

**FRUITA CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
MAY 7, 2024  
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 Rich Parrish  
City Councilor Andrea Stolarczyk  
City Councilor Amy Miller

**Excused Absent:** (None)

**City staff present:** City Manager Mike Bennett  
Assistant City Manager Shannon Vassen  
Deputy City Clerk Deb Woods  
Communications and Engagement Specialist Ciara Amann  
Planning & Development Director Dan Caris  
Parks and Recreation Director Marc Mancuso  
Public Works Director Kimberly Bullen  
Lieutenant Nick Peck

**Also present:** Members of the public (in-person and virtually)

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

Mayor Breman called for a moment of silence for all faiths and beliefs to have the opportunity for a silent prayer. He then led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**3. AGENDA – ADOPT/AMEND**

Deputy City Clerk noted that staff had made a correction to the agenda since it was posted on the City's website the previous Friday: staff inadvertently omitted the Section for "Acknowledgment of Newly Appointed Boards and Commissions members," but made the correction and reposted the agenda to the website.

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

**4. PROCLAMATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS**

**A. PRESENTATION – FRUITA STUDENTS OF THE MONTH FOR MAY 2024:  
MONUMENT RIDGE ELEMENTARY**

Mayor Breman saw Monument Ridges Elementary School Principal Emma-Leigh Larsen in the audience and asked her to come to the podium to say a few words.

Ms. Larsen stated that she nominated her amazing Student Council leadership as Fruita Students of the Month. She said at Monument Ridge, their vision is “building a community of kind learners,” and that her current Student Council helps to lift up the group’s vision group at the school. She added that they truly believe that if they can teach the children to be kind, then certainly the learning will follow.

Mayor Breman gave each of the students a certificate, day pass to the Fruita Community Center and an I-heart-Fruita button.

Coach Wells thanked City staff and said he was blown away by the support the team received.

**B. PROCLAMATION – HONORING AND IN APPRECIATION OF THE FRUITA  
MONUMENT HIGH SCHOOL BOYS’ BASKETBALL TEAM AND COACH  
MICHAEL WELLS**

Mayor Breman noted that Councilor Miller wrote the Proclamation. She stated that she is a big Fruita Monument High School’s sports fan and then read it, which was accepted by Coach Wells. Coach Wells called the kids a good group of guys that represent the Fruita community well.

**C. PROCLAMATION – PROCLAIMING MAY 6 – 10, 2024 AS “TEACHER  
APPRECIATION WEEK” IN THE CITY OF FRUITA TO BE ACCEPTED BY MESA  
COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT #51 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ANGELA  
CHRISTENSEN**

Councilor Purser read the Proclamation, which was accepted by Executive Director Angela Christensen. Dr. Christensen had invited all the Fruita area Principals to the Council meeting and asked them to stand. She shared that D51 teachers have worked hard to increase the graduation rate to a 17-year high in Mesa County. In addition to that, the District now recognizes 27 of its schools as Performance Schools, which have the highest academic rating in the state of Colorado.

Dr. Christensen also thanked Mayor Breman for agreeing to join the District in its PSA teacher appreciation videos along with Mayor Stout from Grand Junction, Mayor Mikolai from Palisade and other community leaders like the Mesa County Commissioners, D51 Superintendent Dr. Brian Hill and CMU President John Marshall and many others.

Dr. Christensen congratulated City Manager Mike Bennett for his recent recognition as City Manager of the Year. She added that the D51 Foundation sincerely appreciated his service on their board helping to serve the students in the community.

**D. PROCLAMATION – PROCLAIMING THE WEEK OF MAY 12 – 18, 2024 AS  
“ARBOR DAY” IN THE CITY OF FRUITA TO BE ACCEPTED BY LIEUTENANT  
NICK PECK**

Councilor Parrish, who served on the Crime Stoppers of Mesa County Board of Directors and knows many in law enforcement read the Proclamation, which was accepted by Lieutenant Nick Peck with the Fruita Police Department. Lt. Peck said it was an honor and a privilege to be able to serve the residents of Fruita. He also thanked Chief Matt Smith with the Grand Junction Police Department for being in attendance at the meeting.

