

**FRUITA CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING  
JUNE 7, 2016**

**1. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

A moment of silence was observed in lieu of the Invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**2. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

Council members present were Bruce Bonar, Dave Karisny, Joel Kincaid and Louis Brackett. Councilors Ken Kreie and Kyle Harvey were excused absent. Mayor Buck called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Mayor Buck asked if there were any corrections or additions to the agenda.

**3. AGENDA – ADOPT/AMEND**

- **COUNCILOR DAVE KARISNY MOVED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AND TO ADD AN ITEM TO THE CONSENT AGENDA (ITEM 6.H): A REQUEST TO APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF HEIDI ELDER TO THE PLANNING COMMISSION FOR A THREE YEAR TERM TO EXPIRE IN JUNE OF 2019. COUNCILOR KINCAID SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION PASSED WITH FOUR YES VOTES.**

**4. PROCLAMATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS**

- A. PROCLAMATION – PROCLAIMING THE MONTH OF JUNE 2016 AS “BIKE MONTH” AND WEDNESDAY, JUNE 22, 2016 AS “BIKE TO WORK DAY” IN THE CITY OF FRUITA TO BE ACCEPTED BY FRUITA PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT STAFF**

Mayor Buck read the Proclamation. City Manager Mike Bennett accepted it on behalf of the Parks and Recreation Department. He noted that on Wednesday, June 22<sup>nd</sup>, the City would be recognizing “Bike to Work Day” by having an event where people would meet at the Dinosaur Journey Museum at 6:30 a.m. and ride bikes together on the new section of the Lower Little Salt Wash Trail to the Fruita Community (Recreation) Center, where Family Health West would be serving breakfast. There is a competition between City staff and local businesses on who will have the most people riding their bikes to work that day and the winner will receive a trophy. Mr. Bennett added that if people are interested in a “Bike to Work” (BTW) shirt, they were available for \$9 or \$11 by contacting Cheri Delaney at the Fruita Community Center.

Mr. Bennett said that this was the same day that he and Councilor Ken Kreie would be going to the Colorado Municipal League (CML) Conference in Vail.

**5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There were no comments from the public.

**6. CONSENT AGENDA**

- A. LIQUOR LICENSE RENEWAL – A REQUEST TO APPROVE THE RENEWAL OF A RETAIL LIQUOR STORE LICENSE – MALT, VINOUS AND SPIRITUOUS FOR FRUITA LIQUOR MART LOCATED AT 423 E. HIGHWAY 6 & 50**
- B. ORDINANCE 2016-05 – SECOND READING – A REQUEST TO APPROVE AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 6.04.010 OF THE FRUITA MUNICIPAL CODE CONCERNING ANIMAL CONTROL DEFINITIONS**
- C. ORDINANCE 2016-06 – SECOND READING – A REQUEST TO APPROVE AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 17.07.070(H) OF THE FRUITA LAND USE CODE OF THE FRUITA MUNICIPAL CODE CONCERNING FENCES**
- D. ORDINANCE 2016-07 – FIRST READING – AN INTRODUCTION OF AN ORDINANCE GRANTING A FRANCHISE TO BRESNAN COMMUNICATIONS, LLC TO CONSTRUCT, OPERATE AND MAINTAIN A CABLE TELEVISION SYSTEM IN THE CITY OF FRUITA, COLORADO FOR PUBLICATION OF PUBLIC HEARING ON JULY 5, 2016**
- E. ORDINANCE 2016-08 – FIRST READING – AN INTRODUCTION OF AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 2.28 OF THE FRUITA MUNICIPAL CODE CONCERNING MUNICIPAL COURT FOR PUBLICATION OF PUBLIC HEARING ON JULY 5, 2016**
- F. CONTRACT FOR SEWER SERVICE – A REQUEST TO APPROVE A CONTRACT FOR SEWER SERVICES AT 1024 18 ROAD (PERCIVALS)**
- G. FRUITA LIQUOR MART CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT AND SITE DESIGN REVIEW – A REQUEST TO APPROVE THE FRUITA LIQUOR MART CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT AND SITE DESIGN REVIEW WITH THE CONDITION THAT ALL REVIEW COMMENTS AND ISSUES IDENTIFIED IN THE STAFF REPORT MUST BE ADEQUATELY RESOLVED BEFORE A PLANNING CLEARANCE FOR A BUILDING PERMIT IS ISSUED**
- H. BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS APPOINTMENT – A REQUEST TO APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF HEIDI ELDER TO THE PLANNING COMMISSION (ADDED TO THE AGENDA)**

