

The Fruitland City Council met in Virtual Session at City Hall on Tuesday, May 12, 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, Deputy Treasurer Mark Swift and City Clerk Raye Ellen Thomas.

Our virtual guests were:

Chief Brian Swafford, Public Works Director Michael Gibbons, Code Enforcement Officer Marc Henderson, City Solicitor Andrew Mitchell and Blair Rinnier.

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

President Kerr acknowledged receipt of the minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 14, 2020 and called for additions or corrections. As there were none, **Councilor Outen moved to adopt the minutes as presented; Councilor Miciotto seconded, and the motion passed on a vote of five to zero.**

Reports- Treasurer, City Manager and Department Heads

President Kerr delivered the Treasurer's Report. During the month of April, the City recorded \$730,000 of revenues and \$426,000 of expenses for a net income of \$304,000 for the month. Year to date the City has recorded \$6.95 million in revenues and \$6.4 million in expenses for a net surplus of \$550,000. **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 has 380 closed cases year to date. Building inspections and permits have been very busy.
- There were 12 part one crimes. There were 2800 total calls for the month of April.

City Manager Psota delivered his report.

- City Manager Psota thanked Public Works Director Gibbons and employees for keeping things running smoothly through the difficult time. Sanitation Department has been extremely busy.

Public Works Director Gibbons delivered his report.

- The grinder pump for South Brown is complete and back in operation.
- The Little League parking lot is scheduled to be paved May 13th.
- The water plant upgrade is moving along.
- The new well will be drilled starting on Monday, May 18th.

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

2. Rowen's Mill "Allocation of 49 EDUs"

City Solicitor Mitchell advised that after when Rowen's Mill presented the re-subdivision there were seventy-five lots available for construction. Rowen's Mill had twenty-six EDUs available and needed forty-nine more. The Planning Commission did allocate the additional forty-nine and Mr. Rinnier will have to pay \$100 per lot, record the plat and pay the balance of the impact fees at the time the permits are pulled. Mr. Rinnier is asking the Council to ratify the allocation of the additional forty-nine EDUs for Rowen's Mill subdivision for the plat that has been submitted. **On a motion made by Councilor Outen to ratify the forty-nine EDU's requested by Blair Rinnier and to follow the instructions outlined by City Solicitor Mitchell, seconded by Treasurer Carey, the motion was approved by a vote of five to zero.**

First Reading – Proposed Budget Fiscal Year 2020 – 2021

City Manager Psota advised that he would like to hold a budget work session in the next few weeks to discuss upcoming projects including the new trash containers.

Deputy Treasurer Swift read the fiscal year 2020 -2021 budget highlights. Both the general fund and utility fund budgets are balance. The proposed real estate tax rate is unchanged at \$.9200 per \$100 of assessed value. This rate is above the constant yield rate as calculated by the State of Maryland. The water, sewer and sanitation user rates remain the same, all personal and business tax rates remain the same and the military veteran's rebate program for real estate taxes remains in effect. The budget includes a cost of living adjustment (C.O.L.A.) of 2.5% for all employees, a projected 7% increase in health care costs, including dental and vision, of the City's partially self-funded plan and a projected 5% increase in property and liability insurance costs.

As part of the City's efforts to be progressive and reinvest in our service to the residents the proposed budget includes \$207,100 for road paving and \$268,000 for water main line replacements to be done. To adjust for increases in construction cost, the budget includes increases to the water tap installation fee from \$4,200 to \$4,900 and the water meter/vault upgrade fee from \$650 to \$1,100.

Deputy Treasurer Swift then reviewed the proposed fiscal year 2020 -2021 budget pages with the Council. **On a motion made by Councilor Miciotto to accept the first reading of the proposed fiscal year 2020 -2021 budget as presented by Deputy Treasurer Swift, seconded by Treasurer Carey, the motion was approved by a vote of five to zero.** President Kerr advised that the second reading and public hearing will be set for the June 9, 2020 Council Meeting at 7:10 p.m.

