



FRUITA
COLORADO

AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

TO: FRUITA CITY COUNCIL

FROM: DEB WOODS, CITY CLERK FOR MAYOR BREMAN AND MAYOR PRO TEM HANCEY

DATE: MAY 20, 2025

AGENDA TEXT: BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS APPOINTMENT – A request to approve the appointment of Jessica Ruffule to the Planning Commission as an alternate member for a three-year term to expire in May of 2028

BACKGROUND

On March 10, 2025, Jessica Ruffule submitted her application for a regular member seat on the Planning Commission after the resignation of board member Patrick Hummel on March 4, 2025.

On March 17, 2025, Andrea Downs resigned from the City Council, thus creating a vacancy on that board. On April 14, 2023, Jessica Ruffule submitted her application to fulfill Andrea Down's unexpired term on City Council and requested that her application for the Planning Commission be placed on hold pending the City Council appointment process. During that time period, another applicant to the Planning Commission (Thomas Wells) was interviewed and appointed to the one regular member vacancy on the Planning Commission. Ultimately, Ms. Ruffule was not selected as one of the finalists for the Council seat.

Two vacant alternate member seats on the Planning Commission have been advertised since April 11, 2022 and no additional applications for the Planning Commission have been received by staff. The Fruita Planning Commission's authority is under Chapter 2.39 of the Fruita Municipal Code, which is silent about "alternate members." Since there is nothing that would conflict or necessitate a change in the Municipal Code, staff believes it is beneficial to appoint alternate members to the Planning Commission should the Commission have a shortage of available members to constitute a quorum. Should a regular member vacancy on the Planning Commission occur, alternate members certainly have the option of applying for the regular member vacancy on the board.

On May 6, 2025, Mayor Breman and Mayor Pro Tem interviewed Ms. Ruffule and subsequently recommended that she be appointed to the Planning Commission as an alternate member for a three-year term that will expire in May of 2028.

Ms. Ruffule's application is attached for the Council's review. If she is appointed, there will be one remaining alternate member vacancy on the Planning Commission.

FISCAL IMPACT

N/A

APPLICABILITY TO CITY GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Boards and Commissions provide valuable input to the City and help establish goals and objectives. They provide a link between citizens of Fruita and city government.

OPTIONS AVAILABLE TO THE COUNCIL

1. Appoint Jessica Ruffule to the Fruita Planning Commission as an alternate member for a three-year term to expire in May of 2028.
2. Instruct staff to publish a notice of vacancy and repeat the interview process.

RECOMMENDATION

It is the recommendation of Mayor Breman and Mayor Pro Tem Hancey that the following appointment be made:

- **JESSICA RUFFULE TO THE PLANNING COMMISSION AS AN ALTERNATE MEMBER FOR A THREE-YEAR TERM TO EXPIRE IN MAY OF 2028**