

The Fruitland City Council met in Regular Session at City Hall on Tuesday, January 8, 2019 at 7:30 p.m. with the following members present:

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

Also present at the table were:

City Manager John Psota, Lieutenant Dan Holland, Deputy Treasurer Mark Swift, City Solicitor Andrew Mitchell and City Clerk Raye Ellen Thomas.

Our guests included:

Public Works Director Michael Gibbons, Administrative Assistant Linda Powell, Leland Bonneville, Bob Marvel, Katherine McAllister from GMB, Pastor Dana Stauffer and her daughter, Fruitland Fire Company Chief Robin Townsend, Fruitland Fire Company President Greg Twigg and an unknown male.

At 7:30 p.m. President Kerr called the regular Council meeting to order. President Kerr led all in the Lord's Prayer and all recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

President Kerr acknowledged receipt of the minutes of the Regular Meeting of December and called for additions or corrections. As there were none, **Councilor Outen moved to adopt the minutes as presented; Councilor 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 December 2018, the City recorded \$124,000 of revenues, including \$50,000 in landlord and rental registration fees. The total billed revenues for the fiscal year are \$5 million, including real estate taxes and two quarters of utility billing. The City incurred \$693,000 of expenses for the month including \$172,000 for the purchase of two police vehicles and a utility tractor. The total expenses for the fiscal year to date are \$4.6 million. The net deficit for the City for the month of December is \$569,000 and the net income for the fiscal year to date is \$390,000. **Councilor Miciotto moved to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented, Councilor Hammond seconded, and the motion passed on a vote of five to zero.**

Lieutenant Holland delivered his report on behalf of the Police Department and Code Enforcement.

- Code Enforcement completed 6 new inspections in the last 30 days. Year to date for December 2018 is 163 total inspections.
- There were 27 Part 1 crimes reported. 11 occurred in Wal Mart and 17 have been cleared within the month.
- 670 traffic violations were issued. 87 people were charged with criminal or civil violations and there were 2122 total calls for service in December.
- Corporal Butch Mills along with other members of the Police Department and Fruitland Fire Department participated in Christmas for Kids. They distributed presents to 17 children.
- A grant has been received to purchase a license plate reader. The cost of the grant was \$13,700. City Manager Psota asked if the license plate reader will be mobile or stationary. It will be mobile.
- One of the back lines at the Police Department had been cloned and spam calls were being made from that number, hundreds of calls from all over have been coming into the Police Department. Comcast has been contacted and the number has been disconnected.

City Manager Psota had nothing to report.

Deputy Treasurer Swift had nothing to report.

Public Works Director Gibbons delivered his report on the Roads, Water and Sewer Departments.

- Regarding the complaint last month about the trench on Brown Street being clogged, the Vac Truck responded the next day and unclogged the trench.
- Drainage ditches are being cleaned out now throughout the City.
- Councilor Miciotto asked about the newspapers being thrown about the City and if that was a problem for the drainage. City Manager Psota advised he has not noticed the papers lately, but he will call the paper company if it becomes a problem again.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Paid Bills

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

2. Public Works Pole Building Update/Discussion

City Manager Psota advised that the Pole Building is almost complete. The next phase is for flooring in the salt bay, the initial plan was for concrete; however, the City is also looking at prices for asphalt. The price that has been verbally received is \$4800 for 6-inch asphalt. City Manager Psota would like the Council to be aware so if he receives quotes he will email them to the Council Members.

3. City Phone System Plan

This item was removed from the agenda.

FIRST READING: Ordinance #290 Fruitland Economic Development Commission (FrED) Dissolution

City Solicitor Mitchell read Ordinance #290 which is an Ordinance to dissolve the Fruitland Economic Development Commission known as FrED by repealing Ordinance # 251. After City Solicitor Mitchell read the ordinance Leland Bonneville asked why FrED was being dissolved. City Solicitor Mitchell advised that the commission was not doing much now. Mr. Bonneville advised that maybe different people needed to be on it. City Solicitor Mitchell advised that the City will still be involved with SWED (Salisbury Wicomico Economic Development, the revolving loan fund will still be available, and the City Managers office will deal with Economic Development. **On a motion made by Councilor Carey to accept Ordinance # 290 dissolving the Fruitland Economic Development Commission by repealing Ordinance # 251 as read by City Solicitor Mitchell, seconded by Councilor Miciotto, the motion was approved by a vote of five to zero.**

NEW BUSINESS

1. Fruitland Volunteer Fire Company Presentation

Chief Robin Townsend and President Greg Twigg of the Fruitland Volunteer Fire Company approached the Council asking for assistance with the purchase a new fire truck. They inquired about donations, low interest loans or any ideas the City had that could help them purchase the new truck. The truck will cost approximately \$650,000 unequipped and additional \$50,000 to outfit hoses on the truck. Chief Townsend and President Twigg gave a rundown of calls the fire company responded to and the results of the hydrant testing that was just conducted which keeps homeowners insurance down in the City. They also explained the funding that they receive from the State and County. Council President Kerr advised that the Council will hold a meeting to discuss what the City can do to assist the Fire Company.