Mayor Buck opened the public hearing on the Consent Agenda. Hearing no comments from the public, she referred back to the City Council.

- **COUNCILOR BONAR MOVED TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA AS PRESENTED. COUNCILOR BRACKETT SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION PASSED WITH FOUR YES VOTES.**

## **7. PUBLIC HEARINGS**

### **A. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR DAHNA RAUGH**

- 1) **ORDINANCE 2016-01 – SECOND READING – A REQUEST TO APPROVE AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 17.41 OF THE FRUITA LAND USE CODE, SIGN CODE (*CONTINUED FROM THE FEBRUARY 2, MARCH 1 AND MAY 3, 2016 COUNCIL MEETINGS*)**

Community Development Director Dahna Raugh stated that the Council and staff had been talking about signs for longer than six months. She said that one of the reasons for amending the Sign Code was a recent United States Supreme Court decision that required that regulations for signs not control what the sign says because that is a violation of free speech, which can be solved by adding one line into the Land Use Code that says, “Any signs authorized by the Land Use Code can substitute non-commercial copy for commercial copy.”

Mrs. Raugh continued that the biggest issue was temporary off-premise signs and staff started out with the intent of trying to make all of the signs that are seen in Fruita somehow be legal, but then over time, it was realized that with more signs coming up, there was a potential for problems.

Mrs. Raugh stated that the last time Ordinance 2016-01 was continued, it was to allow staff one more opportunity to talk to the business community because originally, staff was thinking of allowing two signs within 500 feet of a business, but now the regulations allow one sign right in front of the business.

Mrs. Raugh said she had visited downtown businesses for two or three days and she talked to just about everybody in the area that currently has signs out. She added that staff also held a meeting on May 18<sup>th</sup> at the Cavalcade, at which about ten people attended representing eight different businesses. In her discussions with the business community, Mrs. Raugh said that she believes most of the businesses understood the problems that the Council was facing trying to allow more signs in more locations and they also understood why staff and potentially the Council were going to narrow it down to allowing one sign right in front of a business.

Mrs. Raugh continued that at the May 18<sup>th</sup> meeting, the business community asked staff to look at a way to help direct customers to the businesses, specifically from the interstate access and other major routes into the City. Staff is investigating that issue and how it could potentially be addressed.

Mrs. Raugh said she would answer any questions about the language proposed for the Land Use Code amendment.

Mayor Buck opened up the public hearing on Ordinance 2016-01. Hearing no comments, she closed the public hearing and referred back to the City Council.

Councilor Karisny said that the Council took a lot of time with the issue to try and get it right. He asked if the Ordinance were approved but then something needed to be changed, would current businesses be grandfathered in or would they be affected by the new changes? Mrs. Raugh responded that they would be grandfathered in for the day because one of the requirements in the proposed language is that the temporary signs out in the public area have to be brought in at the end of every business day. She added that if staff sees a problem, then staff can also immediately require those temporary signs to be removed on a permanent basis, but the Land Use Code would have to be amended to make that happen.

Councilor Karisny asked for confirmation that if the City (hypothetically) chooses to change (for example) the size limits for signs in six months, then everyone who had a large sign wouldn't be required to make it smaller because they were grandfathered in. Mrs. Raugh said that the business would have to follow the new size regulations if the Council wanted them to.