**E. PROCLAMATION – PROCLAIMING MAY 19 – 25, 2024 AS “NATIONAL PUBLIC WORKS WEEK” IN THE CITY OF FRUITA TO BE ACCEPTED BY PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR KIMBERLY BULLEN**

Councilor Stolarczyk read the Proclamation, which was accepted by Public Works Director Kimberly Bullen. Ms. Bullen thanked the Council for the Proclamation as well as her staff for the contributions they make every day in keeping the City’s infrastructure in good shape and impacting every resident, business and visitor to the City of Fruita.

**F. PROCLAMATION – PROCLAIMING SUNDAY, MAY 5 – SUNDAY, MAY 12, 2024 AS “DAYS OF REMENBRANCE” IN THE CITY OF FRUITA TO BE ACCEPTED BY VINCE PATARINO, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF HISTORY & FOUNDING HOLOCAUST AWARENESS SERIES**

Councilor Hancey read the Proclamation, which was accepted by Professor Patarino from CMU and who began the Holocaust Awareness Series right after he moved to Grand Junction in 2003. He shared a story about how someone had left an extremely horrific and racist flyer in his driveway that was not only about Jews, but also people of color. Professor Patarino said he has been lucky to have had the backing of CMU including its President, John Marshall. He thanked the City Council for really trying to make a difference by issuing the Proclamation.

**G. PRESENTATION – RECOGNITION OF FRUITA ACADEMY GRADUATES PRESENTED BY COMMUNICATIONS AND ENGAGEMENT SPECIALIST CIARA AMANN**

Mrs. Amann explained that this agenda item was to recognize the second class of the Fruita Academy, which is a four-week program where students get to learn firsthand what services the City of Fruita provides to its residents. They hear from not only the Mayor and City Manager, but also all the different Department Directors. In total, 21 students signed up for the Fruita Academy this year, many of whom were in attendance at the Council meeting. Mrs. Amann called the students’ names and Mayor Breman helped by handing them each a certificate of achievement. She said staff hopes to continue to see these students being co-creators/ambassadors for the City of Fruita, potentially by joining one of the City’s volunteer boards and commissions.

**H. TOTAL MAXIMUM DAILY LOAD (TMDL) PRESENTATION**

Public Works Director Kimberly Bullen explained that this presentation was an update for Council regarding the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) (the amount of pollutants that a stream can receive and still meet water quality standards) situation. She provided some history about the City’s partnership with the Grand Valley TMDL stakeholder group that is working on the TMDL assessment for the Colorado River tributaries in the Grand Valley under the Clean Water Act, Section 303(D). In February of 2024, the Colorado Water Quality Control Commission entered a final agency order

denying the Mesa County Administrative Appeal in upholding the Division's TMDL for the Grand Valley tributaries.

Mrs. Bullen further explained how, at this point, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) is implementing the TMDL for Adobe and Leach Creeks with regards to E. coli, total recoverable iron and dissolved selenium. She introduced Carrie Gudorf, the Manager of Mesa County's Regulatory Programs in its Public Works Department. Ms. Gudorf provided a PowerPoint presentation that included the different types of TMDLs (where the water comes from), a 2022 Impaired Streams map, timeline, potential next steps, other regulatory options, Use Attainability Analysis and information about the United States Geological Survey (USGS) water quality monitoring.

Ms. Gudorf explained that the Mesa County Public Works Department has been fighting with the CDPHE since right before 2021. Mesa County has tried to explain how it is different because our area has a background of high levels of selenium. She added that the E. coli in Mesa County is not coming from wastewater or failed septic systems and the CDPHE does not understand how Mesa County has water segments that go from the east end of the valley all the way to the west end. Mesa County has been trying to get it right before any regulations get put in place because once those regulations are in place, it will be harder to get them removed.

Ms. Gudorf said the CDPHE has not listened to her office and the Water Quality Control Division issued the Final Order in February of 2022. They submitted it to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), who doesn't have a deadline for the Final TMDL. She said what that means is that when she does get the final TMDL, it will be written into Mesa County's MS4 Permit, which could change development and the way the water has to be monitored and will increase permit fees with additional requirements. Mesa County will have to collect data that pinpoints sources of E. coli, selenium and iron. The focus will be on public outreach activities (which Mesa County already does as part of its permitting requirements). The MS4 Permit expired in 2021 but was administratively extended.

Ms. Gudorf said she is trying to look at a couple of different options. One she is looking at is a Use Attainability Standard, which is going to look at the water quality standards. She added that Mesa County has a few different ways of looking at the genetics of where the E. coli and selenium are coming from, but that looking at the standard is not feasible. They've gone through a very high-level overview of the Use Attainability Analysis with SGM and have some next steps outlined that could possibly help the county get into a site-specific standard for Mesa County. These next steps are things that Ms. Gudorf, Kimberly Bullen and all of the partners will be working on in the next couple of years to see if the county wants to go in that particular direction, especially because selenium is naturally occurring.