2. **Sanitation Collection**

This item was removed.

3. **Sewer Department Pump Hose Cellular Dialers (3) Approval**

Public Works Director Gibbons requested approval to replace the landline dialer at the Holly Hill, South Brown and Hunt Club pump stations. He would like to replace the landlines with cellular dialers which are more reliable and would eliminate having to use Comcast at the pump stations. The cost to replace all three from Shore Right Controls is \$9068.61 and he would like to ask for a 10% contingency bringing the amount to \$10,000. Council President Kerr advised that the other six pump stations have been converted to cellular dialers and are working well. **On a motion made by Councilor Miciotto to purchase three cellular dialers for Holly Hill, South Brown and Hunt Club from Shore Right Controls not to exceed \$10,000, which includes a 10 % contingency, seconded by Councilor Carey, the motion was approved by a vote of five to zero.**

4. **GIS (Geographic Information Systems) Discussion/Quote Approval**

This item is tabled until next month.

5. **Police Surplus Items**

Lieutenant Holland reported that the Police Department has a few items to be converted to surplus items. One item is a 2004 Ford Explorer VIN # 1FMZU72KX4UA99939 to be made surplus and available for sale at the auction. The other items have been unclaimed or seized and range from duct tape to computer monitors. A list will be provided to the Clerk and Finance Department. **On a motion made by Councilor Hammond to surplus for auction the 2014 Ford Explorer, seconded by Councilor Carey, the motion was approved by a vote of five to zero.** Councilor Hammond asked if there were any computers that could be donated to the Community Center. It was determined that there was nothing that would be of value to the Community Center. **On a motion made by Councilor Miciotto to surplus for use, by the City, various items (list will be provided to the Clerk and Finance Department), seconded by Councilor Carey, the motion was approved by a vote of five to zero.**

6. **City Website Redesign**

City Manager Psota advised that Administrative Assistant Powell has been researching designers for the City website redesign. Administrative Assistant Powell has researched four companies that have experience in Government Municipalities. They are Revize, Civic Plus, Municode and Vantage Point. Revize is the company which is recommended by Administrative Assistant Powell who advised that the website now is not in ADA complaint and must be updated. Revize has a custom design or a template that can be used and should last for three to five years before needing to be updated again. There is an annual maintenance fee of \$1500. Revize locks in a set price with no increased fees and after five years will upgrade at no charge. The length of the contract is for five years however you can get out of it if not happy with the service. **On a motion made by Councilor Outen to award the renewal of the website to Revize not to exceed \$7000, seconded by Councilor Miciotto, the motion was approved by a vote of five to zero.**

7. **Other**

City Manager Psota advised that the generator vendor notified the City of a problem with the generator at the Clyde Avenue pump station. While doing an inspection the problem was discovered. The generator is 30 years old and the parts are unavailable. City Manager Psota advised that quotes are being obtained for a 1000-ton kilowatt generator and when they are received he will email them to the Council. City Manager Psota said that the generator is needed at the pump station and will need to be replaced as soon as possible.

City Manager Psota advised that the Fruitland Community Center has asked for a donation to help with the heat. The City gives a donation to the Fruitland Community Center every year and last year the Center also asked for an additional donation for the heat. Councilor Miciotto stated that he would like to include an additional \$500 to the Community Center along with the annual \$1500 donation. **On a motion made by Councilor Miciotto to donate to the Community Center the already budgeted \$1500 along with an additional \$500 for heat donation, seconded by Councilor Carey, the motion was approved by a vote of five to zero.**

Public Comment/General Discussion

Leland Bonneville asked why holes were dug in Main Street. City Manager Psota explained that the water lines are being replaced ahead of the paving that will be completed in the Spring.

With no further business to discuss or comments, on a motion made by Councilor Miciotto to adjourn at 8:45 p.m., seconded by Councilor Carey, the motion passed by a vote of five to zero.

Raye Ellen Thomas
Raye Ellen Thomas / City Clerk
[Approved, February 12, 2019](#)