

The Fruitland City Council met in Regular/Virtual Session on Tuesday, March 9, 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, City Manager Marc Henderson, Lieutenant Dan Holland, Deputy Treasurer Mark Swift, City Clerk Raye Ellen Thomas, Public Works Director Michael Gibbons and City Solicitor Andrew Mitchell.

Our guests included: Katherine McAllister, Ron Deal, Lee Deal, Marc Deal, Mary Stevens, Officer Brandon Dill and Family and Officer Brian Boyd.

There were no virtual 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 February 9, 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 February, the City recorded \$365,000 of revenues. The City also recorded \$778,000 of expenses for the month, including \$300,000 for liability insurance and \$81,000 for Well # 5 and the Water Treatment Plant upgrade, for net deficit of \$413,000. Year to date the City has recorded \$7.97 million in revenues and \$5.92 million in expenses for a net surplus of \$2.05 million. **Councilor Outen moved to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented, Councilor Hammond seconded, and the motion passed on a vote of five to zero.**

Lieutenant Dan Holland delivered his report on behalf of the Police Department.

- There were 17 part one crimes. 932 Traffic violations and 2017 total calls for the month of February.
- Lieutenant Holland introduced Officer Dill and Officer Boyd.

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

- City Manager Henderson advised that there was a new hire in the Finance Department, Angela Williams.
- The Easter Egg Hunt and Parade have been canceled for this year.

Public Works Director Gibbons delivered his report.

- Crews were working with Shore Rite and Tidal Electric to get the control panel up and running at the Water Plant. Training was completed today.
- Public Works Director Gibbons provided a power point of paving on Camden Avenue and North Division Street.

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 Treasurer Carey and seconded by Councilor Hammond the paid bills were approved by a vote of five to zero.**

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NEW BUSINESS

1. **Oath of Office to New Officers Dill and Boyd**

City Clerk Thomas administrated the oath of office to Officer Dill and Officer Boyd. Councilor President Kerr welcomed the Officers and thanked them for their service.

2. **Resolution 1-2021 Ron Deal**

Council President Kerr read Resolution 1-2021 to Ron Deal, thanking him for his service upon his retirement from the City of Fruitland. The Council presented the Resolution to Mr. Deal and Katherine McAllister presented a gift on behalf of GMB for his 33 (thirty-three) years of service.

3. **Reappointment of Greg Olinde to Board of Zoning Appeals Board**

Council President Kerr advised that Greg Olinde had been contacted and has agreed to continue serving on the Board of Zoning Appeals, and he was therefore reappointed by the Council President and confirmed by the Council.

4. **Code Enforcement Appeals Board Members**

Council President Kerr advised that the previous members of the Code Enforcement Appeals Board, Leland Bonneville, Roland Palmer and Derek Bland have all agreed to remain on the board, and therefore they were reappointed by the Council President and confirmed by the Council.

5. **Chesapeake Utilities**

No one was present.

6. **Water Well 1 and 2 Rehabilitation**

Public Works Director Gibbons advised that a bid opening was held on February 17th. Two companies submitted bids, A.C. Schultes in the amount of \$45,500 and Somerset Well Drilling in the amount of \$44,875. In addition to the bid, an alternate for a four (4) year contract was also included. Public Works Director Gibbons advised that Somerset was also lower on the alternate contract prices and he would recommend going with that company. **On a motion made by Councilor Outen to award Water Well 1 and Well 2 Rehabilitation to Somerset Drilling in the amount of \$44,875 for the year of 2021 and 2022, for two wells in the amount of \$43,875 in year 2023 and amount of \$42,865 for year 2024, seconded by Treasurer Carey, the motion was approved by a vote of five to zero.**

7. **Sewer Infiltration/Inflow Study and Field Assessment**

Katherine McAllister from GMB provided updates to the Council with the rain totals. She has spoken with City Manager Henderson and Public Works Director Gibbons about having a study done to monitor problem areas. Whoever is chosen to do the study will install meters in the ground and there is a monthly charge. Three to six months is recommended for the study. Katherine advised that after speaking with other municipalities, the study will not identify all issues, but will identify problem areas to allow the City to narrow its search for the cause of the I&I. Katherine advised that the City had done studies in 2017. She is still working on a proposal for the Fall.

8. **Allocation of Capacity City Code**

City Solicitor Mitchell discussed a prior ordinance which deals with a policy and several directions concerning EDU's. Councilor Outen advised that a discussion needs to held with Wicomico County to buy back additional EDU's. City Solicitor Mitchell also stated one reason that it was brought up was that it was responsibility of the City Manager, Public Works Director, City Solicitor and he would suggest having Linda Powell as part of the group to review the EDU issues.

Public Comment/General Discussion

Mary Stevens approached the Council regarding the Church Street flooding issues and would like to know when they will be addressed. She also asked if landlords on that street are liable for the driveways at rental houses because several houses have issues and are parking on the street making it difficult for traffic to flow. It was also discussed possibly prohibiting parking on the street. Councilor Outen suggested to send a letter to the landlords to advise them that the Council has discussed prohibiting street parking and they need to make the renters aware. City Manager Henderson will contact GNI properties to discuss the street parking and status of the driveways. City Solicitor Mitchell advised that a first reading for prohibiting parking could be presented at the next Council Meeting. City Manager Henderson will check on the Code to see if there are restrictions with parking on streets also.

Council President Kerr asked if the spring free bulk pick up will be held this year. Per Public Works Director Gibbons and City Manager Henderson it will be held.

Councilor Outen asked if anyone opposed to starting the Council Meeting at 6:30 p.m. instead of 7:00 p.m. A discussion was held, and it was agreed starting with the April meeting it will start at 6:30 p.m. Council President Kerr stated to make sure it was advertised on the sign and website in advance.

With no further business to discuss, **Councilor Outen made a motion to adjourn at 8:00 p.m., seconded by Councilor Hammond, the motion was approved by a vote of five to zero.**

Raye Ellen Thomas
Raye Ellen Thomas / City Clerk
[Approved, April 13, 2021](#)