Ms. Gudorf reviewed the dates and types of sampling/monitoring that's been done since 2022 with the USGS, along with the costs that total \$105,000. \$20,000 was contributed by USGS, leaving \$85,000 to be contributed by the stakeholders.

As a stakeholder, the City of Fruita's contribution for the monitoring is \$6,500 for the 2024 water sampling. Ms. Gudorf explained that moving forward, the Grand Valley Cooperative partners will have future sampling and expenses due to the TMDL and she pointed out that proper budgeting needs to be in place for them every year.

Ms. Gudorf concluded by saying that the USGS is always looking for volunteers to go out into the stream segments for the sampling.

Councilor Hancey asked how many other counties are being looked at that have TMDLs. Ms. Gudorf said she didn't know the answer to that, but she knows that Bear Creek in Lakewood is getting a TMDL (which includes Jefferson County) as are Pueblo and Colorado Springs.

Councilor Hancey asked what attracted the USGS to Mesa County versus other counties. Ms. Gudorf said Mesa County wanted to get more information because there were large data gaps from what the CDPHE was showing, who had data that was 20 years old. She said Mesa County told them that many good things had happened in the valley since then such as irrigators who have piped drainages and ditches so that the irrigation water is not seeping into the ground and causing more of a rise in selenium. Ms. Gudorf said when the CDPHE first went out and sampled, they said they would have to continue sampling because they are in charge of water quality and know how to collect the data.

Councilor Stolarczyk asked if the USGS has helped other communities that Ms. Gudorf mentioned with their water quality issues. Ms. Gudorf said she wasn't sure, but other communities have called her to ask why Mesa County was using the USGS and the response was "because they are one of the best at it."

Mayor Breman asked if Fruita's contribution of \$6,500 is for 2024 or 2025. Ms. Gudorf said it was for 2024 and recommended that for 2025, stakeholders continue to look at budgets for water sampling. She said she wants to go to the CDPHE with all of the data, of which none points towards what they are saying the MS4 is contributing. She added that the background loading needs to be changed so that it identifies whether the water is agricultural, natural or comes from other sources that haven't been considered. Ms. Gudorf stated that Mesa County is the only one that has an MS4 permit, so Mesa County is the only one where CDPHE can say that Mesa County needs to do something about the water quality because it holds the permit.

Mayor Breman asked if Fruita needs to expect some kind of cost for the sampling in perpetuity. Ms. Gudorf responded in the affirmative.

Assistant City Manager Shannon Vassen explained that right now, the \$6,500 is unbudgeted, so staff will have to come back before Council with a Resolution for a Contingency Budget amendment or a Supplemental Budget Amendment at a later date. Mr. Vassen noted that the City also had legal expenses last year associated with the TMDL appeals and he thought those were in the \$20,000 to \$25,000 range.

Ms. Gudorf said there is a caveat in that the Grand Valley Cooperative partners will also contribute funds on the condition that all the MS4 partners contribute as well.

Councilor Stolarczyk asked why Mesa County got on CDPHE's radar in the first place. Ms. Gudorf explained that the CDPHE has what's called a 303D List that contains all of the stream segments in Colorado that do not meet water quality standards. She said Mesa County has been on that list since she started with Mesa County and probably even before that. She said CDPHE is very worried about human contact with E. coli and children playing in the water.

Public Works Director Kimberly Bullen gave Ms. Gudorf and the other partners special thanks because the City of Fruita could not do this on their own. She added that Ms. Gudorf's efforts and continued work with the other agencies has been really appreciated.

