



FRUITA
COLORADO

AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

TO: FRUITA CITY COUNCIL AND MAYOR

FROM: CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE

DATE: NOVEMBER 5, 2024

AGENDA TEXT: CITY MANAGER RESIGNATION – Accepting the Resignation of City Manager Mike Bennett Effective December 2, 2024.

BACKGROUND

Mike Bennett (hereinafter “Bennett”) has served as the City Manager of the City of Fruita (“employer”) since October of 2014. Throughout this period, Bennett has operated in this role through an employment agreement. The employment agreement details several aspects of the contractual relationship, including when the agreement can be terminated by both of the employer and the employee. Paragraph F of Section 3 of the agreement, states that:

F. In the event Employee decides to voluntarily resign from his position with the Employer, then Employee shall give Employer two (2) months written notice in advance, or such lesser amount of advance notices as may be otherwise mutually agreed to. Employee shall not be entitled to, nor shall he receive, severance pay in the event of voluntary resignation.

For the past several months, Bennett has been going through a selection process for the City Manager position for the City of Grand Junction. On August 26, 2024, the Grand Junction City Council that Bennett was one of two finalists for the position. After that, on September 18, 2024, Bennett was named the sole finalist for the position by the Grand Junction City Council. His contract was formally approved by the City of Grand Junction on October 16. The next day, on October 17, 2024, Bennett provided written notice to the Fruita City Council that he would be resigning from the position on December 2, 2024.

Throughout the selection process, the Fruita City Council has been informed that Bennett was an applicant. Because of this, the Fruita City Council has taken steps to fill the Fruita City Manager position, including hiring an Executive Recruitment Firm and a negotiating an Interim City Manager agreement for an employee to fill in the role during the next few months. The Fruita City Council has agreed verbally for the agreement to end of December 2, 2024 with Bennett, and this action approves that.

Bennett will still serve as the Fruita City Manager until Friday, November 22nd, 2024, his last day in the office. His last formal date with the City of Fruita is scheduled for December 2nd, 2024, and Bennett will use accrued vacation leave in the week between the two dates. The City Council has requested this action be placed on agenda to take official action on it.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact to this action.

APPLICABILITY TO CITY GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The City Council is required by the Fruita Charter to appoint a City Manager to serve as the Chief Administrative Officer of the City and to be responsible for the management of the City. Accepting this resignation has (and will) allow the City Council to continue to process to fill the role that will be vacated by Bennett.

OPTIONS AVAILABLE TO THE COUNCIL

- Accept the Resignation of City Manager Mike Bennett effective December 2, 2024.

RECCOMENDATION

- **ACCEPT THE RESIGNATION OF CITY MANAGER MIKE BENNETT EFFECTIVE DECEMBER 2, 2024.**