

**FRUITA CITY COUNCIL
WORKSHOP
FEBRUARY 28, 2023
6:30 P.M.**

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The workshop of the Fruita City Council was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Mayor Kincaid. City Council members present were Mayor Pro Tem Matthew Berman, and City Councilors Jeannine Purser and James Williams. Councilors Amy Miller, Aaron Hancey and Ken Kreie were excused absent.

City Staff present were City Manager Mike Bennett, Deputy City Clerk Deb Woods, Police Chief Dave Krouse, Public Works Director Kimberly Bullen and Public Works Superintendent John Carillo.

Also in attendance were United Way of Mesa County's Executive Director Zebulon Miracle and Livability Commission Chair and former Planning Commissioner and City Councilor Dave Karisny.

AGENDA ITEMS

1. UNITED WAY OF MESA COUNTY PROGRAMS AND SERVICES PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION (6:30 – 7:00 PM)

Executive Director Zebulon gave a great overview and provided packets of information for those Council members who were absent from the meeting. Staff will place links on website, social media, and in the FAQs.

2. MOUNTAIN WATER PROPERTIES OVERVIEW (7:00 – 8:00 PM)

Public Works Director Kimberly Bullen and Superintendent John Carillo provided a PowerPoint presentation on the mountain properties. After providing an overview of our assets, there was discussion about the liabilities and challenges staff has with these properties and the realities of the value of the water rights. The City has no ability to get the water into the City of Fruita.

Reservoirs 1, 2 & 3 are on U.S. Forest Service property and the only benefactors are currently those who recreate on the water and the 55 Glade Park residents who receive irrigation water from a spring and Reservoir 1.

Staff is awaiting recommendations from the Natural Resource Conservation Study (NRCS) in May. Council discussed how the City should not continue spending City funds for no benefit within the City.

Staff will again reach out to partner agencies including the City of Grand Junction, Mesa County and the U.S. Forest Service to gauge their interest in taking over. Staff was directed to find updated estimates on the costs of breaching or repairing Dam 2 and detail current, ongoing costs and projections of costs into the future. Council will receive NRCS recommendations as soon as they are available in May and will work to make decisions through July. They expressed sincere interest in not "kicking the can down the road" concerning the issue.

3. BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS DISCUSSION (8:00 – 8:15 PM)

The packet contained a pdf that summarizes how each Board and Commission was created, their purpose and the roles of Council & Staff Liaisons. Council discussed whether Council Liaisons are needed and the fact their role is actually far less than they thought; it's not supposed to be like being a typical board member, but instead Council Liaisons should be listening, not leading the discussions, and when speaking on behalf of the Council, it must be from information approved by the entire Council, not just the Liaison's personal opinion.

Staff is reviewing the same internally with Staff Liaisons. While it has been a common practice in Fruita to have Council liaisons, it was made clear this is not necessarily common in many cities/states since these are groups appointed by City Council to advise Council, so they can present to the entire Council as needed. Based on Council's direction, City Manager Mike Bennett put together the following proposed schedule for future discussions about Boards and Commissions:

The next steps for the Council will include (proposed schedule):

- **March 28 Council workshop:** Have a Council discussion to dive deeper on the Council Liaison roles and the level of involvement with Boards and Commissions
- **March 28 Council workshop:** Council to discuss the purpose, accomplishments, and next steps/direction for the Downtown Advisory Board (DAB), then open the discussion with the DAB
- Have updates from the following Boards & Commissions at regular Council meetings for 10 minutes under the Proclamations & Presentations Section of regular meeting agendas including an overview of recent accomplishments, current efforts, and questions Board members have of the City Council related to the Board's purpose and direction from City Council:
 - **March 21** - Fruita Tourism Advisory Council (FTAC)/Colvita (the City's marketing firm)
 - **April 4** - Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (PRAB)
 - **April 18** – Historic Preservation Board (HPB)
- **April 25 Council workshop:** Council to discuss the purpose, accomplishments, and next steps/direction for the Livability Commission, then open the discussion with the Livability Commission
- **May 23 Council workshop:** Council to discuss the purpose, accomplishments, and next steps/direction for the FTAC, then open the discussion with the FTAC
- **May 30 Council workshop:** Council to discuss the purpose, accomplishments, and next steps/direction for the PRAB, then open the discussion with the PRAB (5th Tuesday. With June workshop canceled due to CML conference, does the Council want to schedule this workshop?)
- **July 25 Council workshop:** Council to discuss the purpose, accomplishments, and next steps/direction for the HPB, then open the discussion with the HPB

There was discussion about the need for scheduling training for all Boards & Commissions. Staff will aim for an August/September timeframe to accomplish this.

4. FIBER LETTER TO GOVERNOR POLIS REQUEST (8:15 – 8:20 PM)

A meeting is scheduled for all cities/county for Thursday, March 2, 2023 to meet with the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT). Will wait to see result of that before having Mayor Kincaid sign the letter to the Governor. If timing does not allow to bring an updated letter to Council on March 21st, then the Mayor will sign if needed. Fortunately for Fruita, we have another option other than

CDOT fiber, but we would like to have that option and it will be important for all partners to have the same option.

5. OTHER ITEMS

- **Waste Water Violation**—The City received a violation in error from the state after Fruita's sample was sent from one lab to another, who accidentally applied the wrong metrics to Fruita's sample, so Fruita actually passed per the accurate metrics, but this mistake generated an official notice from the state for a potential \$60,000 fine. Staff is working to get it corrected with the state, who has acknowledged the error.
- **Thursday Night Concert Series**—The City is doubling the budget from \$7,500 to \$15,000 for bands.
- **Building Records**—Staff has been able to work out how to handle open permits Mesa County has, who is working on the transfer of digital records. Fruita has hard copy records. Staff received an unprofessional letter from the Mesa County attorney that stated that they did not have issues, but after staff admitted they had errors, they are now cleaning up the records. Fruita's Building Department has already opened approximately 70 building permits and closed over half in its first week.
- **Mulberry 2 north parking slots**—The Council still has time to change the plans for parking. It would cost about \$2,000 to change to stamped concrete. Council directed staff to proceed with the current plan of keeping all the parking spots in.
- **Housing Authority**—There will be a Housing Authority Board meeting on Tuesday, March 7th at 6:00 pm to approve the agreement with Dee Wisor to advise the HA, approve minutes and have an Executive Session with Mr. Wisor concerning a request from the Mews Developer.
- **Congressional District Spending**—Mayor Kincaid signed letters to apply for grant funding for the Maple Street Bridge project, 19 Road, Fremont Street and sewer line projects.

4. ADJOURN

With no further business before the Council, Mayor Kincaid adjourned the meeting at 10:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Deb Woods
Deputy City Clerk