## **5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There were no comments from the public.

## **6. CONSENT AGENDA**

- A. MINUTES – A REQUEST TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 16, 2024 REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING (COUNCILORS PARRISH AND STOLARCZYK TO RECUSE THEMSELVES)**
- B. MINUTES – A REQUEST TO APPROVE OF THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 23, 2024 CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP MEETING (COUNCILORS PARRISH AND STOLARCZYK TO RECUSE THEMSELVES)**
- C. MINUTES – A REQUEST TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 27, 2024 CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP MEETING (COUNCILORS PARRISH AND STOLARCZYK TO RECUSE THEMSELVES)**
- D. MINUTES – A REQUEST TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 19, 2024 REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING (COUNCILORS PARRISH AND STOLARCZYK TO RECUSE THEMSELVES)**
- E. BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS APPOINTMENT – A REQUEST TO APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF LEONA MANUPPELLA TO THE ARTS AND CULTURE BOARD TO FULFILL AN UNEXPIRED TERM TO EXPIRE IN JULY OF 2027**
- F. ONE RIVERFRONT APPOINTMENTS – A REQUEST TO APPROVE THE APPOINTMENTS OF CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS TO THE ONE RIVERFRONT FOR CERTAIN TERMS**
- G. BROWNS HILL ENGINEERING & CONTROLS MULTI-YEAR AGREEMENT – A REQUEST TO APPROVE A FIVE-YEAR SUBSCRIPTION BASED HUMAN MACHINE INTERFACE/SUPERVISORY CONTROL AND DATA ACQUISITION (HMI/SCADA) SYSTEM SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH BROWNS HILL ENGINEERING & CONTROLS AND AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO SIGN THE AGREEMENT**
- H. RESOLUTION 2024-15 – A REQUEST TO APPROVE A RESOLUTION AMENDING THE 2024 BUDGET AND TRANSFERRING FUNDS FROM THE GENERAL FUND CONTINGENCY ACCOUNT FOR CONTRACTED FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT SERVICES AND ELECTRICAL UPGRADES AT CIVIC CENTER MEMORIAL PARK**

**I. ORDINANCE 2024-12 – FIRST READING – AN INTRODUCTION OF AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 8.08 OF THE FRUITA MUNICIPAL CODE REGARDING GARBAGE AND SOLID WASTE**

Mayor Breman opened the public hearing on the Consent Agenda. Hearing no comments from the public, he referred to Consent Agenda Item I., the Ordinance regarding garbage and solid waste and said he thought there was some ambiguity because it didn't seem to explain clearly that people have to put the trash can on the street and that the trash can will be received from the City itself.

City Manager Mike Bennett stated that Mayor Breman had previously reached out to him about his concerns. He pointed out that the purpose of the First Reading of the Ordinance was really only to schedule the public hearing and added that staff could easily make the requested changes to the Ordinance before the Second Reading (public hearing) to be more specific so there is no ambiguity. He noted that the public hearing was scheduled for June 4<sup>th</sup> upon approval of the First Reading.

Mayor Breman also had a question about the multi-year agreement with Browns Hill Engineering & Controls. He said he knew the City was getting a discount for pre-payment, but he did not see the discount reflected in the agreement. Public Works Director Kimberly Bullen assured him that by signing the five-year agreement with Browns Hill, the City will receive approximately 10% in savings, or right around \$20,000 in savings.

Mayor Breman noted that he previously asked staff if lightning is considered an act of God, and apparently, it is. Ms. Bullen said she spoke with representatives from Browns Hill and they assured her that in developing and building the SCADA system, they build it with disaster recovery in mind. It will go to a Cloud system, so if lightning were to strike at the plant, because all the City's buildings and systems are grounded (including some of the PLCs), the most that would happen would be that the City could lose a couple of computers, but all the data and system itself would be safe in the Cloud.

Mr. Vassen pointed out that Council had just passed a Supplemental Budget Appropriation for the SCADA contract and the one benefit of going with the upfront cost is that since the City is using federal dollars from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), there will be left over savings for which the City will have to appropriate for use by the end of this year and then must actually use by the end of 2026 pursuant to the federal guidelines. In addition, there is the 10% in savings that was mentioned by Ms. Bullen. Councilor Hancey asked for the amount of the federal funding and Mr. Vassen responded that it will pay for 100% of the cost. He added that at the beginning of May, the City appropriated \$200,000 of ARPA dollars for this project and with the 10% savings and paying for the five-year agreement, the City can use remaining federal dollars instead of having to use Sewer Fund revenues in general.

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

**7. ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF NEWLY APPOINTED AND REAPPOINTED BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS MEMBERS**

Mayor Breman acknowledged the appointment of Leona Manuppella to the Arts and Culture Board. Ms. Manuppella was not in attendance at the meeting, but she told the Mayor she was excited to be on the board after he called to let her know of the appointment.

## 8. PUBLIC HEARINGS

### A. QUASI-JUDICIAL HEARINGS

There were no Quasi-Judicial hearings on the agenda.

