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**FRUITA CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
DECEMBER 2, 2025  
7:00 P.M.**

**1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

Mayor Breman called the regular meeting of the Fruita City Council to order at 7:00 p.m. The meeting was held both in person and with virtual access provided through Zoom.

**Present:** Mayor Matthew Breman  
Mayor Pro Tem Aaron Hancey  
City Councilor James Williams  
City Councilor Jeannine Purser  
City Councilor Rick Parrish  
City Councilor Amanda Quigley  
City Councilor Amy Miller

**Excused Absent:** (None)

**City Staff Present:** City Manager Shannon Vassen  
Assistant City Manager Dan Caris  
Management Analyst Kaydee Lucero  
Interim City Clerk Deb Woods  
Special Projects Coordinator Steve Martinez  
City Attorney Mary Elizabeth (virtual)

**Also Present:** Members of the public (in person and virtual)

**2. MOMENT OF SILENCE AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mayor Breman called for a moment of silence for reflection. He then led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**3. AGENDA - ADOPT/AMEND**

- **COUNCILOR PURSER MOVED TO ADOPT THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED. COUNCILOR PARRISH SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION PASSED WITH SIX YES VOTES.**

**4. PROCLAMATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS**

There were no Proclamations or presentations on the agenda.

**5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND CONSENT AGENDA**

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:**

**Jeffrey Loudon, 1119 Daisy Lane, Fruita, CO** stated that he had an idea for making the downtown core of Fruita safer for pedestrians and cyclists, especially at night. He said he had spoken with Councilor

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Purser about his idea, which was to paint the walkways with paint that is more visible and place some sort of speed limit signage in the middle of the road that could have a dinosaur on it.

**Benny Wilson, 1509 Baxter Street, Mack, CO** said that he has been trying to bring up a problem that he is having with the Fruita Police Department. He stated that he has evidence of officers violating their bodycam policy and that Lt. Peck told him that the officers don't have to turn their bodycams on until they are approaching suspects. He said he looked into the City's Bodycam Policy, which states that the bodycams are to be turned on for 911 calls and if they are not being turned on then, it is considered "concealing evidence."

Wilson continued that he has evidence that a Fruita Police Officer turned on his bodycam after he walked away from school employees and towards him. He said it wasn't right, he isn't going to let it go and he tried to bring it up with the Chief of Police but everyone told him it's unfounded. Wilson stated his evidence says otherwise and requested that the Mayor and City Council help him correct it so that bodycams are turned on for 911 calls, not when officers are approaching suspects.

Wilson stated that he would like to schedule a meeting with the City Attorney and that he has been trying to get ahold of her, but she hasn't called him back. He said that is why he was bringing the matter before the City Council that there is a problem at the Fruita Police Department of violating the Bodycam Policy. He also requested to schedule a meeting with the City Council and Chief of Police.

Wilson said he has an educational channel on YouTube and that he isn't out to create lawsuits; he's out to correct problems. He called himself an auditor and reiterated that he wasn't going to let it go; that he would remain at Council meetings until the matter is corrected.

Wilson requested that he be allowed to present his evidence at a meeting with the City Attorney, Council and Lt. Peck.

**Jesse Mease, 1279 Henry's Lane, Loma, CO** stated that he serves on the Lower Valley Fire Protection District (LVFPD) Board of Directors and that he wanted to publicly thank the City Council for the help and interaction that they've had with the LVFPD as everyone works through the process of putting a \$0.2% sales tax increase measure on the ballot for the City's 2026 Municipal Election. He also thanked City staff and said he looks forward to continuing to grow the relationship between the City and the LVFPD.

Hearing no further public comment, Mayor Breman closed the Public Participation Section of the agenda.

