

**FRUITA CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING  
JUNE 21, 2016**

**1. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Invocation was given and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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

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

**3. AGENDA – ADOPT/AMEND**

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

- **COUNCILOR KREIE MOVED TO REMOVE ITEM C FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA (A REQUEST TO APPROVE AN AFFIRMATION STATEMENT TO BE PRESENTED TO GOVERNOR HICKENLOOPER IN SUPPORT OF 1GW RENEWABLE ENERGY AS REQUESTED BY SARA MCCARTHY WITH CONSERVATION COLORADO) TO ITEM 7.A PUBLIC HEARINGS. COUNCILOR KINCAID SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION PASSED WITH SIX YES VOTES.**

**4. PROCLAMATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS**

**A. PRESENTATION – AUDITOR’S REPORT ON FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2015**

Mr. Steve Hovland of the CPA firm of Dalby, Wendland & Co., P.C. presented their findings from their audit of the 2015 Financial Statements for the year ended December 31, 2016, which were presented to the City Council at the May 3, 2016 Council meeting. Mr. Hovland stated that the audit took about one week and was completed at the end of April/beginning of May 2016. He thanked City Clerk/Financial Director Margaret Sell and her crew for all their hard work.

Mr. Hovland stated that for the 2015 year, Dalby, Wendland & Co. was issuing what is called an “unmodified opinion,” which in layman’s terms is a clean audit. The audit opinion is currently posted on the City’s website.

Mr. Hovland said the firm also issued a Required Communication Letter, which is a report to the City Council in municipal government audits. He added that if anything unusual came up in the audit, the firm would report that to the City Council. Mr. Hovland stated that nothing of significance came up during the audit, there were no disagreements with management, there were no difficulties with the audit, and there were no second opinions.

Mr. Hovland continued that the firm reviewed the internal controls of the City such as receipts, disbursements and credit cards and there were no findings on the internal controls. He noted that when Dalby Wendland first took over the audits for the City of Fruita in 2008, there were about four internal control recommendations. The firm has worked with management over the years to strengthen those controls.

Mr. Hovland also stated that there were no audit adjustments this year.

Mr. Hovland again commended Mrs. Sell and the City for having a very well-run organization and said that Dalby Wendland has been happy to have been Fruita's auditors for the past eight years.

- **COUNCILOR BONAR MOVED TO APPROVE THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE CITY OF FRUITA AND ACCEPT THE AUDITOR'S REPORT FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2015. COUNCILOR BRACKETT SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION PASSED WITH SIX YES VOTES.**
  
- B. PROCLAMATION – PROCLAIMING THE MONTH OF JUNE 2016 AS “ADULT PROTECTION AWARENESS MONTH” IN THE CITY OF FRUITA TO BE ACCEPTED BY DEBI NELSON ON BEHALF OF ADULT SERVICES**

Councilor Karisny read the Proclamation. No one was present in the audience to accept it.

- C. PROCLAMATION – PROCLAIMING JUNE 25, 2016 AS “ST. BALDRICK'S FOUNDATION DAY” IN THE CITY OF FRUITA TO BE ACCEPTED BY ROBYN CARMINE, VOLUNTEER EVENT ORGANIZER FOR THE ST. BALDRICK'S FOUNDATION**

Mayor Buck read the Proclamation. No one was present in the audience to accept it.

## **5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There were no comments from the public.

## **6. CONSENT AGENDA**

- A. MINUTES – A REQUEST TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE MAY 3, 2016 CITY COUNCIL MEETING**
  
- B. BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS REAPPOINTMENT – A REQUEST TO APPROVE THE REAPPOINTMENT OF MEL MULDER TO THE PLANNING COMMISSION TO FULFILL AN UNEXPIRED TERM PLUS AN ADDITIONAL THREE-YEAR TERM TO EXPIRE IN JULY OF 2021**
  
