

The Fruitland City Council met in Virtual Session at City Hall on Tuesday, April 14, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. with the following members present by teleconference:

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

Also present on the teleconference were:

At City Hall was City Manager John Psota and Sam Grahovac from the Finance Department, Chief Brian Swafford, Deputy Treasurer Mark Swift, City Clerk Raye Ellen Thomas and City Solicitor Andrew Mitchell.

Our virtual guests were:

Senator Mary Beth Carozza, Public Works Director Michael Gibbons, Code Enforcement Officer Matthew Solava, Mac Pusey, and Glendola Stevens.

At 7:00 p.m. President Kerr called the regular Council meeting to order. Council President Kerr recited the Lord's Prayer.

President Kerr acknowledged receipt of the minutes of the Regular Meeting of March 10, 2020 and called for additions or corrections. As there were none, **Councilor Outen moved to adopt the minutes as presented; Treasurer Carey seconded, and the motion passed on a vote of five to zero.**

Reports- Treasurer, City Manager and Department Heads

Treasurer Carey delivered the Treasurer's Report. For March 2020 the City recorded \$221,000 of revenues. Expenses for the month totaled \$571,000. For the month of March, the City had a net deficit of \$350,000. Year to date the City has recorded \$6.2 million in revenues and \$6 million in expenses for a net surplus of \$200,000. **Councilor Hammond moved to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented, Councilor Miciotto seconded, and the motion passed on a vote of five to zero.**

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

- Code Enforcement had 236 closed cases in the last thirty days. Rental registration is completed.
- There were 17 part one crimes and 539 traffic violations cited. There were 2560 total calls for the month of March.
- K-9 Spence and Corporal Shellenberger completed training.
- Chief Swafford advised that he is trying to obtain all the Personal protection equipment that he can to keep the employees safe.

City Manager Psota delivered his report.

- City Manager Psota thanked Chief Swafford for his efforts to obtain the PPE for the City.
- Katherine McAllister from GMB had advised City Manager Psota that the contractor for the well project has started work and should be completed by the middle of December. MDE has additional comments on project details for the solar project.
- The City received a letter from MDE stating the City will receive grant funding in the amount of \$945, 0000 for the Tuxent Branch storm drain project. City Manager Psota thanked Senator Carozza and Delegate Anderton.

Public Works Director Gibbons delivered his report.

- The department is working hard to keep up with the sanitation. All workers are participating in the efforts.

Deputy Treasurer Swift delivered his report.

- The budget is being worked on at this time and going well.
- The first phase of the new accounting system has been in effect for three weeks and seems to be working well.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Paid Bills

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

NEW BUSINESS

1. Proposed Property Maintenance Code Ordinance # 299

The Code Enforcement Officers have proposed on advice to update the City's property maintenance ordinance. City Solicitor Mitchell advised that minor style and legal changes are to be made, and then the current ordinance would be repealed and replaced with new Ordinance #299 to be entitled the Fruitland Property Maintenance Code (F.P.M.C.). City Solicitor Mitchell then read the changes and advised this would be considered a first reading. Since there were no questions from the Council, **Councilor Miciotto made a motion to accept the first reading of Fruitland Property Maintenance Code Ordinance # 299, as presented by City Solicitor Mitchell, seconded by Treasurer Carey, the motion was approved by a vote of five to zero.** The public hearing will be set for the May 12, 2020 Council Meeting at 7:10 p.m.

2. Other

Chief Swafford requested a replacement vehicle for the Police Department since vehicle # 245 was destroyed in a traffic accident. An estimate has been received from the insurance company in the amount of \$26,050. Everything that could be retrieved from the destroyed vehicle was and can be reused. He would like to purchase a new Tahoe from I.G. Burton which has State contract pricing in the amount of \$37,945. Items that can not be reused would be purchased from Blue Tech, a sole source provider, in the amount of \$6,453 and that would include installing the old and new items. The total cost to replace the vehicle would be \$44,398, minus the \$26,050 from the insurance, bringing the amount to \$18,349, which Chief Swafford would like to request to purchase using Brekford funds. **On a motion made by Councilor Miciotto to allow Chief Swafford to purchase a replacement vehicle from I. G. Burton, as well as Blue Tech, using Brekford funds in the amount of \$18,349, seconded by Treasurer Carey, the motion was approved by a vote of five to zero.**

Public Comment/General Discussion

Senator Mary Beth Carozza advised she was happy that the City was able to receive the funding for Tuxent Branch drainage project. Senator Carozza also advised that she is on a committee helping small business owners with a loan or paycheck protection program assistance due to COVID – 19.

Glendola Stevens thanked the efforts of the City in helping the community during this time of need. Ms. Stevens addressed Code Enforcement Officer Solava in reference to fence on Cartwright Avenue. She advised it is an eyesore and a blind spot to see around. Code Enforcement Officer Solava advised that he had taken care of the fence issue last week. Ms. Stevens also asked about the grass being cut on Cartwright Avenue and Officer Solava said he will check on it.

With no further business to discuss, **Treasurer Carey made a motion to adjourn at 7:36 p.m., seconded by Councilor Miciotto, the motion was approved by a vote of five to zero.**

Raye Ellen Thomas
Raye Ellen Thomas / City Clerk
Approved, May 12, 2020