### **CONSENT AGENDA:**

#### **A. MINUTES – A REQUEST TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 21, 2025 COUNCIL WORKSHOP MEETING**

- **COUNCILOR MILLER MOVED TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA AS PRESENTED. COUNCILOR HANCEY SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION PASSED WITH SIX YES VOTES.**

#### **6. CONVENE AS FRUITA HOUSING AUTHORITY**

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*The Fruita Housing Authority Meeting convened at 7:10 p.m.*

Fruita Housing Authority Board of Commissioners that were present included:

- Commissioner James Williams
- Commissioner Aaron Hancey
- Commissioner Jeannine Purser
- Commissioner Rich Parrish
- Commissioner Amanda Quigley
- Commissioner Amy Miller

**A. PRESENTATION AND OVERVIEW OF THE PROPOSED 2026 FRUITA HOUSING AUTHORITY BUDGET – SHANNON VASSEN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Executive Director Shannon Vassen stated that the proposed 2026 Fruita Housing Authority Budget has an economic impact of \$255,000 plus an additional \$100,000. \$200,000 is for the second payment of four to The Oaks Redevelopment Project on the west side of Fruita.

This year, the Authority came to terms with the developer to restrict all 62 units at The Oaks to 100% of the Area Median Income (AMI) and in exchange, the Authority is contributing \$800,000 over four years. \$400,000 was paid in 2025, \$200,000 will be due upon the issuance of the Certificate of Occupancy (either in 2026 or 2027) and a few additional payments will be due two years after that. After the payments are put through, a Restrictive Covenant will be put on the development which holds the AMI limits until The Oaks is sold or transferred to another owner.

Another expense in the proposed Housing Authority Fund is \$55,000 for legal expenses, which is carried forward each year and most of which hasn't yet been spent. In general, if there is a project that comes before the Fruita Housing Authority or Fruita City Council, it does require review from either the City Attorney or Special Counsel Dalton Kelley of the law firm Butler Snow. Some of the expenses are charged back to the developer which are reflected on the revenue side as "Developer Reimbursements" and on the expense side as "Legal Fees."

The remaining \$100 in the proposed Budget is set aside for publishing Resolutions of the Fruita Housing Authority and its Annual Budget.

Vassen formally requested that the Board of Commissioners approve the recommendation of the current draft of the 2026 Annual Fruita Housing Authority Budget to the City Council.

Chairman Breman asked if the Fund Balance of \$27,114 is eligible for interest. Vassen stated that it is and added that staff puts the interest in some sort of savings account, whether it's a Money Market or CD (funds that can be used long-term) for the Housing Authority Fund and all the other City Funds. Vassen explained that interest earnings have been pretty significant on some of the larger Funds of the City and while they are not something that is budgeted each year, the interest does appear in the Actuals for each year.

- **COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS MOVED TO APPROVE THE CURRENT DRAFT OF THE 2026 FRUITA HOUSING AUTHORITY BUDGET TO THE FRUITA**

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**CITY COUNCIL AS PART OF THE CITY OF FRUITA'S ANNUAL BUDGET SCHEDULE. COMMISSIONER PARRISH SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION PASSED WITH SIX YES VOTES.**

**7. ADJOURN AS FRUITA HOUSING AUTHORITY**

*With no further business before the Fruita Housing Authority, the meeting was adjourned at 7:14 p.m. and the Fruita City Council meeting reconvened.*

**8. PUBLIC HEARINGS AND ACTION ITEMS**

*Public hearings are held to obtain input from the public on various items. Public hearings are either Legislative in nature or Quasi-Judicial in nature. Public Input is limited to three minutes per person. People speaking should step up to the microphone and state their name and address. Each is described as follows:*

*LEGISLATIVE – Legislative public hearings are held when the City Council is considering an item that establishes legislation such as an ordinance amending or establishing laws of the city.*

*QUASI-JUDICIAL – Quasi-judicial public hearings are held when the City Council is acting in a judicial or judge like manner and a person with a legitimate interest is entitled to an impartial decision made on the basis of information presented and laws in effect. Quasi-judicial hearings are commonly held for land use hearings and liquor license hearings. The City Council must limit its consideration to matters which are placed into evidence and are part of the public record. Quasi-judicial hearings are held in the following manner:*

1. Staff presentation - Staff will present the comments and reports received from review agencies and offer a recommendation.
2. Applicant Presentation - The petitioner is asked to present the proposal. Presentations should be brief and to the point and cover all of the main points of the project.
3. Public Comment - (limit of 3 minutes per person) Speakers must step up to the microphone and state their name and address. Speakers should be to the point and try not to repeat the points others have made.
4. Staff and/or applicant(s) respond to public comment.
5. Council will ask questions of staff and applicant.
6. The public hearing is closed to public comments.
7. Make a motion. A member of the City Council will make a motion on the issue.
8. Following a second to the motion, the City Council may discuss the motion.
9. Vote. The City Council will then vote on the motion.

