

**FRUITA CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING
JANUARY 16, 2025
6:00 P.M.**

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The Fruita City Council Special Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor Matthew Breman. City Council members present were James Williams, Aaron Hancey, Jeannine Purser, Rich Parrish, Andrea Downs and Amy Miller.

City staff present were Executive Assistant to the City Manager Kaydee Lucero, City Clerk Deb Woods, Interim City Manager Shannon Vassen and City Attorney Mary Elizabeth Geiger (virtually). Also in attendance was Drew Gorgey with Columbia, Ltd. (virtually).

2. AGENDA ITEMS

A. CITY MANAGER HIRING PROCESS – ANNOUNCEMENT

Drew Gorgey, recruitment consultant with Columbia, Ltd. introduced himself and provided a summary of the recruitment process, some of which included the following:

- Refining and completion of Candidate Profile document that illustrated the values of the City, will of the Council and requirements for the position of City Manager
- Setting the search schedule
- Presentation and Council review of all 43 candidates in Executive Session with Drew Gorgey
- Introduction of the finalists to the Council and public over a two-day process
- Interviews of finalists by the City's Leadership Team panel
- Presentations to the Council by the finalists in Executive Session
- Individual interviews of finalists by the Council in Executive Session
- Council meeting in Executive Session to discuss finalists

Mr. Gorgey noted that he invited 16 persons to screening interviews and a couple of those dropped out, so he ended up recommending 10 to the City Council, from which 4 finalists were chosen. He stressed that the Mayor, Mayor Pro Tem and every Council member took the process extremely seriously and with the best intent of any client he has had over the last eight years. He spoke about their hard work and thoughtfulness during the extra sessions and stated that the Fruita community could not be in better hands. Gorgey also called Fruita's City Council the "Gold Standard."

- **COUNCILOR HANCEY MOVED THAT THE CITY COUNCIL TAKE A VOTE ON THE CANDIDATE THAT THEY WOULD LIKE TO APPOINT AT THIS MEETING BEFORE GOING INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION. COUNCILOR PARRISH SECONDED THE MOTION.**

City Attorney Mary Elizabeth Geiger requested that Councilor Hancey amend his motion to include a statement that the announcement will be made and the Council will immediately start negotiations after going into Executive Session.

- **COUNCILOR HANCEY AMENDED HIS MOTION THAT THE COUNCIL IMMEDIATELY BEGIN NEGOTIATING/ INFORM NEGOTIATORS AFTER GOING INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION AND AFTER THE ANNOUNCEMENT. COUNCILOR PARRISH SECONDED THE AMENDED MOTION. THE MOTION PASSED WITH SIX YES VOTES.**
- **COUNCILOR WILLIAMS MOVED TO APPOINT SHANNON VASSEN AS THE NEXT CITY MANAGER OF THE CITY OF FRUITA. COUNCILOR PARRISH SECONDED THE MOTION.**

City Attorney Mary Elizabeth Geiger requested that the motion be amended to name the finalist to start negotiations on a contract.

- **COUNCILOR WILLIAMS AMENDED HIS MOTION TO NAME SHANNON VASSEN AS THE FINALIST WITH WHOM THE CITY COUNCIL WOULD BEGIN NEGOTIATIONS FOR A CONTRACT. COUNCILOR PARRISH SECONDED THE AMENDED MOTION.**

Councilor Hancey expressed his appreciation for the City's process; specifically calling it thorough, appropriate and transparent. He recalled having great, challenging conversations and added that there were great candidates and finalists.

Councilor Williams thanked Mr. Gorgey for all his hard work, said the Fruita City Council would highly recommend him in the future and that it was an honor to work with him on the recruitment.

- **THE MOTION PASSED WITH SIX YES VOTES.**
- B. EXECUTIVE SESSION - DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO CONSIDER A MOTION TO CONVENE IN EXECUTIVE SESSION PURSUANT TO C.R.S. SECTION 24-6-402(4)(E) TO DEVELOP STRATEGIES FOR NEGOTIATIONS AND INFORM NEGOTIATORS REGARDING THE CITY MANAGER CONTRACT**
- **COUNCILOR MILLER MOVED TO CONVENE IN EXECUTIVE SESSION PURSUANT TO C.R.S. SECTION 24-6-402(4)(E) TO DEVELOP STRATEGIES FOR NEGOTIATIONS AND INFORM NEGOTIATORS REGARDING THE CITY MANAGER CONTRACT. COUNCILOR DOWNS SECONDED THE MOTION.**

THE MAYOR INVITED THE FRUITA CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS, DREW GORGEY WITH COLUMBIA, LTD. AND CITY ATTORNEY MARY ELIZABETH GIEGER TO THE EXECUTIVE SESSION.

THE MOTION PASSED WITH SIX YES VOTES.

At 6:19 p.m., the Mayor called for a five-minute break. At 6:30 p.m., the Fruita City Council convened in Executive Session. At 9:21 p.m., the Fruita City Council reconvened the Special Meeting.

OTHER ITEMS

No other items were discussed.

4. ADJOURN

With no further business before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 9:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Deb Woods
City Clerk