake County Case No. 2022-CA-1628** – Ms. Geraci-Carver stated that the depositions are scheduled for April 23, 2025, at City Hall. This case is not on the court trial docket and will not be until it is noticed by either party.
- ii. Linda Harold v. City of Fruitland Park, Lake County Case No. 2025-CA-000116** – Ms. Geraci-Carver stated that insurance counsel has been assigned to defend the City.

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business to come before the city commission at this time.

ACTION: 6:20:46 p.m. No action was taken.

10. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Carl Yauk, of 1123 Ritter Road, suggested having the Time Capsule interred when there are more people in attendance. He also spoke about technology and the use of solar energy.

Stephen Gregg, 700 Nuzum Street, asked if the City of Fruitland Park had a schedule for meetings and open town hall gatherings. He talked about transparency and asked about meeting notifications. Mr. Gregg was directed to the City's website and Ms. Manila explained how information may be located on the website.

ACTION: 6:25:40 p.m. No action was taken.

11. COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

(a) Commissioner Cosenza

ACTION: 6:25:56 p.m. No action was taken.

(b) Commissioner Mobilian

Commissioner Mobilian had nothing to report.

ACTION: 6:25:57 p.m. No action was taken.

(c) Commissioner Bell

Commissioner Bell was absent from the meeting at this time.

ACTION: 6:25:58 p.m. No action was taken.

(d) Vice Mayor DeGrave

Vice Mayor DeGrave had nothing to report.

ACTION: 6:26:03 p.m. No action was taken.

12. MAYOR'S COMMENTS

a. Dates to Remember

Mayor Cheshire announced the following events:

- Thursdays thru April 10 AARP Tax Preparation
9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. by appt at Library
- Tuesday, March 4 Chef Warren – Seafood 101 – Something
Smells Fishy, But It Won't Be Your Cooking
5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. at Library
- Thursday, March 13 City Commission Meeting

ACTION: 6:26:05 p.m. No action was taken.

13. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:27 p.m.

Gwen Keough-Johns, Interim City Clerk

Chris Cheshire, Mayor

CITY OF FRUITLAND PARK
AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY SHEET
Item Number: 3a

ITEM TITLE: Resolution 2025-017

MEETING DATE: Thursday, March 13, 2025

DATE SUBMITTED: Wednesday, February 26, 2025

SUBMITTED BY: Gwen Keough-Johns, MMC, City Clerk

BRIEF NARRATIVE: 5a1 Resolution to Sunset the Audit Selection Committee (city clerk)

The City Commission adopted Resolution No. 2024-058 on November 14, 2024, appointing members to the Auditor Selection Committee and outlining its duties.

On December 19, 2024, the committee reviewed draft proposals for RFP 2025-01 and directed the City Treasurer to coordinate the audit plan and finalize the RFP.

On January 29, 2025, the committee approved the evaluation and ranking of audit firms, recommending Maulden & Jenkins as the top choice.

On February 13, 2025, the City Commission adopted Resolution 2025-015, approving an audit engagement agreement from Mauldin & Jenkins to provide audit services for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and approving the examination engagement agreement to examine compliance with Florida laws relating to investment of public funds for the same fiscal year.

FUNDS BUDGETED: None

ATTACHMENTS: Resolution

RECOMMENDATION: Approval of Resolution 2025-017, to Sunset the Audit Selection Committee.

ACTION:

RESOLUTION 2025-017

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF FRUITLAND PARK, FLORIDA, TO SUNSET THE AUDIT COMMITTEE PREVIOUSLY ESTABLISHED BY THE ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION 2024-058; THE AUDIT COMMITTEE HAS ACCOMPLISHED THE PURPOSE FOR WHICH IT WAS CREATED; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the Fruitland Park City Commission desires to sunset the Audit Selection Committee that was established on November 14, 2024, through the adoption of Resolution 2024-058; and

WHEREAS, the Audit Selection Committee has completed the task it was assigned and therefore should be sunset.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. The City Commission of the City of Fruitland Park does hereby sunset the Audit Selection Committee.

Section 2. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption by the City Commission of the City of Fruitland Park, Florida.

PASSED AND RESOLVED this 13th day of March 2025, by the City Commission of the City of Fruitland Park, Florida.

SEAL

CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF
FRUITLAND PARK, FLORIDA

Chris Cheshire, MAYOR

ATTEST:

Gwen Keough-Johns, CITY CLERK

Mayor Cheshire	____ (Yes), ____ (No), ____ (Abstained), ____ (Absent)
Vice Mayor DeGrave	____ (Yes), ____ (No), ____ (Abstained), ____ (Absent)
Commissioner Mobilian	____ (Yes), ____ (No), ____ (Abstained), ____ (Absent)
Commissioner Bell	____ (Yes), ____ (No), ____ (Abstained), ____ (Absent)
Commissioner Cosenza	____ (Yes), ____ (No), ____ (Abstained), ____ (Absent)

Approved as to form and legality:

Anita Geraci-Carver, City Attorney

CITY OF FRUITLAND PARK
AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY SHEET
Item Number: 8b

ITEM TITLE: CITY ATTORNEY REPORT

MEETING DATE: March 13, 2025

DATE SUBMITTED: March 6, 2025

SUBMITTED BY: City Attorney

Wayne Goodridge and Tammy Goodridge v. City of Fruitland Park, Lake County Case No. 2022-CA-1628: On May 1, 2024 the Stipulated Civil Case Management Order Requiring Disclosures was entered by Judge Takac. Trial is ordered to occur within 12 months of the Order being entered (May 1, 2025). On June 18, 2024 the Court approved the substitution of counsel. Plaintiffs' attorney is now Zachary J. McCormick. There has been no activity by Plaintiff since June 18, 2024. On November 20, 2024 the City filed Defendant's Response to Plaintiff's Request for Production. The City provided documentation to attorney Roper who is representing the City in this case. On February 12, 2025, the city manager, HR director and I met with attorney Roper for the purpose of reviewing discovery, status of the case, and trial. On February 17, 2025 Mr. Roper informed the city manager the case is not set for trial in April, 2025. Depositions of the Plaintiffs have been scheduled for April 23, 2025 at City Hall.

Linda Herald v. City of Fruitland Park, Lake County Case No. 2025-CA-000116: On January 21, 2025, Ms. Herald filed a two-count complaint against the City for negligent hiring and negligent supervision of former City employee Jabari Hopkins. Ms. Herald seeks damages in excess of \$50,000 for emotional distress associated with Mr. Hopkins' criminal activities of reselling an occupied crematory vault and disturbing the remains of her late husband. On September 21, 2023 Mr. Hopkins entered a plea to the charges and was adjudicated guilty and sentenced to 5 years of probation.

FUNDS BUDGETED: N/A

ATTACHMENT: N/A

RECOMMENDATION: N/A

ACTION: N/A