*ORDINANCES - After introduction of an Ordinance (First Reading), a public hearing date is set and notice of the hearing is published in the newspaper. Staff presents the ordinance on Second Reading and the hearing is opened to the public for public input. After comments from the public, the Mayor will close the hearing and bring the Ordinance back to the City Council for discussion and potential action. The Council will make a motion to approve the Ordinance or take no action. In the event the ordinance is approved, it will become effective 30 days after adoption.*

*ACTION ITEMS – Action items are items that require Council action and have public comment.*

**A. RESOLUTION 2025-43 – ESTABLISHING THE SCHEDULE OF FEES AND CHARGES FOR THE 2026 BUDGET YEAR – CITY MANAGER SHANNON VASSEN**

City Manager Shannon Vassen provided staff's presentation. He explained that Resolution 2025-43 and the subsequent three Resolutions formally adopt the 2026 Annual Budget for the City of Fruita that staff and the City Council have been discussing for several months. As part of the City Charter, staff is required to present a Budget to Council in September and that occurred at the September 30, 2025 Council Workshop meeting. Following that, Department Directors presented their Budgets for Community Development, Infrastructure, Core Services, Public Works, Engineering, Capital Projects, Enterprise Funds (utility services such as sewer, trash and irrigation water), Personnel and Quality of Place, Police Department, Parks and Recreation Department and the Fruita Community Center at subsequent Council meetings.

At the November 18, 2025 Regular Council meeting, staff presented Budgets for Economic Development and Marketing and Promotion as well as an All Funds Overview. At that meeting, the public hearing on the 2026 Annual Budget was held and then continued to the December 2, 2025 Regular Council meeting for adoption.

Vassen pointed out that he has also presented the 2026 Annual Budget to each individual department and staff feels that the Budget is in a very good place.

Vassen explained that Resolution 2025-43 formally adopts the Fee Schedule for the 2026 Fiscal Year. He outlined a few of the notable changes in the fees as follows:

- No change to Building Inspection fees
- No changes to Community Development fees, but some language was clarified to say that if the City has in excess of legal review, that will be billed back to the developer.
- Development Impact Fees are based on Municipal Code amendments that were adopted a few years ago and which are adjusted annually by the Consumer Price Index (CPI) provided by the Bureau of Labor and Statistics or in some cases, the Colorado Department of Transportation or even the Engineering News Review for Parks, Open Space and Trails (POST) Impact Fees. The 2026 Annual Budget includes some minor changes including between 3% to 5% overall in Impact Fees based upon the Code amendments.
- No change to the Fruita Community Center fees, but staff added a Veterans' and Active Military Members' Day Pass that includes a 25% discount.
- In Police Department fees, a sex offender initial registration fee of \$75 and a \$25 annual sex offender registration fee were added, which is consistent with state statute.
- The 2026 Budget includes a 2% increase in sewer fees and a 5% increase in trash fees.
- No changes to irrigation water rates.

Mayor Breman opened the public hearing. Hearing no public comment, he closed the hearing to public input and referred the agenda item to the Council.

Councilor Hancey stated that he very much appreciates the Budget that the City has; that it is very well laid out and transparent through staff's efforts.

- **COUNCILOR PARRISH MOVED TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 2025-43 – ESTABLISHING THE SCHEDULE OF FEES AND CHARGES FOR THE 2026 BUDGET YEAR. COUNCILOR WILLIAMS SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION PASSED WITH SIX YES VOTES.**

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**B. RESOLUTION 2025-44 – ADOPTING THE 2026 ANNUAL BUDGET – PUBLIC HEARING (CONTINUED FROM NOVEMBER 18, 2025) – CITY MANAGER SHANNON VASSEN**

City Manager Shannon Vassen provided staff's presentation. He explained that Resolution 2025-44 formally adopts the 2026 Annual Budget as shared with and reviewed by City Council over the last several meetings. Staff had just updated the draft of it online and there will be a final draft uploaded once the Budget is adopted. The 2026 Annual Budget has an overall fiscal impact of \$28.2 million and out of that, \$25 million is in current year revenues, \$2 million in Transfers between Funds and use of available funds (Fund Balance) is \$1.1 million. Vassen stated that almost all of the \$1.1 million is to be spent on Capital Equipment or Capital Projects which are one-time expenses.