### B. LEGISLATIVE HEARINGS

There were no Legislative hearings on the agenda.

## 9. ADMINISTRATIVE AGENDA

### A. FRUITA STRATEGIC PLAN AND MASTER PLANS UPDATE – CITY MANAGER MIKE BENNETT AND PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR DAN CARIS

City Manager Mike Bennett shared his screen that illustrated the City of Fruita Strategic Plan. He noted that he and Mayor Breman will be scheduling some strategic planning events in August for the Council, which is typically done after each municipal election.

Mr. Bennett also listed the other Master Plans within the City's Comprehensive Plan that staff will be presenting at upcoming Council meetings through June. The City's Strategic Plan is what is used as a guide for the operational action items that the City will focus on over the next two years. It is also a tool for staff to make recommendations to the City Council for each year's annual Budget process, which begins at the end of September and ends around the first of December with the adoption of the Budget.

Mr. Bennett reviewed the sections of the Strategic Plan, which can be found on the City's website at [www.fruita.org](http://www.fruita.org).

Planning and Development Director Dan Caris provided the Council with a PowerPoint presentation about the Land Use Code. The topics he covered included the following:

1. Comprehensive Plan implementation
2. Review process for Planned Unit Developments (PUDs) and subdivisions
3. Basic Definition modifications
4. Re-Codification & consolidation of residential & commercial zone districts
5. Redevelopment standards & regulations
6. Design standards
7. Future Code amendments including:
  - a) Political signs (duration and content)
  - b) Appeal Chapter to be updated
  - c) Drive up/Drive thru uses in the Downtown Mixed-Use (DMU) zone
  - d) Conditional Uses (primary/accessory uses)
  - e) Transportation design standards
  - f) Landscape standards

Councilor Purser stated that when she first moved to downtown Fruita, her side of Peach Street was commercial and residential, but her neighbors across the street could only have residential. She asked



for confirmation that now, the entire downtown area can be used for both. Mr. Caris confirmed that to be true but added that it's slightly different because other public facilities need to be there; for example, the uses on Peach Street are a direct beneficiary of the Civic Center parking lot, so that is quite a bit different than some of the other more residential streets. He added that residential areas are protected within the regulations that have been adopted; it's just that the Code now allows the opportunity for an acupuncturist or a counselor to utilize their home as a small business. He said that that doesn't mean that every single spot is going to be allowed to do commercial because there are only some that are located along intersection alignments or have street frontage that lend themselves to having some commercial.

*Mayor Breman called for a break at 9:17 p.m. The Council meeting reconvened at 9:25 p.m.*

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

City Manager Mike Bennett provided the following updates:

- Staff doesn't know yet if IndiBuild is available, but they've been asking to schedule a tour of the Fruita Mews development for the City Council. Mike proposed the date of May 21, 2024 from 6:00 - 6:45 p.m. before the next regular Council meeting. Mayor Breman noted that there were two Boards and Commissions interviews scheduled for that same day/time, but Deputy City Clerk Deb Woods said she could reschedule the interviews. Mike said he would confirm with IndiBuild first and would let the Council know either way.
- Council recently gave staff direction that they are interested in looking into the possibility of having pickleball courts outside of the Fruita Community Center (FCC). Mike explained that the City will have to go to bid for that type of project because it's over \$25,000. The group that the City is working with that has a representative out of FWorks gave staff some pretty good cost estimates (to give the Council an idea of the cost) that Mike said he thinks is very reasonable and reliable. He said that after the project goes to bid, staff will come to the Council for approval of moving the funds to begin the project.

Two courts (oriented north to south) would be approximately \$55,800 and four courts would be about \$95,861. Mike stated that if the Council wants to move forward with it, staff recommends doing four courts instead of two because it would be the best use of the space and it could be done all at once rather than phasing it in.

Aaron explained that the proposal would be for a synthetic court material.

Mike received direction from the City Council to move forward with the idea of pickleball courts at the FCC.

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

### **A. CHANGES TO CERTAIN UPCOMING CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS**

Deputy City Clerk Deb Woods noted that there was a discussion at the April 23, 2024 Workshop meeting concerning staff's recommendation to reschedule the Tuesday, June 18, 2024 Regular Council meeting to Monday, June 17, 2024 in order for the Council members and staff to be able to attend the Annual Colorado Municipal League (CML) Conference in Loveland.