- C. AFFIRMATION STATEMENT – A REQUEST TO APPROVE AN AFFIRMATION STATEMENT TO BE PRESENTED TO GOVERNOR HICKENLOOPER IN SUPPORT OF 1GW RENEWABLE ENERGY AS**

**REQUESTED BY SARA MCCARTHY WITH CONSERVATION COLORADO  
(REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA AND PLACED UNDER PUBLIC  
HEARINGS, ITEM 7.A)**

- D. RESOLUTION 2016-20 – A REQUEST TO APPROVE A RESOLUTION APPROVING AN AMENDMENT TO THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF FRUITA AND THE GRAND VALLEY DRAINAGE DISTRICT FOR THE USE OF DISTRIBUTED FUNDS**
- E. MAY 2016 FINANCIAL REPORTS – A REQUEST TO APPROVE THE MAY 2016 FINANCIAL REPORTS**

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

- **COUNCILOR KINCAID MOVED TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA AS AMENDED. COUNCILOR BONAR SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION PASSED WITH SIX YES VOTES.**

Councilor Karisny noted that he and Mayor Buck had just interviewed (previous to the Council meeting) Richard Hoctor for a vacant seat on the Planning Commission.

- **COUNCILOR KARISNY MOVED TO ADD TO THE ADMINISTRATIVE AGENDA THE APPOINTMENT OF RICHARD HOCTOR TO THE PLANNING COMMISSION. COUNCILOR BONAR SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION PASSED WITH SIX YES VOTES.**

## **7. PUBLIC HEARINGS**

- A. AFFIRMATION STATEMENT – A REQUEST TO APPROVE AN AFFIRMATION STATEMENT TO BE PRESENTED TO GOVERNOR HICKENLOOPER IN SUPPORT OF 1GW RENEWABLE ENERGY AS REQUESTED BY SARA MCCARTHY WITH CONSERVATION COLORADO  
(REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA AND PLACED UNDER PUBLIC  
HEARINGS, ITEM 7.A)**

Sara McCarthy, Community Organizer for Conservation Colorado's field office in Grand Junction, stated that she works with community members, business leaders and local elected officials to support policies that protect clean water and air, public lands, climate and energy.

Ms. McCarthy said she was present to discuss an opportunity for which the Council could easily and collectively show their support for clean energy in the state of Colorado through a general statement to Governor Hickenlooper. Ms. McCarthy read the statement as follows:

*“The Fruita City Council is excited about Xcel’s recent announcement to build new homegrown wind and solar energy. Colorado has been a leader in putting renewable onto the grid and Xcel*

*has signaled their intention to continue moving forward with clean, cost-competitive energy to power our businesses and homes. Clean energy is good for business, and good for the people of Colorado.”*

Ms. McCarthy stated that this spring, Xcel Energy submitted their Electric Resource Plan to the Colorado Public Utilities Commission and within that resource plan, they propose to add 1 gigawatt of renewable energy. She said that 1 gigawatt can power about 300,000 homes annually, which is about the size of Denver. Ms. McCarthy said that this is an incredible opportunity for Colorado to step into a leadership role in the renewable energy sector and really embrace clean energy and the economy.

Ms. McCarthy stated that the statement to Governor Hickenlooper was very general and that the Governor has a lot of influence over the Public Utilities Commission because he is the person who appoints the three commissioners who make decisions. She added that she believes that Fruita has a very strong voice on the Western Slope and signing the statement would be a great way to show the City's support for clean energy in Colorado.

Ms. McCarthy added a quick disclaimer: she said there are a lot of complicated components to the matter and that there are a lot of experts on board, so if she couldn't answer any of the Council's questions, she would get the information from them and get back to the Council as soon as possible.

Councilor Kreie asked if Xcel Energy was voluntarily wishing to add the renewable resource and if Ms. McCarthy expected any pushback from the Public Utilities Commission.