Vassen stated that staff recommends approval of the 2026 Annual Budget as presented with one very minor change to the Irrigation Water Contingency Account where it went from \$1,050 initially to \$1,875. The change was made for balancing purposes only.

Mayor Breman opened the public hearing. Hearing no public comment, he closed the hearing to public input and referred the agenda item to the Council.

Councilor Parrish echoed Councilor Hancey's previous comments about appreciating staff's efforts. Vassen stated that it is an effort amongst all staff; everyone contributes to the narratives for each of the Departments including goals and performance measures.

- **COUNCILOR HANCEY MOVED TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 2025-44 – ADOPTING THE 2026 ANNUAL BUDGET. COUNCILOR MILLER SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION PASSED WITH SIX YES VOTES.**

**C. RESOLUTION 2025-45 – APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR THE 2026 ANNUAL BUDGET – CITY MANAGER SHANNON VASSEN**

City Manager Shannon Vassen provided staff's presentation. He stated that now that the Budget had been approved, the Council needs to formally appropriate funds for use; the City cannot spend any budget dollars without formal appropriations. Resolution 2025-45 does just that.

Mayor Breman opened the public hearing. Hearing no public comment, he closed the hearing to public input and referred the agenda item to the Council.

- **COUNCILOR QUIGLEY MOVED TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 2025-45 – APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR THE 2026 FISCAL YEAR IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE ADOPTED 2026 ANNUAL BUDGET. COUNCILOR PURSER SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION PASSED WITH SIX YES VOTES.**

**D. RESOLUTION 2025-46 – ESTABLISHING THE PROPERTY TAX MILL LEVY FOR THE 2026 BUDGET – CITY MANAGER SHANNON VASSEN**

Vassen again provided staff's presentation. He explained that Resolution 2025-46 authorizes the City Clerk to certify the Mill Levy of 10.146 mills to the Mesa County Commissioners and Mesa County Assessor. Staff have been unable to locate any records showing that the Mill Levy has ever changed over the last 40 years and were again recommending no changes to it. The Mill Levy property tax is generally used to support the City's General Fund, which provides for essential, quality core governmental services such as police, parks, roads and bridges. Staff recommends approval of the Resolution.

Mayor Breman opened the public hearing. Hearing no public comment, he closed the hearing to public input and referred the agenda item to the Council.

- **COUNCILOR MILLER MOVED TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 2025-46 – ESTABLISHING A MILL LEVY ASSESSED ON PROPERTY IN FRUITA FOR THE 2026 BUDGET YEAR AT 10.146 MILLS FOR GENERAL OPERATIONS AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY CLERK TO CERTIFY THE MILL LEVY TO THE MESA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS. COUNCILOR PARRISH SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION PASSED WITH SIX YES VOTES.**

**E. RESOLUTION 2025-47 – SUBMITTING TO THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS AT THE CITY OF FRUITA APRIL 7, 2026 REGULAR MUNICIPAL ELECTION A BALLOT ISSUE CONCERNING THE INCREASE OF THE SALES AND USE TAX WITHIN THE CITY BY 0.2% - ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER DAN CARIS**

*At 7:27 p.m., Councilor Jeannine Purser recused herself from the meeting due to a potential conflict of interest or the perception thereof because her husband sits on the Board of Commissioners for the Lower Valley Fire Protection District (LVFPD).*

Assistant City Manager Dan Caris provided staff's presentation. He explained that Resolution 2025-47 contemplates a public safety sales and use tax ballot measure for the April 7, 2026 Regular Municipal Election. He noted that staff received direction from the City Council at the November 2025 Workshop meeting and that the LVFPD's adopted Resolution dated November 26, 2025 was also included in the Council packet and supports the ballot measure. The City's Resolution 2025-47 essentially contains the same language as the LVFPD's Resolution.

Caris provided the following background:

The Fruita City Council previously discussed the potential public safety sales tax increase of \$0.2%, which would total approximately \$975,000 annually to support the functions of police, fire and emergency medical technicians (EMT) as listed in Resolution 2025-47.

