

**FRUITA CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP
SEPTEMBER 17, 2024
5:30 P.M.**

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The workshop of the Fruita City Council was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Mayor Matthew Breman. City Council members present were Aaron Hancey, Jeannine Purser, James Williams, Rich Parrish, Amy Miller and Andrea Downs.

City Staff present were City Manager Mike Bennett, Assistant City Manager Shannon Vassen, Communications & Engagement Specialist Ciara DePinto, Deputy City Clerk Deb Woods and Parks and Recreation Director Marc Mancuso.

Also in attendance was Shelly Smith, President/Originator of Town and Country Finance Corp. located at 122 E. Aspen Ave. in Fruita.

AGENDA ITEMS

1. ARTS AND CULTURE BOARD HEART OF FRUITA PROGRAM (5:30 – 6:00 PM)

Discussion was held concerning a request by Shelly Smith, President/Originator of Town and Country Finance Corp. located at 122 E. Aspen Avenue. Ms. Smith had asked that the “HeART of Fruita” sculpture be removed from in front of her business and potentially replaced by another sculpture due to her concern that the new art was in too much of a contrast to the existing mural on the side of her building, which was based on Steve and Denise Hight’s book cover about Fruita history that depicts an Old West theme.

Staff and Council discussed the process for how art pieces are selected for the “HeART of Fruita” rotating sculpture program by the Fruita Arts and Culture Board and the Fruita Rotary Club, who donates \$1,000 annually to the program. The five downtown Fruita locations of the art pieces are selected by the Board and the Parks and Recreation Director Marc Mancuso and each piece is to remain at its selected location for a minimum of one year.

Discussion was held concerning potentially getting downtown businesses involved in the selection and location process for the art. Mr. Mancuso advised that the City of Grand Junction and Town of Palisade have similar programs and they do take feedback, but it does not result in any changes to their decisions.

Councilor Downs urged the Council to continue to support the Arts and Culture Board’s decisions and explained that the board is still in the process of gaining the trust of local artists.

Lengthy discussion was held that ultimately resulted in the City Council determining that changes to decisions that have already been made by the Arts and Culture Board (and have been made public) would send the wrong message and be very detrimental to the program going forward.

2. CITY COUNCIL DISCUSSION ON LOCALISM (6:00 – 6:45 PM)

Because the discussion about the previous agenda item ran longer than expected, the Mayor moved the discussion on localism to the Council Workshop meeting agenda of September 24, 2024.

OTHER ITEMS (6:45 PM)

No other items were discussed.

4. ADJOURN

With no further business before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 6:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Deb Woods
Deputy City Clerk