Ms. McCarthy responded that Conservation Colorado does not expect any pushback because it is a decision that the PUC would be making on their own terms due to the economic viability of the decision. She added that Xcel Energy is already required to produce 30% renewable energy and they have already completed that, so this would just bolster that purely because it makes economic sense and their customers are demanding it.

Councilor Karisny asked what it would mean for the City of Fruita, noting that Grand Valley Power has built a solar farm. He also asked if there would be an opportunity for incentives to do similar things like building solar farms or other kinds of renewable energy.

Ms. McCarthy responded that currently, 600 megawatts of the 1 gigawatt proposed will take shape in the form of a 90,000 acre wind (turbine) plant that will serve Cheyenne, Elbert, Kit Carson and Arapahoe Counties. She said there have been no details about the remaining 400 megawatts and nobody knows where Xcel Energy is with that planning. Ms. McCarthy said she could get back to the Council with the details when they come out.

Councilor Karisny asked Ms. McCarthy to send Mayor Buck an e-mail when she has a better sense of what will happen with the other 400 megawatts. Mayor Buck requested that Ms. McCarthy send the e-mail to City Manager Mike Bennett, who would get it out to the Council.

Mayor Buck said she didn't know a lot about it except that a lot of jobs have been lost in the coal industry and she wanted to acknowledge that.

Ms. McCarthy said she agreed; that there has been a downturn in coal since the 21<sup>st</sup> Century and that it's driven by the market and natural gas with less expensive technologies that allowed the market to shift. She added that communities have suffered and it is hard to watch, but that this is a transition and that communities need to diversify the economy so that everyone is not dependent on the boom and bust cycles any longer.

Ms. McCarthy handed out information to the City Council regarding the wind turbine plant project.

- **COUNCILOR BONAR MOVED TO APPROVE AND SIGN THE AFFIRMATION STATEMENT SUPPORTING CONSERVATION COLORADO'S CAMPAIGN TO HAVE 1GW OF RENEWABLE ENERGY ADDED TO THEIR ELECTRIC RESOURCE PLAN. COUNCILOR KINCAID SECONDED THE MOTION.**

Councilor Kreie asked if the motion was to approve Conservation Colorado's campaign/Electric Resource Plan or if it was Xcel Energy's Electric Resource Plan.

Ms. McCarthy explained that it was Xcel Energy's Electric Resource Plan and Conservation Colorado is working with local elected officials across the state to show support for it so that it will be approved in the fall.

Councilor Bonar acknowledged that the motion was not clear.

**THE MOTION PASSED WITH SIX YES VOTES.**

## **8. ADMINISTRATIVE AGENDA**

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

#### **1) COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT UPDATE**

Mrs. Raugh presented the Council with an update on the Community Development Department's portion of the City of Fruita's website. She noted that the Community Development Department is most commonly referred to as the "Planning Department."

Mrs. Raugh pulled up the City's website on the laptop for the Council to see. She reviewed the Community Development section of maps and GIS data including a land use map that reflects zoning and other information that anybody can access. She also reviewed available links such as the Chamber of Commerce, the BLM, Colorado National Monument, Enterprise Zone and Mesa County.

Mrs. Raugh noted that Mesa County's website shows very valuable information that she refers to all the time because it lists different properties by address that include who owns the property, when they bought it, the different taxes that are applicable to the property and photographs.

Mrs. Raugh reviewed the other tabs for the Community Development Department located on the City of Fruita's website including Code Enforcement, the Land Use Code and "frequently asked questions."

Councilor Kincaid asked if information on the new Sign Code would be available under "frequently asked questions." Mrs. Raugh responded that this was a work in progress.

Mrs. Raugh also went over the "Community Oriented Program," which is part of the City's Code Enforcement. She noted that Code Enforcement Officer Mark Angelo has approached Code Enforcement differently than anyone else ever has in the past. He tries to build a relationship with the person that has a code violation (especially long, ongoing code violations) where the person usually has a physical or financial problem to resolve the issue themselves. Mrs. Raugh stated that he has tackled many problems that have been going on for a long time and has placed people in contact with other members of the community that can help solve problems.