Caris pointed out that the Resolution includes some performance metrics that would essentially require the City to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the LVFPD within 30 days of the passage of the Resolution. He stated that (assuming that the ballot measure was successful), the how, when and where the money flows would be part of the IGA/MOU and there were not necessarily any concerns about any particular items that would be important to be included in the Resolution.

Caris continued that the fiscal impact has been estimated to generate approximately \$1 million annually (the ballot question language points to \$975,000 that would begin January 1, 2027. The revenue would be

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divided proportionally between the LVFPD and the City of Fruita less any administrative costs borne by the City as the entity who would be distributing the funds.

Caris pointed to more general details that should be included in the Resolution such as the sales and use tax increase being \$0.20 for every \$100 and a statement for TABOR authorization to retain and spend revenues.

Caris provided a brief background as follows:

- City Council held a Workshop meeting on November 25, 2025 and members of the LVFPD staff and board members were also in attendance. There were conversations back and forth about needs and a level of specificity concerning the MOU/IGA being embodied in the Resolution, which is what was currently before the City Council for a decision.
- Staff thought it was important that the LVFPD take some sort of action as a sense of partnership was mentioned several times throughout the Workshop meeting and therefore, LVFPD's Resolution was included in the Council packet.

Caris said he felt that staff reflected the Council's direction based off the conclusion of the Workshop meeting. He explained that there would be a draft MOU within 30 days and an IGA within 90 days of the successful passage of the ballot question. He also pointed out that the City Clerk has a role to perform election related actions and notification to the Colorado Department of Revenue within 15 days of passage of Resolution 2025-47.

Caris stated that it was staff's recommendation to adopt Resolution 2025-47 as presented and that he wanted to make clear that the Resolution does not authorize levying of any sales and use tax; it merely brings the question to Fruita voters.

Mayor Breman asked LVFPD Chief Katzenberger if he had anything to add to Caris' presentation. Katzenberger said he didn't have anything to add to what was presented but he wanted to reiterate that the LVFPD is excited about the opportunity to strengthen the relationship that they would like to have with the City moving forward. He added that the LVFPD Board of Directors is supportive of the Council's decision concerning the Resolution presented by Caris.

Mayor Breman opened the agenda item for public comment. Hearing none, he closed public comment and referred the Resolution to the City Council after noting that there was some passionate discussion concerning it at the November Council Workshop meeting.

Councilor Hancey what Fruita's current sales tax rate is and what it would be changed to if the ballot measure passes. City Manager Shannon Vassen noted that the sales tax rate in Fruita is currently 3% with 2% going to the General Fund while 1% was approved by voters in 2008 for the construction and debt coverage on the Fruita Community Center. If approved, the City sales tax rate would total 3.2% and total sales tax including the state and county would go from 8.27% to 8.47%. Councilor Hancey wondered how that compares to other neighboring jurisdictions. Vassen said the City of Grand Junction's sales tax is currently 8.66% and in Glenwood Springs, it's 9.1%. He estimated that most cities in Colorado range from 8% to 9%.

Councilor Hancey requested that staff describe how the proposed ballot measure came to be. Assistant City Manager Dan Caris stated that staff began conversations with the LVFPD back in September to explore the concept of what a joint sales and use tax ballot question would look like. He said a lot of came on the heels of the fact that there have been revisions to state statutes to allow Special Districts to go after sales tax revenue. Historically, the LVFPD has been generally supported by property tax mainly and they approached the City of Fruita to discuss what an increase in Fruita's sales tax could look like.

Councilor Hancey stated that he isn't a fan of raising taxes, but because the measure is for safety, he appreciates and respects it. He added that he appreciates that the City and LVFPD will have agreements put into place after the election.

Councilor Quigley stated that she appreciates the process, that the City and LVFPD were able to come together to reach an agreement on something that would mutually benefit both parties and is looking forward to sending the question to the community for a final decision. She added that she hopes the matter has opened the door for better relationships going forward.

- **COUNCILOR MILLER MOVED TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 2025-47 – A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF FRUITA CITY COUNCIL SUBMITTING TO THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS AT THE CITY OF FRUITA APRIL 7, 2026 REGULAR MUNICIPAL ELECTION A BALLOT ISSUE CONCERNING THE INCREASE OF THE SALES AND USE TAX WITHIN THE CITY BY 0.2%. COUNCILOR PARRISH SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION PASSED WITH FIVE YES VOTES.**

Councilor Hancey pointed out that once the question is placed on the ballot and the ballots are mailed, staff cannot advocate for its passage. Mayor Breman agreed and added that staff could only provide factual information on the ballot measure.