A discussion was also held at that same Workshop meeting about canceling the July 2, 2024 Regular Council meeting due to the date being so close to the Fourth of July holiday, especially considering that Fruita sets off its fireworks on July 3<sup>rd</sup>.

At the April 23, 2024 Workshop meeting, Council gave staff direction to bring the two changes to the next Regular City Council meeting so the Council could take official action to make the changes to the two meetings.

- **COUNCILOR PURSER MOVED TO APPROVE RESCHEDULING THE TUESDAY, JUNE 18, 2024 REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING TO MONDAY, JUNE 17, 2024 AND CANCELING THE TUESDAY, JULY 2, 2024 REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING. COUNCILOR HANCEY SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION PASSED WITH SIX YES VOTES.**

## **B. CITY COUNCIL BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS ASSIGNMENTS**

City Manager Mike Bennett pointed out that updated the chart of Council Liaison Assignments to the City's various Boards and Commissions as well as a few outside boards based on staff's notes from the Council's discussion at the April 23, 2024 Workshop meeting. He said that if everything looked correct, then the Council could take official action with the recommended motion from staff to approve the assignments.

Councilor Parrish let everyone know that Janet Rowland contacted him to serve on the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Board, to which he said yes. He added that apparently, Anna Stout took Joel Kincaid's place on the board as one of the elected officials and the board requires three (3) elected officials.

Councilor Purser asked if there were any rules about having more than one City Councilor as a Liaison on a City Board/Commission. Councilor Hancey pointed out that it could create a perceived conflict with having too much representation from Council on the City's Boards and Commissions because they are advisory to the Council and if Council starts populating the boards too much, then they are no longer advisory. Councilor Purser said she just thought she would ask because it wasn't clear if there was an actual rule about it or not.

- **COUNCILOR MILLER MOVED TO APPOINT THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS TO THE VARIOUS BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS AS STATED IN THE ATTACHED LIST FOR TERMS BEGINNING IN MAY OF 2024 AND ENDING IN APRIL OF 2026. COUNCILOR PURSER SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION PASSED WITH SIX YES VOTES.**

## **C. COUNCIL REPORTS AND ACTIONS**

### COUNCILOR AMY MILLER

Amy reported that at the Historic Preservation Board meeting, everyone was mostly focused on getting the board's two awesome new members caught up to speed on the goals of the board and what it does. They also began to talk about this year's History Fair, which is going to be fun because it is the City of Fruita's 140<sup>th</sup> Birthday this year.

COUNCILOR AARON HANCEY

Aaron reported that the Parks and Recreation Commission/Advisory Board (PRAB) members are really busy looking at how they can make improvements at Snook's Bottom to best utilize the space. He said he didn't think a lot of people in the community are aware that at Imondi Wake Zone, there is a part of the lake on the western end that has free public access, so the board will be evaluating how they can communicate things like that to the public. Aaron also reported that the board will have no remaining vacancies soon, as he and the Mayor had just interviewed a qualified applicant before the Council meeting. He added that the PRAB is about to become very active and they are very excited about it.

James asked if the PRAB is looking at the lake where Imondi Wake Zone is because the City no longer has Enoch's Lake and Snook's Bottom is going to get overrun. Aaron said he didn't think so; the board members are just in general looking at inconsistencies, how better to communicate and what the best use of that part of the lake could be. He added that he thinks the City is going to see some really good things come from the board in the next few months.

Mike pointed out that the City of Fruita owns the lake where Imondi Wake Zone is and has a public/private partnership with them which includes a lease agreement of the lake. One of the provisions in the agreement is that Imondi Wake Zone will keep the west side of the lake open to the public, but only during their operating hours because the City doesn't have the ability put staff at the lake. Mike stated that he met with the Imondies on site recently and they were wondering if there are ways in which the City can partner with them to clean up the north side of the lake so that people can access it better. Staff is looking for grant opportunities to assist with that. Aaron suggested letting the Parks and Recreation Commission members help staff with those efforts.

COUNCILOR JEANNINE PURSER

Jeannine pointed out that last year, the City Council didn't meet the Tuesday after Memorial Day and she wondered if staff and the Council should consider doing that again. James said he would be traveling back that day from California, so he would be absent. Mike checked the list of tentative agenda items for the May 28, 2024 Council workshop meeting and let the Council know that the items that were scheduled could be rescheduled as there were no timeliness matters that need to be attended to right away.