Mrs. Raugh continued with her review of the website and showed the Council the section regarding building permits. The City of Fruita has a contract with Mesa County to administer the Building Codes, as does the City of Grand Junction, the Town of Palisade, and the Town of Collbran. Mesa County will issue a building permit in the various municipalities as long as somebody has a planning clearance from those various cities.

The City's website has information regarding accessory buildings and fences, as well as all the planning clearance forms, which are fillable online. The Code allows staff five days to process planning clearance forms, but Mrs. Raugh stated that staff typically gets them done much quicker than that.

Mrs. Raugh stated that now approvals for land development that need to go to the City Council are now being uploaded to the City's website instead of people submitting giant stacks of paper. E-mails are sent to the reviewing agencies so that they can look at the applications online and submit their comments electronically. She said that staff, developers and the reviewing agencies all seem to appreciate this system and that it is all public information, so when the Planning Department sends out postcards notifying people of land use applications, those people are now advised that they can find all the information on the City's website.

Mrs. Raugh pointed out that not all applications are online; only those that are either being reviewed and will shortly be going to the Planning Commission or the Planning Commission has made a recommendation that will soon be going to the City Council. Projects that are in the active construction phase do not appear online because they have already been through the public hearing process.

Mrs. Raugh noted that John Deere Tractor will be moving in on Highway 6 & 50, but staff has not received a complete application yet, so it's not yet out for review.

She also commented that there are a lot of things going on in the Fruita Planning Department, which has been at its busiest since 2007 or 2008. There are a lot of applications for vacation rentals in Fruita (with more on the way) and Mrs. Raugh said so far they haven't been a problem and seem to

be a very worthwhile thing both for the people renting them out and the people who are coming to visit and are looking for something different than a hotel room.

Councilor Karisny asked if the current development projects listed on the website also include the ones that are administratively approved as well as those that go through the Planning Commission and City Council.

Mrs. Raugh responded that anything that requires a public notice to be sent out and reviewing agencies to look at would be on the website, for example, the Dairy Queen project. That project was approved by staff and the only way the Council would have seen the project come before them is if the site plan was going to deviate from the rules and regulations in some way in the Land Use Code.

Mrs. Raugh noted that her presentation was a very quick overview of the Planning Department and didn't include everything such as historic preservation, long-range planning, writing grant application, temporary encroachment agreements and other land developments that are within three miles of the Fruita city limits, which Mesa County sends to Fruita for comment.

Mrs. Raugh continued that Mesa County recently finished a wireless Master Plan and a housing needs study and Fruita was included in those.

Mrs. Raugh stated that the Fruita Planning Department also deals with demography issues and pointed out that the state and the nation are getting ready for the 2020 Census, so Planning is looking at Census blocks and other things.

Mayor Buck asked if there was a flowchart on the City's website that detailed how long planning processes take.

Mrs. Raugh responded that although staff is working on flowcharts and that is another work in progress, it usually is different for every application depending on what decisions people are making. She said she understands how helpful flowcharts could be for people who are not familiar with the process if they have a simple application, but it was going to take some time to finish the flowcharts.

Mrs. Raugh added that she hears all the time from applicants that the process was easy and that overall Fruita does a good job compared to most other places, especially right now because the Land Use Code and application process are reasonably flexible. She said problems typically occur when people don't like the rules and that makes it harder to make it all work.

Mayor Buck said she thinks that it becomes a negotiation and that is the way a lot of people look at it, so that takes time and adds to the project.

Mayor Buck asked if staff was able to regularly check the VRBO and Air BNB sites located in Fruita.

Mrs. Raugh responded that if staff were to do Code Enforcement by looking at those websites, there would be a full house of vacation rentals coming through the Planning Department for months, so staff usually waits until there is a complaint. She said it has become even more difficult because people are wanting to use Recreational Vehicles as vacation rentals, so staff is trying to figure out how that is going to work.