Public Hearing – Ordinance # 299 Fruitland Property Maintenance Code

City Solicitor Mitchell advised that changes were requested by the Code Enforcement Officers and they preferred a new ordinance instead of a revision. This new ordinance will repeal ordinance numbers: 21, 108, 127, 236, 249, 262, 287 and 292. City Solicitor Mitchell then read the new changes that will be effective in the new Fruitland Property Maintenance Code. There were no public comments. **On a motion made by Councilor Hammond to adopt Ordinance #299 the Fruitland Property Maintenance Code as presented by City Solicitor Mitchell, seconded by Councilor Miciotto, the motion was approved by a vote of five to zero.**

NEW BUSINESS

1. Resolution # 4- 2020 Water Quality Bonds

City Solicitor Mitchell advised this is a resolution pursuant to Ordinance #297, which authorized the City to issue/sell bonds to the Maryland Water Quality Financing Administration by resolution. City Solicitor Mitchell then read the complete title of Resolution 4-2020, to be adopted pursuant to the authority of section 19-301 to 19-309, inclusive, of the Local Government Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland, sections 9-1601 to 9-1622, inclusive. Of the Environment Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland, sections FC5-17, FC5-18, FC5-20 and FC14-12 of the Charter of the City of Fruitland, and Ordinance # 297, to issue and sell upon its full faith and credit, two separate series of general obligation bonds to be designated as "City of Fruitland Drinking Water Bond, Series 2020A" and "City of Fruitland Drinking Water Bond, Series 2020B". Mr. Mitchell also reviewed issues and information provided by bond counsel consisting of a number of bullet points summarizing various significant requirements, obligations and provisions set out in the resolution. **On a motion made by Treasurer Carey to pass Resolution # 4- 2020 Water Quality Bonds, of which the title was read by City Solicitor Mitchell, seconded by Councilor Hammond, the motion was approved by vote of five to zero.**

2. Renewal of Brekford Speed Camera Contract

Chief Swafford advised that the piggyback contract has been reviewed and the recommended revisions suggested by City Solicitor Mitchell have been made. The only changes are a fee reduction of \$3,100 to \$2,800 per month, per camera and the reduced the amount of time to cancel the contract, it is now a one-year contract instead of a four-year contract. The company is now called Rekor Recognition Systems, Inc. instead of Brekford Traffic Safety, Inc. Chief Swafford asked permission to approve contract with City Manager Psota signing the contract on behalf of the City. **On a motion made by Councilor Miciotto to renew the Brekford Speed Contract, now known as Rekor Recognition Systems, Inc., and to allow City Manager Psota to sign the contract on behalf of the City, seconded by Councilor Outen, the motion was approved by a vote of five to zero.**

3. Mower Purchase Approval

Public Works Director Gibbons advised the City has five mowers, three Torros and two Hustlers. He would like to replace one of the Torro mowers that was purchased in 2011. He has received three bids for a new Hustler mower. The low bid was from Baker, Power and Turf in the amount of \$13,150. **On a motion made by Councilor Miciotto to approve the purchase of a zero turn Hustler mower from Baker, Power and Turf, not to exceed \$13,500, seconded by Councilor Hammond, the motion was approved by a vote of five to zero.**

4. Cellular Auto Dialers

Public Works Director Gibbons advised that the City has been in the process of switching auto dialers from the pump stations over the past four years. There are three pump stations left; Texas Roadhouse, Eden Allen and Sharps Point. He has received an estimate from Shore Right Controls who has put in the other dialers, in the amount of \$8851.33. **On a motion made by Councilor Outen to replace the three auto dialers at Texas Roadhouse, Eden Allen and Sharps Point, purchasing the dialers from sole source Shore Right Controls, not to exceed \$9,500, seconded by Councilor Hammond, the motion was approved by a vote of five to zero.**

5. Policy for Abandonment of Water Service to Property

This item was removed from the agenda.

6. Bond Bill 2019 – G131 Grant Agreement Signature Approval

City Manager Psota advised that an application was made a year ago in reference to a State bond initiative. Every year the State buys bonds to fund Capital projects throughout the State. **The City was apportioned \$14,000 for the upgrade of the concession stand at the City park.** The grant has a 50% match which is included in the budget. The agreement has been reviewed by City Solicitor Mitchell and City Manager Psota is asking permission to sign the agreement. **On a motion made by Councilor Miciotto to allow City Manager Psota to sign bond bill 2019- G131 grant agreement as presented, seconded by Councilor Outen, the motion was approved by a vote of five to zero.**

7. Police Department Server Approval

Chief Swafford advised that since Micro soft no longer supports Windows 7 products, the video server and video storage servers need to be updated. Chief Swafford has received a quote from Vantage Point that services the City's IT system in the amount of \$17,420. Chief Swafford and City Manager Psota stated that Vantage is a sole source provider. **On a motion made by Councilor Miciotto to replace the video and storage server by Vantage Point, as the sole source provider, at a cost of \$17, 420, with a contingency not to exceed \$19,000, using Rekor Recognition Systems funds, previously Beckford Funds, seconded by Councilor Outen, the motion was approved by a vote of five to zero.**

Public Comment/General Discussion

There were no public comments.

With no further business to discuss, **Treasurer Carey made a motion to adjourn at 8:08 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, June 9, 2020