Mrs. Raugh continued that because of the signs' temporary nature and because they are required to be brought in at the end of every business day, the grandfather status does not apply.

- **COUNCILOR BONAR MOVED TO APPROVE ORDINANCE 2016-01 – SECOND READING – AMENDING CHAPTER 41, SIGN CODE OF THE FRUITA LAND USE CODE. COUNCILOR KINCAID SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION PASSED WITH FOUR YES VOTES.**

## **8. ADMINISTRATIVE AGENDA**

### **A. PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR KEN HALEY**

- 1) **RESOLUTION 2016-19 – A REQUEST TO APPROVE A RESOLUTION TO ENTER INTO AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT (IGA) BETWEEN THE CITY OF FRUITA AND THE 5-2-1 DRAINAGE AUTHORITY FOR PROVISION OF COLORADO DISCHARGE PERMIT SYSTEM (CDPS) MUNICIPAL SEPARATE STORM SEWER (MS4) STORMWATER PHASE II PERMIT SERVICES AND AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE THE IGA**

Public Works Director Ken Haley stated that the 5-2-1 Drainage Authority was created back in 2014 and is a partnership between Mesa County, the City of Grand Junction, the City of Fruita, the Town of Palisade and the Grand Valley Drainage District. For the past few years, the 5-2-1 has been focused mainly on administering the storm water permits for those entities.

Mr. Haley explained that up until now, Fruita hasn't had to comply with those permit requirements because the City was just under the threshold for being considered an urbanized area. The City has now passed over that threshold and the state has now issued a storm water permit that will go into

effect on July 1<sup>st</sup>, which means that Fruita will now have to comply with the MS4 storm water permit requirements.

Mr. Haley said that the requirements are mainly related to water quality for storm water, so any construction sites will now have to get not only a state storm water permit if they are disturbing over an acre of land, they will also have to get a local storm water permit. Inspections of the construction sites will have to be completed, whether they are for private development or public projects.

Mayor Buck asked how this would affect the Greenway Business Park and Mr. Haley responded that the park would be subject to the requirements. He noted that the other entities have been doing this for six years already and they have uploaded all the requirements to the 5-2-1 to do all the storm water permitting, inspections and all the documentation necessary for the state. The permit also requires a public education component. Mr. Haley said it just makes sense to have a valley-wide approach and just have one entity responsible for it instead of all the entities doing their own thing.

Mr. Haley stated that if Fruita did want to consider implementing its own program rather than handing over those services to the 5-2-1, it would require additional staff and expenses whereas the City of Fruita is already a member and a contributing partner of the 5-2-1 because staff has known that the requirements were coming for awhile and have been preparing for it.

Mr. Haley noted that the Council did approve an Ordinance in March of last year in preparation for the permit requirements.

Mr. Haley said that the IGA before the Council is almost identical to what the City of Grand Junction and the Town of Palisade have with the 5-2-1 Drainage Authority. Mesa County's is a little bit different because their enforcement is different.

Mr. Haley said it was staff's recommendation that the Council approve Resolution 2016-19. The 5-2-1 Drainage Authority is scheduled to consider the IGA at their June 29<sup>th</sup> board meeting.

Councilor Brackett asked Mr. Haley what he saw as a possible disadvantage if the Council were not to approve the Resolution.

Mr. Haley said that if the City wanted to implement its own program, City staff would have to be doing their own separate permitting and inspection processes, as well as extensive documentation, so the City would probably have to hire one full-time engineer and at least one half-time construction inspector. The City would also need to devote some funds towards public education and a couple other things.

Mr. Haley added that Fruita's yearly contribution to the 5-2-1 for the past few years has been between \$5,000 and \$6,000, but it would easily cost over \$30,000 for the City to implement its own program.

- **COUNCILOR BONAR MOVED TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 2016-19 – ENTERING INTO AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE**

**CITY OF FRUITA AND THE 5-2-1 DRAINAGE AUTHORITY FOR PROVISION OF COLORADO DISCHARGE PERMIT SYSTEM MUNICIPAL SEPARATE STORM WATER PHASE II PERMIT SERVICES. COUNCILOR KARISNY SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION PASSED WITH FOUR YES VOTES.**

**2) UPDATE ON PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**

Mr. Haley gave the Council a PowerPoint presentation on the City's Public Works Department. The presentation included what the Public Works Department does, the current condition of City infrastructure, and issues and challenges faced by the Public Works Department.

There are nine divisions within Public Works made up of 21 full-time employees, 3 part-time employees and 5 seasonal employees. Most of the operations of the Department require staff to be able to respond 24/7 for sewer backups, road issues, and safety issues. One staff member is on call at all times and there is always a Wastewater operator on call.

Mr. Haley noted that the City has a lot of staff that is skilled in a lot of different things, but that is transitioning into keeping certain people in more focused areas. Some of the biggest changes are moving to a two-crew leader system and the creation of a Fleet Manager position.

Mr. Haley said that pretty much every division of the Public Works Department is focused on the core services of the City: streets, utilities, water, wastewater, making sure things are built right and making sure things are maintained.

Mr. Haley said he has learned that the average age of the City's full-time maintenance workers is over 50 years old. He said these people are very skilled in welding, framing, equipment operation, and truck driving, but he wanted the Council to be aware that there are going to be some challenges with turnover in the not too distant future.

Mr. Haley's presentation included reviews of the Engineering Department, Road Maintenance and Traffic Safety, Buildings and Facilities, Mountain Water and Properties, Fleet Maintenance, Utilities and the Sewer Fund.

Mr. Haley stated that the current condition of City infrastructure is fair, but that maintenance will be important moving forward in to the future.

Issues and challenges of the Public Works Department include:

- Lagoon Development
- Mountain Water liabilities – need to develop plan
- Wastewater Treatment Facility and collection issues
- Staffing and funding

Councilor Karisny asked if the City of Fruita could share any maintenance resources with other municipalities such as the City of Grand Junction when in a situation like needing a part for a piece of equipment. Mr. Haley responded that the City doesn't stock a whole lot of parts except for belts,

hoses and air filters and there isn't any sharing of inventory between municipalities. He added that municipalities in the valley do share a lot of knowledge on a regular basis, however.

One highlight of Mr. Haley's presentation was in regards to a Wastewater Reclamation Facility Needs Assessment that was recently completed that identified operational issues with the plant and upcoming regulations. Regulations about water quality have changed (to remove phosphorus), which will be an expensive endeavor for the City to address. Staff is currently doing some testing to try to use what the City has to treat phosphorus and will be trying other methods to try to comply with the regulations. If these efforts are unsuccessful, it will cost the City at least \$1 million to address the situation.

Mr. Haley added that the Needs Assessment Study identified over \$5 million worth of projects that will need to be completed in the next 5 to 10 years. Staff has tried to keep sewer rates flat for Fruita residents, but expenses increase every year for the sewer fund, so staff will be looking at updating sewer rates to remain financially sustainable.

Councilor Karisny said that when the Wastewater Treatment Facility was being proposed to be built, there were at least two, maybe three different types of processes that could have been used and the one the City chose was one that would contribute more success in meeting a number of the EPA future guidelines. He asked if the City was still facing challenges despite that.

Mr. Haley responded that the regulation that drove the need for construction of a new Wastewater Treatment Facility was the requirement for ammonia removal and the City's old sewer lagoon system could not manage. The City then selected an activated sludge process based on the ability to nitrify and treat the ammonia to high levels, but at that time, no one even knew about the future requirements for phosphorus removal. Phosphorus was not something that was monitored or had to be treated, but that changed and now treatment is required as per the EPA regulation.

## **9. COUNCIL REPORTS AND ACTIONS**

### COUNCILOR BONAR

Councilor Bonar reported that the Historic Preservation Board met the previous day and discussed the most recent History Fair and planning for next year. The Board has been invited to do the History Fair at the Cavalcade again next year. Councilor Bonar stated that Civic Center building is extremely well suited for the History Fair for the segment of the population that is intensely interested in the history because they can spend a lot of time going through the Lower Valley Heritage Room to look at the abundance of materials. He said that unfortunately, however, the Civic Center location does not lend itself to the person who is casually interested in history. There was a tremendous turnout at the first History Fair that was held at the Cavalcade, but attendance has dropped consistently each year since then. The Board is therefore looking at holding the History Fair at the Cavalcade sometime in May of next year. The current thought is to also have someone at the Lower Valley Heritage Room available during the Fair so that anyone whose curiosity is sufficiently peaked can be sent to the Civic Center.

Councilor Bonar also reported that a Historic Preservation Board member resigned because of schedule conflicts, so he asked everyone to send any interested persons to the Board.

### COUNCILOR KARISNY

Councilor Karisny stated that he attended the Grand Valley Regional Transportation Committee meeting. He reviewed all the names of directors and staff for the GVRTC, the Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPO), Grand Valley Transit (GVT), the Mesa County Regional Transportation Planning Office, the Technical Advisory Board, and CDOT Region 3.

Councilor Karisny said that the two big roles of the GVRTC are: 1) all the regional planning and 2) the creation of a Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP). This plan was adopted at the last meeting of the GVRTC. The plan contains all the state and federally funded transportation projects in the urbanized area initiated by Mesa County, the City of Grand Junction, the Town of Palisade, the City of Fruita and the Colorado Department of Transportation.

Councilor Karisny continued that the biggest transportation project in the Plan is I-70 B. There have been a number of improvements that have been made along I-70 B, but there are still a number of improvements that are still to come. He said this takes up a lot of the state and federal funds that come to the Grand Valley, although there are other projects.

Councilor Karisny said the reason this happens is that the projects are based on population trends and transportation needs, which are based on some of the studies that have been done such as the 2035/2040 Transportation Studies of roads within the urbanized area. The studies suggest that in 10 or 20 years, certain roads are going to fail.

Councilor Karisny reviewed the projects listed in the Transportation Improvement Plan, one of which will affect Fruita: US Highway 6 Fruita to I-70 B milepost 20 to 25.9. It is out of City limits, but will affect the 6 & 50 corridor.

Councilor Karisny reported that the 2017/2020 Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) was approved at the GVRTC meeting. It is a four year rolling plan that is reviewed annually and can be modified. He added that the TIP itself is renewed every four or five years.

Councilor Karisny added that the Colorado Division of Aeronautics gave a presentation at the GVRTC meeting. He provided the Council with a lot of information from the presentation.

Councilor Karisny said another topic discussed at the GVRTC meeting was the Rural Regional Statewide Bus Network Plan, which tries to create bus routes to urbanized areas. There is a route that comes from Denver and goes to Glenwood Springs which may be extended to Grand Junction, giving potential tourists the opportunity to use the bus route. Councilor Karisny said that there are some problems with the idea because the route is supposed to be able to bring people back and forth in a timely manner.

Councilor Karisny also said that the GVRTC discussed the roundabout project at Broadway and the Redlands Parkway.

Councilor Karisny reported that the new GVRTC routes took effect mid-May and the April analysis showed that the Fruita route was reduced by about four stops. The GVRTC is going to track the current progress of the new routes and possibly make changes to them if necessary.

Councilor Karisny reported on some smaller facts that were discussed at the GVRTC meeting such as the TRANs Bond proposal, Mesa County's coordination of advertising on buses, the contract for GVRTC and the need for RFPs, building compressed natural gas fill stations, the types of buses the GVT has, the plan for replacing buses (1 per year) with the goal of having all the same size and type of bus, and maintenance of the buses.