Interim City Clerk Deb Woods noted that staff will be sending out a TABOR notice to all households in Fruita via U.S. mail and that the MOU would address the cost of it (for the last Municipal Election with a TABOR Notice, she recalled the cost being between \$2,000 and \$3,000).

*At 7:41 p.m., Councilor Jeannine Purser was retrieved so that she could rejoin the Council meeting.*

## **9. ADMINISTRATIVE AGENDA**

There were no Administrative Agenda items.

## **10. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

City Manager Shannon Vassen provided the following updates and reminders:

- The following Tuesday, on December 14, 2026, the Grand Junction Economic Partnership's (GJEP's) annual holiday party will be held at Timberline Bank in Grand Junction and if any other Council members wanted to attend, they needed to email either Kaydee or himself to get them registered (Shannon noted that the Mayor had already said

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he would be in attendance). Everyone can carpool after meeting up at the Fruita Civic Center at 5:00 p.m.

- In two weeks on December 21, 2026 before the next Regular Council meeting, the Boards and Commissions Mixer event will be held at 5:30 p.m. One of the major topics is cooperation amongst the groups in planning the America 250/Colorado 150 celebration that the City will be hosting. A formal agenda will be forthcoming and Shannon said he would send the Mayor and Council the dates and calendar invites.
- Special Project Manager Steve Martinez was available to answer any more specific questions about the Alleyway Beautification Project, which is located between Peach and Mulberry Streets just north of Aspen Avenue. One of the big goals of the project was to move all the current trash and grease containers out of the alleyway so staff can start making some improvements. The removal of the dumpsters is scheduled for the week of December 15<sup>th</sup> and the grease bin will be moved as soon as the City finalizes the plan for transporting the grease for several of the businesses.

Steve and Police Officer Ed Pacheco will be notifying all businesses in person over the current week and staff will continue to work with trash provider Republic to relocate all the dumpsters with potential temporary trash and recycling services provided in the southeast corner of the N. Mulberry parking lot as the plan is being finalized. Staff received some quotes from Xcel to get electrical service to the alleyway as well.

James asked if all the Aspen Avenue business were consolidating to one big dumpster and Shannon said that was the plan and that the dumpster will be located in the southeast corner of the new parking lot on N. Mulberry. There will also be a recycling combination dumpster/compactor and a new depository for the grease. Staff is also looking into buying items such as carts to help transport the grease.

Aaron asked what the reception about the project has been from all the business owners on Aspen Avenue. Steve responded that everything is going great so far. Staff thought there might be some issues, but everybody has been very receptive.

The next step on the project is to have luminaires installed on some of the service poles in the alleyway and there will be a light installed in the corner by the trash receptacles. Staff has already ordered the compactor which has been manufactured specially for the City and staff has coordinated with the electrical contractor for that. A concrete pad will be installed and eventually the trash receptacles will be in an enclosure, which will require a sump being installed for any potential grease spills.

Aaron asked about security for the dumpster area and Steve said that the best staff can do in the short-term is padlock the receptacles to prevent the public from using them and provide all the business owners with a key. Long-term, the enclosure itself will be locked so only the business owners will be able to access them except when the containers will be emptied by the trash provider. The business owners will be part of a co-op so that they all will be paying a similar amount to what they've been paying whether they are using

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trash and recycling or just trash. Steve said he hopes he will be able to save the businesses about 15% of their bill by consolidating.

James asked if the Council will see what the plans are after the first phase has been completed. Steve responded that they will. He also suggested painting pterodactyl wings on the wall for photo opportunities like the angel wings ones some cities have.

Jeannine asked if staff has spoken with the homeowners who live right next to where the trash/recycling area will be. Steve said that Ed talked to them in person, but he (Steve) did send a very nice letter to all the business owners and residents adjacent to the parking lot to let them know everything that will be going on with the project (no one has yet responded). Steve added that he and Ed had planned to visit the business owners the residents in person over the next few days to ensure that everyone's potential concerns are being addressed.

