



**FRUITA**  
COLORADO

## AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

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**TO:** Mayor & City Council

**FROM:** Mike Bennett, City Manager & Dan Caris, Planning & Development Director

**DATE:** November 1, 2022

**AGENDA TEXT:** Building Services Letter to Mesa County Board of Commissioners

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### BACKGROUND

City Council directed staff to draft a letter to the Mesa County Board of Commissioners to clear any possible confusion regarding the City of Fruita providing building inspection services in-house rather than contracting to Mesa County. Attached is a draft letter for Council to discuss and provide any final feedback on prior to being sent to the Mesa County Board of Commissioners and copying to the Home Builders Association.

During the 2022 City Council Strategic Planning Retreat and a subsequent City Council Workshop, City Council directed staff to proceed with transitioning building inspection services in-house beginning in 2023. This service has traditionally been contracted to Mesa County to provide. City Manager Mike Bennett first alerted County Manager Pete Bair of this upcoming change in mid-August. Mr. Bennett identified that the City would be ready by July 2023, but needed to first prepare a division to handle the services. Mr. Bennett told Mr. Baier that the City of Fruita will keep the County updated and hopes for a smooth transition. Planning & Development Director Dan Caris followed-up with the same alert to Mesa County Building Official Darrell Bay. In early September, City staff requested changes to the language in the proposed contract with Mesa County for building services to reflect this change, but due to timing, the two entities agreed to a one-year agreement with the same 90-day clause to end the contract as in the previous rather than address the language changes. In mid-September, Mr. Bennett alerted Mr. Baier that the City would soon begin the official recruitment of the Chief Building Official striving to have this person in place by January 2023. This will help the City prepare for starting in-house inspection on or before July 2023. Mr. Bennett reaffirmed to Mr. Baier that the City would continue to keep the County informed leading up to official notice, per the contract, at a minimum of a 90-day notice. During this time, staff began engaging with the development industry regarding this upcoming change. Recently, there has been some confusion as to whether this transition of building inspection services is to occur.

### FISCAL IMPACT

No financial impact for the letter and the services are budgeted in the 2023 proposed annual budget.

### APPLICABILITY TO CITY GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

In 2015-2016, the City clarified strategic priorities with core services and aligning our time, talents, and resources to defined areas of Economic Health, Quality of Place, and Lifestyle. The City has placed

much effort into our community engagement, most recently during a one-year process with the community to update the Fruita In Motion Comprehensive Plan. Over 4,000 residents engaged to clarify Fruita's vision, values, and how we grow as a community. This was followed by over a year of extensive policy work on updating the land use code and all other master plans and policies to reflect the community's desires in the comprehensive plan.

We continue to align our processes with our values. It is the City's responsibility to manage planning and zoning, as well as required state and international building codes. For many years the latter has been contracted with Mesa County. The City is now able to bring this in-house to align with our values and provide an aligned one-stop process for all development in the City limits with the highest degree of customer service, consistency, and transparency we devote to all our services.

### **OPTIONS AVAILABLE TO THE COUNCIL**

1. Provide feedback for any possible changes and approve.
2. Approve the letter as is.
3. Deny the letter with specific feedback for next steps.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends City Council provide any possible feedback for discussion and direction on the final letter to be sent to the Mesa County Board of Commissioner and any other specific parties.