Mayor Buck said that getting ahead of them (the vacation rentals) as soon as possible would then make it something everybody knows about and if staff could come up with a letter and the application form and mail them out to the vacation rental addresses, then the City could get on top of them to help make up what is being lost in lodging tax at the hotels. She wondered if perhaps the City should implement a fine if the VRBOs do not comply because with her rental property in another state, she was immediately warned about it and so she took care of it because she didn't want to be fined.

Mrs. Raugh said that this was definitely something to think about because currently, there is no penalty in Fruita for having a vacation rental and not paying lodging tax and having a business license. She added that some of the VRBOs that staff has received complaints on have just disappeared from the internet, even though they are likely still renting. She said that there is a wide variety; some people are renting their whole house, some are renting an upstairs garage unit or some people are just renting out one bedroom in a 3-bedroom house.

City Clerk/Finance Director Margaret Sell pointed out that the Municipal Code does call out penalties for not paying lodging tax, but staff has to know first who to assess that penalty to.

Mrs. Raugh stated that staff could be more aggressive about the matter if the Council wanted them to be.

Councilor Kreie suggested that an article be placed in the City Link about it.

Mayor Buck said she didn't want to necessarily put any extraordinary burdens on staff and wondered if the Council should discuss it at a workshop session.

Councilor Bonar said he thought it would be a good workshop discussion and he would like to hear some details about how staff was going to approach the issue.

Mayor Buck requested that staff place VRBOs on the agenda for the next workshop session in June.

## **B. CHIEF OF POLICE JUDY MACY**

### **1) POLICE DEPARTMENT UPDATE**

Fruita Police Chief Judy Macy presented the update on the Police Department. She provided a printed out report containing 2015 statistics and highlights as well as future challenges.

The mission statement of the Fruita Police Department is as follows:

- *Keeping the community safe*
- *Building relationships with citizens*
- *And always doing the right things for the right reasons*

Chief Macy stated that the last few years have been difficult for law enforcement, but she feels that in Fruita, the Police Department has a very good relationship with its citizens.

Some of the things the Police Department does to maintain relationships with the citizens include “community policing projects” (that are not enforcement related) such as involvement with the Special Olympics, gun safety classes, internships at the Police Department, the Junior Citizen Police Academy, the annual Bike Rodeo, and teaching EMT students at CMU, among many others.

Chief Macy reported on the pilot program for body cameras for officers. Unfortunately, budget issues precluded instituting the program due to additional personnel required to manage captured data.

Staffing changes in 2015 included two officers being promoted to supervisory positions (Corporal), filling the Animal Control Officer position (part-time), upgrading a part-time School Resource Officer (SRO) position to full time and the addition of a part-time Records Technician.

Calls for service have essentially remained flat for the past four years. However, there has been an increase in more serious and/or complex crimes including domestic violence, sexual assault and homicide. The two homicides in Fruita in 2015 were statistically unusual; the last homicide occurred in 2010.

Chief Macy’s update included reports on reported crime and traffic, complaints, internal affairs investigations and use of force reports.

Accomplishments of the Fruita Police Department in 2015 include:

- The institution of a volunteer program resulting in 251 hours of volunteered time to the department and community
- Handling two fairly complex homicide cases (one resulting in a guilty plea and the second being determined by the District Attorney’s Office to be an act of self defense)
- Working with local agencies and federal officials on Operation Cross Country IX, a joint task force targeting human trafficking and crimes against children
- Two supervisors attending Leadership in Police Organizations Training
- One officer obtaining certification as a Drug Recognition Expert (DRE)
- One officer being sent to the FBI Defensive Tactics Instructor Training
- Contributions of instructors to teach classes at the POST Academy (offered through Western Colorado Community College)
- Working closely with Adult Protective Services to find resolutions that improve the lives of “at risk” persons
- The continuation of positive relationships with the citizens of Fruita

Challenges of the Fruita Police Department are as follows:

