



TO: Fruita City Council and Mayor

FROM: Nick Peck, Lieutenant of the Fruita Police Department.

DATE: MARCH 19, 2024

AGENDA TEXT: Ordinance 2024-10 – Second Reading – An Ordinance Amending the Fruita Municipal Code and Creating a New Title IX Chapter to Regulate Unmanned Aircraft Systems.

BACKGROUND

The purpose of this coversheet is to provide the City Council with the updated regulations pertaining to all Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) operating within the boundaries of the City of Fruita. Following multiple City Council discussions, the ordinance was modified to remove restrictions for the use of UAS on City property and to provide more access for UAS operations. This modification also removes the necessity for a UAS operator to seek written authorization from the City Manager or their designee prior to operating a UAS on City property. The current ordinance aligns with FFA regulations with the exception of prohibiting the operation of UAS on or over another's private property without prior consent from the property owner. Staff met with local UAS operators and attended an FAA UAS Law Enforcement Seminar to better understand public concern and safety implications surrounding UAS usage. This draft ordinance was presented and discussed with the City Council at the November 28, 2023 City Council Workshop, at which the City Council directed staff to proceed with bringing this ordinance forward through the first and second reading process.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is additional fiscal impact associated with this amendment to the Fruita Municipal Code.

APPLICABILITY TO CITY GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The city's primary goal is to protect the health, safety and welfare of the city's residents. Additionally, the proposed Ordinance is intended to align with Fruita's Community Values where people feel safe in their neighborhoods, in their homes, and on their property. Quality of Place is another strong focus of Staff and the City Council, as a community where residents and visitors love where they are.

OPTIONS AVAILABLE TO THE COUNCIL

- Approve Ordinance 2024-10 as presented.
- Advise staff to revise ordinance and make any changes, then move to approve Ordinance 2024-10 as amended.

- Advise staff to revise or reevaluate the ordinance and bring at a future date.

Staff recommendation is for City Council to make a motion to approve as proposed.

RECOMMENDATION

MOVE TO APPROVE ORDINANCE 2024-10 AMENDING THE FRUITA MUNICIPAL CODE AND CREATING A NEW CHAPTER IN TITLE IX TO REGULATE UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS.