

**FRUITA CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP
APRIL 22, 2025
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 Matthew Breman. City Council members present were Aaron Hancey, Jeannine Purser, James Williams, Rich Parrish, and Amy Miller.

City Staff present were City Manager Shannon Vassen, Public Works Director Kimberly Bullen, Public Works Deputy Director John Carillo, Planning and Development Director Dan Caris, Parks & Recreation Director Marc Mancuso, Communications and Engagement Manager Ciara Amann, City Engineer John Boulden, Wastewater Superintendent Matt Haifley, Executive Assistant to the City Manager Kaydee Lucero, and Finance Director Joe Zaher. Multiple guests from the Old Middle School tour were there.

AGENDA ITEMS

1. DISCUSSION ON OLD FRUITA MIDDLE SCHOOL (6:30 - 7:00 PM)

The Mayor opened the discussion to attendees that had participated in the tour earlier in the evening. There was general discussion about the facility, and Council and staff answered questions from the stakeholders. Questions that included there is not a timeline for the Fruita Middle School, Councilor Purser said that there will be a Building Assessment that will help us determine our needs. City Manager Shannon Vassen said that we currently use the gym and the field for recreation needs. The City provides the cleaning for facilities used. Mayor Breman noted that HVAC costs have been requested, but there has not been a reply yet. He also said that there needs to be a proper plan and extensive community engagement before the issue goes to voters.

The Community Survey will give some direction to what the next steps are, there are two questions about the survey about it. The stakeholders invited to the second tour were picked by staff and the City Council. Mayor Breman asked the spectators their thoughts. One concern brought up was what if the community wants this, but doesn't want to pay for it? Councilors Purser and Hancey said that would give them direction and they would work through it at that point. Councilor Hancey said there has to be a revenue stream no matter what, that current tax dollars will not support it.

There was a question about previous community engagement, Mr. Vassen said an example is the Comprehensive Plan, that they had over 30 open houses and even put the QR codes on coasters at local businesses. Multiple guests noted that they should take ideas to the community rather than just a broad idea. They spoke about other schools that have closed and what has been done with them. One guest said that there are spaces that could currently be used that could make money before a remodeling process takes place. There was a suggestion for a winter concert series in the auditorium.

2. SEWER SERVICE RULES AND REGUALTIONS – FATS-OILS-GREASE (FOG) PROGRAM (7:15 – 7:45 PM)

Public Works Director Kimberly Bullen said that herself, Deputy Director John Carrillo, and Wastewater Superintendent Matt Haifley have worked on this program for a number of years. The

City's wastewater is regulated by the EPA, and as they work toward reapplying for permits, they would like to regulate FOG more effectively. The main contributor is restaurants, though it comes from individuals as well. In 2021, they kicked off an information campaign hoping to reduce FOG, but unfortunately, it has not. This has caused significant financial and manpower problems. Councilor Williams asked if our numbers are comparable to other municipalities, Mr. Carrillo said it is heavily regulated throughout the state, though there is not an exact number. He noted that it take hours to break all the residue up and remove it, and they do not have an effective way to get rid of it. Ms. Bullen said during COVID when restaurants were shut down, FOG was reduced significantly. Mr. Haifley said they see a lot of issues at the WWRF and FOG negatively affects the equipment as well. There are restaurants that have a grease trap, but sometimes they do not use them or clean them properly.

They are introducing a chemical that helps break it up, but it is costly and still takes manpower. Councilor Hancey asked if there is consideration of spending money on grease traps for restaurants and if that would save money in the long run. There was also a question about implementation. Ms. Bullen answered that they generally have regular inspections and also said that the budget is incredibly tight already, and she suggests better regulations, self-reporting systems, and education. The point was made that the community is already footing the bill, and so restaurants paying is similar to an impact fee. Ms. Bullen said that they are here tonight to ask City Council to implement a FOG program and implement regulations. Council wants to make sure there is not an undue burden on businesses. Ms. Bullen said that they will not be heavy handed, but there needs to be a standard in place. Councilor Williams said that it would be beneficial to get a number for the fiscal impacts on businesses. The Council gave direction to put together a program and bring it back for further review.

At 7:45 p.m., Mayor Breman called for a ten-minute recess. The Workshop meeting reconvened at 7:55 p.m.

3. DISCUSSION ON CITY COUNCIL VACANCY (7:45 – 9:00 PM)

The City Council discussed the applicants for the Council Vacancy and how the interview process will be conducted, as well as about who they would like to interview.

ADJOURN

With no further business before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 10:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kaydee Lucero
Executive Assistant to the City Manager