- The need for necessary and advanced tools and technology such as TASERS, radio communication, computing devices, digital recording capabilities, data extraction and associated specialized training
- Sustainable, sensible and permanent funding of the Regional Communication Center that provides dispatching services for almost all first responders in Mesa County
- Staffing – in the next five years, approximately 1/3 of the department will be within retirement age. Succession planning and quality recruitment will have to be a priority. Additionally, the five-year staffing plan requested the Animal Control/PST position be restored to full-time and one (Investigations) Sergeant needs to be added to the Investigations Unit. In 2017, three additional police officers were requested and a part-time records technician position upgraded to full-time

Mayor Buck weighed in on the Chief's statement about the Fruita Police Department and their efforts in the area of adult protection. She said that she really appreciates the tactics that the officers utilize instead of just throwing people in jail because she was involved in a situation where that's not what the people needed; they needed help. She commended that Fruita Police PD for their patience in working through the matter.

Councilor Karisny asked how many total officers the City of Fruita has. Chief Macy said that Fruita has 17 commissioned officers plus 5 civilian support staff made of 2 full-time employees and 3 part-time employees for a total of 22 people in the department.

Councilor Karisny noted that the funding for the 911 call center has been a decades-long issue and asked if anyone recently had any ideas about how to fund it. Chief Macy said that there are some ideas that are being discussed and she would bring it up at the next Regional Communication Center Board meeting. She said she was not a dispatch expert herself and at some point, she would like to invite Monica Million from the Comm Center to a Fruita City Council workshop because she understands the funding piece. Chief Macy noted that there are states and counties that manage it differently than how it's done here. She continued that the whole issue is very complicated and problematic and it is only get more so because the technology is becoming more and more cell tower and internet oriented.

### **C. APPOINTMENT OF RICHARD HOCTOR TO THE PLANNING COMMISSION (REQUESTED TO BE ADDED TO THE AGENDA BY COUNCILOR KARISNY)**

Councilor Karisny stated that prior to the Council meeting, he and Mayor Buck interviewed candidate Richard Hoctor for a vacant seat on the Planning Commission. Mr. Hoctor submitted his application a couple of years ago but was not appointed at that time.

Councilor Karisny continued that Mr. Hoctor and his wife moved back to Fruita a couple years ago after living in Grand Junction and that he knew him through School District 51. Mr. Hoctor has been a Special Education Administrator, Principal and Vice Principal and Mrs. Hoctor was the Principal at Shelledy Elementary for several years. Mr. Hoctor is now retired but his wife is currently working at CMU.

Councilor Karisny stated that Mr. Hoctor seemed to be interested in being on the Planning Commission for all the right reasons; he thinks Fruita is a cool place (that's why they moved here) and he wants to be an involved part of the community.

Councilor Karisny explained that the vacancies that have opened up on the Planning Commission came about when Chair Mike Joseph resigned and Mel Mulder's term on the Commission was up when he finished his term on the Fruita City Council. Lou Brackett also left the Planning Commission once he was elected to the Fruita City Council and Councilor Karisny was appointed as the Council liaison to the Commission. Councilor Karisny also said that Janet Brazfield would be leaving the Planning Commission soon once she moves out of Fruita.

Councilor Karisny continued that at the last Planning Commission meeting, Doug Van Etten was trying to talk to him about someone else participating on the Planning Commission, but that there would be another position opening up for that individual when Mrs. Brazfield moves out of Fruita.

Councilor Karisny stated that he and Mayor Buck were recommending the appointment of Richard Hoctor to the Planning Commission.