Matthew referred to the Boards and Commissions Mixer and said that the Council has had discussions with staff about doing some education concerning meeting procedures and processes for all board members and asked if that was on the agenda for the upcoming Mixer event. Shannon said he, Ciara and Kaydee would work on the agenda to see if time will allow for the training at the upcoming event.

## **11. COUNCIL REPORTS AND ACTIONS**

### **A. CHANGE TO CERTAIN UPCOMING CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP MEETING**

City Manager Shannon Vassen recalled that at the last regular meeting of the City Council, staff asked the Council if they would like to cancel the December 23, 2025 Council Workshop meeting. He said there weren't a lot of agenda items that staff were ready to bring to City Council, so staff was recommending that the December Workshop meeting be canceled.

Mayor Breman asked the Council members if they had any concerns with cancelling the December 23<sup>rd</sup> Workshop meeting and no one said they did.

- **COUNCILOR PURSER MOVED TO CANCEL THE TUESDAY, DECEMBER 23, 2025 CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP. COUNCILOR WILLIAMS SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION PASSED WITH SIX YES VOTES.**

### **B. COUNCIL REPORTS AND ACTIONS**

#### **COUNCILOR AMY MILLER**

Amy reported that she attended a Historic Preservation Board meeting the previous day and the board is gearing up for goal setting for 2026. The members reviewed what the board did at the end of the previous year and brainstormed what they would like to do moving forward. She added that she couldn't say enough about the board and that she looks forward to the board's meeting every month.

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Amy mentioned that she has been receiving many questions about the trash and car on the railroad spur. She asked staff to research it to see if there's anything the City can do about it; although she thought it might be railroad property. She said it has recently gotten really bad with the significant amount of trash.

### **COUNCILOR RICH PARRISH**

Rich stated that the Fruita Tourism Advisory Council (FTAC) would be held on the upcoming Thursday so he wouldn't have anything to report until afterwards.

### **MAYOR PRO TEM AARON HANCEY**

Aaron asked what staff have been discussing and working on concerning Benny Wilson's stance on the Police Department's bodycams. Shannon said that staff have had conversations on the issue and a meeting was held with himself, Benny, Chief of Police Dave Krouse and Lt. Peck. Peck conducted an investigation but did not find any wrongdoing regarding the bodycams. Aaron requested that Mr. Wilson's evidence be submitted to Shannon, who said he has not yet seen it.

Jeannine asked whether Mr. Wilson's issue could be addressed by the Fruita Police Commission and whether that was something the board *should* tackle. James said he could bring it up at the next meeting of the Police Commission or he could talk to Chief Krouse. Shannon recalled that the scope of the Police Commission's work is listed as follows (taken from either the Municipal Code or the City Charter):

*"Recommends policies, standards, procedures and limitation for the Police Department to the Council."*

### **MAYOR MATTHEW BREMAN**

Matthew noted that the Workshop agenda item for the Fruita Housing Authority Bylaws was not listed on staff's tentative future agenda items document. Shannon stated that staff was going to put it on a Workshop agenda after City Council adopts the Housing Needs Assessment which is scheduled for adoption at the second meeting in January 2026. There is a 30-day public comment period after staff puts the current draft of the Housing Needs Assessment on the City's website, which will occur within the next week. The public feedback will then be presented to City Council as they go through the adoption process. Matthew estimated that it would be mid-to late-February before Council can review the Housing Authority Bylaws and make changes if needed. Shannon agreed and added that there may be changes if the Council wants to incorporate the recommendations of the Housing Needs Assessment. He said the Bylaws agenda item will be placed on the upcoming agenda items document shortly.

Matthew suggested that the bodycam issue be placed on the upcoming agenda items document as well as a future discussion among staff and the Council.

Matthew also reported that earlier in the day, he participated in mock interviews with students at Colorado Mesa University (CMU) and he found that there are a lot of very talented young people out there. He said he mentioned to a few of them that internships with the City of Fruita may be opening up. Shannon stated that there is a revolving internship in the City Manager's Office, but he thinks it would be great for the City to fund an internship anywhere within the City.

**12. ADJOURN**

With no further business before the Council, Mayor Breman adjourned the meeting at 7:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Deb Woods  
City Clerk  
City of Fruita