Todd Hollenbeck stated at the GVRTC meeting that the local funding for the GVRTC is about \$100,000 less than what it had been and he wants to pursue a five-year contract with the local municipalities for future funding.

Councilor Karisny also reported that he attended the Fruita residents and HOA Board members meeting at the Fruita Community Center on May 21<sup>st</sup>. Code Enforcement Officer Mark Angelo and Officer Ross Young gave a presentation regarding weeds, abandoned vehicles, traffic issues, home occupation businesses, permits that are required, animal complaints, tree issues, trash and other things. He said it would be great to advertise the presentation better and have more people participate in it, although the people who did participate seemed very receptive of the information.

Councilor Karisny said he has had a number of homeowners come to him with lots of different issues and he has referred them to John McBride with Public Works or the City's website where residents can submit their issue online. He added that Mr. McBride has responded incredibly quickly to the residents' concerns.

#### COUNCILOR KINCAID

Councilor Kincaid reported that Grand Junction Farmers' Market is being moved to the Cross Orchards property owned by the Museum of Western Colorado (MWC).

He also reported that the "Old Fossil" golf event would be held during the weekend of the Fruita Fall Festival. The Chamber is partnering with Family Health West for the event.

Councilor Kincaid said that August 27<sup>th</sup> was the scheduled date for the Feast of Skulls and the MWC is looking for auction items.

Councilor Kincaid also stated that for the July workshop session, the Council would be meeting with the MWC regarding plans to build fundraising and the status of all their properties.

Councilor Kincaid said that the Tourism Advisory Council met the new owner of Cobb & Associates, TJ Elbert, who did not appear to know a lot about what is going on. Mr. Elbert assured the Board he would get up to speed and get Fruita's tourism on track.

Councilor Kincaid noted that the new billboard on I-70 was the wrong size, so they are in the process of getting a new one installed.

The Tourism Advisory Board also discussed video content for the tourism website, which is one of the main things the Board has budgeted for this year. The Board is working with Aha Consulting to get the tourism website (gofruita.com) moved over to the new platform and it should be ready to be previewed by the end of the week.

### COUNCILOR BRACKETT

Councilor Brackett reported that he attended the Police Commission meeting two weeks prior and the board discussed law enforcement issues that have been occurring. Chief Judy Macy gave her report on what's been happening in Fruita, which include a lot of minor incidents that officers have been able to handle without any problem. Chief Macy also mentioned that there were some increases in animals (dogs) getting let loose and not be controlled or on a leash, which led to a couple of minor incidents.

Chief Macy did indicate that there's going to be a Police Commission meeting in July and she will give a report to the Council. Overall, she is pleased with staffing of the Police Department, but is in the same situation as Public Works with needing to get new officers on board once senior officers retire.

Councilor Brackett also reported that the Parks and Recreation Board met the previous Thursday and Mr. Nycum gave a complete report on the trail systems and how well that is going in terms of the grants that have been submitted. He also discussed the raft trip on June 10<sup>th</sup> and the meeting with the Governor about the City's trails.

Mr. Nycum also gave a report on the update of how well the Fruita Community Center is doing, not only in terms of revenue, but also concerning participation (the number of visits, programs, groups, and special events).

### MAYOR BUCK

Mayor Buck stated that the Economic Development Summit was interesting; she stayed until lunch and couldn't stay any longer, but Mr. Bennett and Councilor Kreie stayed through the whole day event.

Mayor Buck also said that the Parks and Recreation Department did a great job at the Mike the Headless Chicken Festival; she heard many compliments about City staff getting the band Cracker to play at the event. She added that it was very well attended and the weather was cooperative.

Mayor Buck said she received e-mails that everyone was okay with only a couple of Council members meeting with the School District, who was also bringing only two or three people to discuss how to attempt to tackle some issues. She asked the Deputy City Clerk to reach out to the School District to come up with a date and time for the lunch meeting.