- **COUNCILOR KARISNY MOVED TO APPOINT RICHARD HOCTOR TO THE PLANNING COMMISSION TO FULFILL AN UNEXPIRED TERM PLUS AN ADDITIONAL THREE-YEAR TERM TO EXPIRE IN SEPTEMBER OF 2021. COUNCILOR BONAR SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION PASSED WITH SIX YES VOTES.**

## 9. COUNCIL REPORTS AND ACTIONS

### COUNCILOR KARISNY

Councilor Karisny stated that it was in the newspaper that the Grand Valley Transit (GCT) will be receiving eight new Condensed Natural Gas (CNG) buses as per a contract that was approved a few years ago. The funding was through the Department of Local Affairs (DOLA), the Federal Transit Administration and the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) and was leveraged with local funds. The GVT will then have a total of 20 CNG buses and 20 slow-fill fueling stations plus one fast-fill post to serve them will be completed by the end of 2016.

### COUNCILOR HARVEY

Councilor Harvey reported that he sat on the Interview Committee for the Riverfront Commission and four new members were selected for the Board. He added that he had a Riverfront Commission meeting earlier in the day and the Board discussed the first concert of the year quite a bit. There were a total of 1,800 attendees at the concert and \$2,200 was collected in donations.

Councilor Harvey also reported that on Wednesday, July 20<sup>th</sup>, the Subdudes would be playing at the state park and there will be a trail (Lower Little Salt Wash) dedication prior to the concert, for which the Parks and Recreation Department would be sending a press release.

Mayor Buck noted that Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) Board members would be at the trail dedication and she urged all Council members to try to attend as well.

Councilor Harvey added that a letter of support is being worked on for the GOCO grant application for the Kokopelli section of the Riverfront Trail.

#### COUNCILOR KREIE

Councilor Kreie reported that the Downtown Advisory Board cancelled their last meeting. At the Associated Governments of Northwestern Colorado (AGNC), the Board extensively discussed ballot initiatives. Councilor Kreie said he thought some were good and some were bad.

#### COUNCILOR KINCAID

Councilor Kincaid stated that the board meetings for both the Tourism Advisory Board and Museum of Western Colorado Board were coming up in the next week.

Councilor Karisny said that Ron Pollard approached him on the OHV (off highway vehicles) issue again, but he didn't know if the Council ever came up with a decision on what direction the City of Fruita would be taking.

City Manager Mike Bennett noted that at the last workshop session, the Council asked that the question be put in the next issue of the City Link, which will be mailed to Fruita homes and businesses in the next few weeks.

Councilor Kincaid asked that the question include a deadline for responses. Mr. Bennett responded that this was a good idea and that the deadline should allow at least a couple of weeks for people to respond via e-mail. The question will ask if residents are interested in the City Council pursuing whether or not to allow OHVs on City roads.

Councilor Kincaid stated that the Tourism Board is trying to figure out where the funds will come from to replace the Co-Op banner and that the City Manager had some new information from a company called Pro Editors out of Palisade. Councilor Kincaid said he had a concern with pulling money out of the tourism budget because there is so much more that could be done with the money, although the banner has been a great staple for the last few years. He asked if the Council should take the matter to a workshop session to discuss tourism priorities and the funds for them.

Mayor Buck said she thought the Council gave direction to staff to get the banner replaced, but didn't specify where the funds should come from. Councilor Kincaid said there have been discussions about pulling the money from Economic Development, some out of tourism and possibly some from the sign budget, which only has about \$2,500 available. He added that there still isn't enough money to cover the estimated cost of \$13,000 unless the City pulls some out of the General Fund.

Mr. Bennett said that it was not a budgeted item for this year, but staff did find some funds in the existing budget to cover portions of it. He added that the remainder needed is a pretty sizable

amount, and a decision needed to be made regarding the priority of the banner over the other needs of the City. He said staff could prepare a report of what it would look like to piece together the funding for the banner to the next workshop including a list of what would have to be sacrificed in order to do so.

Mayor Buck requested that that matter be placed on the next workshop agenda.

Mr. Bennett continued that in the meantime, staff is continually trying to figure out how to pay for re-securing the banner (because it's not the banner itself that is so expensive; it is the installation).

Councilor Kincaid said he was concerned that the other banner is now three years old, so within another two years, the City may have to replace that one as well.