- **COUNCILOR PURSER MOVED TO CANCEL THE MAY 28, 2024 CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP MEETING. COUNCILOR MILLER SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION PASSED WITH SIX YES VOTES.**

Jeannine also reported that she attended the Livability Commission meeting and talked to them about the Localism Committee, as was decided by the City Council at the last Workshop meeting. She said they had a great discussion; the Livability Commission wants to keep communication under their purview in the way that they do it but feel that the "localism" idea is a deeper breadth of communication and City Ambassadorship than what they feel comfortable covering. She said the Livability Commission actually made a motion to encourage the Council to move forward with a Localism Board that would have a collaborative relationship with the Livability Commission when necessary.

Mike said staff needs to have a discussion with the Council to get direction on the next steps such as establishing the board and its goals, bylaws and other aspects at a future Council Workshop meeting now that the feedback has been received.

Mayor Breman asked Communications and Engagement Specialist Ciara Amann to report on the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Ciara stated that she and the City's Marketing and Communications Coordinator Ammon Pierce attended a basic Public Information Officer's (PIO's) class hosted by FEMA that essentially went into all the basic information staff needs to know to communicate during an "incident" (crisis communication).

Ciara continued that since she started working for the City of Fruita, she's been a part of the Mesa County Joint Information Center (JIC) that meets monthly to discuss crisis communications and being partners in times of crisis, especially since Fruita is a smaller community. She said that other organizations will be able to step in to help the City of Fruita get communications out to the public through partnerships with stakeholders such as Mesa County, School District #51, Grand Valley Power, Xcel Energy, Ute Water, etc. She's also been taking free (mostly online) FEMA classes to really get a sense of what it would take to communicate as a City during a time of crisis.

Ciara continued that the FEMA class covered things like once an Incident Command Structure goes into place, how as a PIO, she would work with the leaders in the community to get information out to the community as quickly as possible. She said the class hosted by FEMA was super beneficial and she and Ammon learned a lot about putting on a Press Conference, interview skills, writing skills and Press Releases.

Ciara explained that she, Lower Valley Fire Protection District Fire Marshal Travis Holder, Family Health West's PIO Heather Benjamin and Lt. Nick Peck with the Fruita PD meet once per month to talk about what their plan would be if anything happened in Fruita until the other partners could come in and support them.

Mike pointed out that the City has a full Emergency Plan where he will keep the Mayor and City Council updated in the case of any crisis and that staff has that plan on the list of agenda items that will be reviewed at an upcoming Council meeting.

Matthew thanked the Council members for walking through the festival the previous weekend and gave a special shout out to Neighborhood Services Coordinator Matt Carson, who he ran into many times. He commended Matt for having a smile on his face the entire time and being one of the most helpful people he's ever met.

Matthew also asked the Council members how they feel about bowling as a potential activity for the Council Retreat and no one said they had an aversion to it.

Matthew reported that the following day, he and Mike would be presenting at the Grand Junction Chamber of Commerce's annual State of the Valley event.

Matthew also reported that there's been more conversations going on in the background about Mind Springs, a lot of which is being played out in the Daily Sentinel. The Mesa County Commissioners and Elected Officials of local municipalities are trying to figure out what makes the most sense to do and Matthew said that once there are firm action items, he will bring those to the Fruita City Council.

Jeannine announced that the Fruita “State of the City” film was being shown the following evening at 6:00 p.m. at FARM/Rocky Mountain PBS.

**D. EXECUTIVE SESSION – DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO CONSIDER A MOTION TO CONVENE IN EXECUTIVE SESSION REGARDING PERSONNEL ISSUES UNDER C.R.S. SECTION 24-6-402(4)(F) FOR THE MUNICIPAL COURT JUDGE’S ANNUAL INFORMAL REVIEW**

- **COUNCILOR PURSER MOVED TO CONVENE INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR DISCUSSION OF A PERSONNEL MATTER UNDER C.R.S. SECTION 24-6-402(4)(F) FOR THE MUNICIPAL COURT JUDGE’S INFORMAL REVIEW. COUNCILOR HANCEY SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION PASSED WITH SIX YES VOTES.**

*The Fruita City Council convened into Executive Session at 9:25 p.m. They reconvened the regular meeting at 10:38 p.m.*

**12. ADJOURN**

With no further business before the Council, Mayor Breman adjourned the meeting at 10:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Deb Woods  
Deputy City Clerk  
City of Fruita