Mayor Buck noted that the Senior Task Force is kind of stalling out, so she has talked to Mr. Nycum about having the Board meet every other month because the members are just not interested

in doing things. The seniors are still collecting their can money, which they use for specific things like fixing their pool table.

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

Mr. Mike Bennett said that it was amazing that there were 250 chickens in the Council Chambers and the other two rooms upstairs at the Civic Center for the Mike the Headless Chicken Festival. He said staff did a great job of keeping it pretty clean using plastic. This was twice the amount of chickens that were at last year's MTHC festival and he agreed with Mayor Buck that the event was very well attended. Mr. Bennett said that he heard a lot of good things about it.

Mr. Bennett noted that the upcoming Thursday would mark the start of the Thursday Night Concert Series at 7:30 p.m. at Civic Center Park through August 11<sup>th</sup>. The fourth Friday in June will be the first Food Truck Friday for the summer in Fruita.

Mr. Bennett said that before the Thursday Night Concert on June 9<sup>th</sup>, the Council Chambers was reserved from 6:00 to 7:00 for Mesa County to conduct a Broadband Community input meeting. He said that one of the steps that City Council took was putting a question on the ballot at the last municipal election to override Senate Bill 152. This will allow the City to more fully participate in a process that is already going on. Mesa and Garfield Counties have a joint grant funded half by the Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) to look into where all the fiber is located in the valley. Part of that process includes getting community input, so Mesa County has advertised a series of meetings just like the one being held in the Council Chambers.

Mr. Bennett continued that as the Counties' grant process goes along (the study), the next phase would be for them to seek grant funds for construction.

Mr. Bennett stated that he has tickets for the Riverfront Concert Series and Dinosaur Day (June 11<sup>th</sup> from (9:00 am to 5:00 pm) at Dinosaur Journey if anyone wanted them.

Mr. Bennett also said that earlier that day, he had lunch in Montrose with Sam Mamet, Executive Director of the Colorado Municipal League (CML) and most of the City Managers on the Western Slope. It was the first day for the new City Manager at the City of Grand Junction (Greg Caton). At that luncheon, Mr. Bennett learned that because of the Supreme Court lawsuit with the State of Colorado in regards to severance taxes, the state had to give refunds to many companies. The total amount of the refunds is still unknown, so DOLA put a freeze on the April and August cycles of their grant processes. Mr. Bennett pointed out that the City of Fruita has a large grant request in the April cycle for \$1.2 million in combination with a \$2 million request to GOCO. CML was able to keep the (outside of the freeze) direct distribution (which has dramatically changed over the years), so the City of Fruita budgeted about \$150,000 for this year compared to \$1.2 million in 2008 or 2009.

Mr. Bennett said that there is hope that in a couple of weeks that the Joint Budget Committee will address a request to unfreeze the April grant cycle. There is much more concern as to whether there will even be an August cycle or not or how small it will be.

Mr. Bennett said staff was grateful that they had applied in April for the \$1.2 million grant instead of waiting for the August grant cycle. He said he would keep the Council posted.

Mr. Mamet also talked about a number of initiatives that could be on the ballot this year.

Mr. Bennett noted that the Deputy City Clerk was trying to schedule photo sessions for new professional headshots of the City Council. He asked if the Council wanted simple backgrounds for the headshots or something different.

Councilor Kincaid recommended that the same plain background be used for all Council members so they match and won't be time consuming to get done. Mayor Buck and the other Council members agreed.

Mr. Bennett said staff would try to get the photo sessions scheduled for a time before the next regular Council meeting (June 21<sup>st</sup>).

Mr. Bennett added that he had set aside a date of June 14<sup>th</sup> to give a tour of City facilities and properties for any Council members that might be interested. Councilors Brackett and Karisny said they were interested in going on the tour.

Mr. Bennett reviewed some of the details for the Council and Department Director's raft trip. Councilor Bonar noted that the water levels keep going up on a daily basis.

## **11. ADJOURN**

With no further business before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 8:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra Woods  
Deputy City Clerk  
City of Fruita