Councilor Harvey asked if there was a possibility of talking to a mural artist who could paint the banner. Councilor Kincaid responded that the Co-Op will not allow the City to paint the grain elevator; they will only allow something that can be removed.

#### COUNCILOR BRACKETT

Councilor Brackett said that Chief Macy had just given a very report on the Fruita Police Department. He has not yet attended a Police Commission meeting but the next one is scheduled in July.

Councilor Brackett stated that the Parks and Recreation Board would not be meeting until the following week.

Councilor Brackett encouraged the other Council members to attend the trail dedication for the Little Lower Salt Wash prior to the Subdudes concert at the state park.

#### MAYOR BUCK

Mayor Buck reported that she attended the Grand Junction Economic Partnership (GJEP) Board meeting the previous week. It was discussed that over the next four years (including 2016), the Jump Start program will have been responsible for adding 300 new jobs to the valley.

Mayor Buck continued that the lunch meeting that she, Kristi Pollard from GJEP and the City Manager had with Haibike was good; more was learned about what Haibike is actually looking for and Kristi Pollard was able to give the company information about what GJEP can do for them.

Mayor Buck said that hopefully word of mouth about what Fruita has to offer new businesses will bring some results.

Mayor Buck also reported that she and the City Manager met with Steve Schultz and John Williams of School District 51 over lunch and they had a nice discussion. The School District is looking for support for their bond issues or mill levy overrides in the coming years because there is an absolute need for better schools. The School District is hearing about it community-wide, especially from

those who are trying to recruit businesses because potential prospects can see on the internet that School District 51 is one of the lowest funded school districts in the state.

Mayor Buck said that she and Mr. Bennett asked the School District what they could do to help. She also said that at least the City and the School District are working on developing a relationship, a consensus and the idea that they work well together.

Mayor Buck added that the School District is supposed to get some more information to the City on a few things and Mr. Bennett will forward that to the Council when he receives it.

Mayor Buck noted that the Food Truck Friday of the summer was coming up on Friday. She also said she thought that the City of Fruita should do more to promote Country Jam because it is such a huge music festival that draws high talent acts and many visitors to the Fruita area.

Councilor Kincaid added that the Fruita Farmers' Market would be starting on the weekend as well. The market goes from 8:30 am to 12:30 pm every Saturday through mid-September.

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

Mr. Bennett stated that it was a privilege and an honor to work with not only the Fruita City Council but also Department Directors and City staff. He noted that there have been great updates from each department for the Council.

Mr. Bennett noted that on the following Thursday, the City Council would be serving ice-cream to the public starting at 6:30 at Civic Center Park prior to the Thursday Night Concert performed by the Centennial Band, whom the City pays to perform.

Mr. Bennett said City staff is working very closely with GJEP on the City's marketing collateral for economic development. He said the Council would be seeing some drafts in the upcoming weeks. The goal setting process will continue at the June workshop session.

Mr. Bennett stated that the next day was Bike to Work Day and people were meeting at Dinosaur Journey at 6:30 am to ride the new trail to the Community Center, where Colorado Canyons Hospital and Medical Center will be serving breakfast burritos.

Mr. Bennett also stated that he and Councilor Kreie would be leaving Fruita at 6:00 am to head to the Colorado Municipal League (CML) Conference to make the DOLA presentation at 9:00 am. They will be at the conference for the rest of the week.

Mr. Bennett said that the City continues to have some issues at Enoch's Lake; staff is working with the Sheriff's Office on some homesteading issues and activities that are scaring away other campers. Staff does not want to make any drastic changes mid-season, but they are going to look at imposing a 7-day restriction and potentially reduced services. This will be an ongoing discussion as the Council dives into the goal setting process. The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board will also be having discussions about the issue at their upcoming meetings and will have some recommendations for the City Council.

**11. ADJOURN**

With no further business before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 8:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra Woods  
Deputy City Clerk  
City of Fruita