

**FRUITLAND PARK CITY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
JULY 23, 2026**

A regular meeting of the Fruitland Park City Commission was held at 506 W. Berckman Street, on Thursday, July 23, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.

Members Present: Mayor Chris Cheshire, Vice Mayor Patrick DeGrave, Commissioner Michael Raysin and Commissioner Al Goldberg (being sworn in)

Members Absent: Commissioner Martina Williams

Also Present: City Manager Karen Manila, City Attorney Anita Geraci-Carver, Police Chief Henry rains, Police Lieutenant Courtney Corman, Human Resources Director John Klein; Finance Director Kim Gehrke; Community Development Administrative Manager Sharon Williams, Permit Tech Kelli Fielder, Permit Tech Brenda Sigala; Interim Community Development Director Michael Rankin, City Clerk Gwen Johns

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

After Mayor Cheshire called the meeting to order, an Invocation was given by Pastor James McKenzie, New Genesis Ministries.

Police Chief Henry Rains led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

2. ROLL CALL

After the Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance, Mayor Cheshire called the meeting to order and announced decorum for the meeting. He then requested that Ms. Johns call roll where a quorum was declared present.

3. SWEARING-IN AND INSTALLATION CEREMONY

(a) Albert O. Goldberg, City Commissioner – District 3

City Clerk Gwen Johns administered the Oath of Office to Commissioner Al Goldberg while his wife, Janet, accompanied him and held the Bible.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

(a) Approval of Minutes.

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A motion was made by Vice Mayor DeGrave and seconded by Commissioner Raysin to approve the Consent Agenda, as presented.

Mayor Cheshire called for a vote on the motion and declared it carried unanimously, 4-0.

5. REGULAR AGENDA

(a) Resolution 2026-037, Establishing a Not to Exceed Millage Rate for Fiscal Year 2026-2027

Ms. Geraci-Carver read Resolution 2026-037, by title only:

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF FRUITLAND PARK, LAKE COUNTY, FLORIDA, ADOPTING A NOT TO EXCEED MILLAGE RATE OF 3.9134 LEVYING OF AD VALOREM TAXES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027 AND SETTING THE DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Ms. Geraci-Carver explained the Resolution and stated that the millage rate referenced in the Resolution would be the most that the City Commission could impose.

Carl Yauk, 1123 Ritter Road, commented on the millage rate.

A motion was made by Commissioner Goldberg and seconded by Vice Mayor DeGrave to approve Resolution 2026-037. Mayor Cheshire called for a roll call vote and declared the motion carried unanimously, 3-0.

6. PUBLIC HEARING

END OF PUBLIC HEARING

7. (a) City Manager

Ms. Manila stated that she had received a signed copy of the Wastewater Agreement from the Town of Lady Lake, noting it would be on a future City Commission meeting agenda.

Ms. Manila also reported that the Public Works department has recently responded to numerous areas of concern related to erosion. She stated some of the concerns are significant, and funds are being placed in the FY 2026-27 budget to address the areas of concern.

Ms. Manila advised that the Code Enforcement Officer is working eleven cases and residents will soon be able to see the progress.

Mr. Rankin, Interim Community Development Director, shared an update on development. He noted that the AdventHealth ribbon cutting was a success. He discussed development on both sides of Micro Racetrack Road.

(b) **City Attorney – Nothing to report.**

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

9. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Carl Yauk, 1123 Ritter Road, discussed the agreement with the Town of Lady Lake and questioned how a new wastewater facility would be funded.

Ken Hutchinson, 107 E. LaVista Street, thanked the city for addressing code enforcement issues. He expressed concern about city water due to a recent report he had received from someone selling water purification systems. Ms. Manila asked Mr. Hutchinson to share the report. He said he would have a full report to share by the next City Commission meeting.

Mitchell Langley, 101 S. Valley Road, spoke about the wastewater agreement with the Town of Lady Lake, and he wondered when the City of Fruitland Park knew that the Town of Lady Lake would be cutting the water supply. He asked whether the City of Fruitland Park had approved new development after being informed that the agreement would not be renewed.

Mayor Cheshire asked Mr. Rankin to confirm that MDA's include language regarding wastewater capacity. Mr. Rankin confirmed.

10. COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

(a) **Vice Mayor DeGrave – Nothing to report.**

(b) **Commissioner Raysin – Nothing to report.**

(c) **Albert Goldberg – Nothing to report.**

11. MAYOR'S COMMENTS

Mayor Cheshire announced upcoming dates to remember.

Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays

**Miles & Smiles Wellness Program
(ends in August)**

Tuesdays

**Dancing Through the Decades 6:00 p.m.
at the Gardenia Center (Ends in August)**

Tuesday, August 4th

City Commission Budget Workshop

Wednesday, August 5th

**City Commission Budget Workshop
(tentative)**

Thursday, August 28th

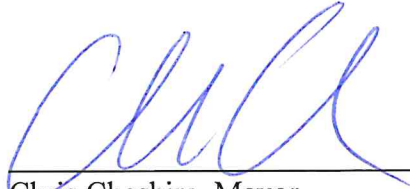
City Commission Meeting

12. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:22 p.m.



Gwen Johns, MMC, City Clerk



Chris Cheshire, Mayor