

**FRUITA CITY COUNCIL
VIRTUAL MEETING
JUNE 16, 2020
5:00 P.M.**

Public Link to Meeting

When: June 16, 2020 7:00 PM Mountain Time (US and Canada)

Topic: City Council Meeting – 6/16/2020

The link to join the join the meeting electronically will be posted on 6/16/20 prior to the meeting at www.fruita.org/covid19 under City Council meetings. You may also contact the City of Fruita at (970) 858-3663 for information to connect to the meeting.

1. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Joel Kincaid gave the Invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

2. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Mayor Kincaid called the Regular Meeting of the Fruita City Council to order at 7:02 p.m. The meeting was held with virtual access provided through Zoom.

Present via teleconference:

Mayor Joel Kincaid
City Councilor Ken Kreie
City Councilor Heather O'Brien
City Councilor Kyle Harvey
City Councilor Matthew Breman
Mayor Pro Tem Lori Buck

Excused Absent:

City Councilor Karen Leonhart
Deputy City Clerk Deb Woods

Also present via teleconference:

City Manager Mike Bennett
City Clerk/Finance Director Margaret Sell
Management Analyst Shannon Vassen
Colorado State District #54 Representative Matt Soper
Members of the public

3. AGENDA – ADOPT/AMEND

Mayor Kincaid asked if there had been any additions or changes to the agenda. Management Analyst/Zoom meeting host Mr. Shannon Vassen noted that Representative Matt Soper was currently unable to attend the meeting, so his presentation should be removed from the agenda. Mayor Kincaid requested that staff contact Mr. Soper to see if he could reschedule his presentation to the next City Council meeting on July 7, 2020.

- **COUNCILOR KREIE MOVED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS AMENDED. COUNCILOR O'BRIEN SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION PASSED WITH FIVE YES VOTES.**

4. PROCLAMATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

- A. PROCLAMATION – FRUITA’S PROCLAMATION OF SOLIDARITY AND COMMITMENT TO ADDRESSING RACISM IN OUR COMMUNITY**

Councilor Harvey said he was hoping that David Combs from Black Citizens and Friends and Tony Clark from Right and Wrong Grand Junction would be joining the Council meeting and if so, they could accept the Proclamation and then speak afterwards.

Councilor Harvey read the Proclamation.

- B. UPDATE ON THE LEGISLATIVE SESSION OF THE COLORADO GENERAL ASSEMBLY FROM COLORADO STATE DISTRICT #54 REPRESENTATIVE MATT SOPER (*REMOVED FROM THE AGENDA DUE TO MATT SOPER NOT BEING IN ATTENDANCE*)**

5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mayor Kincaid gave attendees who had joined the meeting virtually instructions on how to submit public comments. Shannon Vassen confirmed that there were no comments from the public.

6. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS APPOINTMENT – A REQUEST TO APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF SHANACHIE CARROLL TO THE PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD FOR A THREE-YEAR TERM TO EXPIRE IN JUNE OF 2023**
- B. BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS APPOINTMENT – A REQUEST TO APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF DORRIE HANDLEY TO THE HISTORIC PRESERVATION BOARD FOR A THREE-YEAR TERM TO EXPIRE IN JUNE OF 2023**
- C. BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS APPOINTMENT – A REQUEST TO APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF JEANNINE PURSER TO THE**

DOWNTOWN ADVISORY BOARD FOR ANOTHER THREE-YEAR TERM TO EXPIRE IN JUNE OF 2023

D. FINANCIAL REPORTS – A REQUEST TO APPROVE THE MAY 2020 FINANCIAL REPORTS

Mayor Kincaid opened the public hearing on the Consent Agenda. After Mr. Vassen confirmed that he did not see any members of the public asking to comment, Mayor Kincaid closed the public hearing and invited the Council to ask questions, comment, remove Consent items for further discussion or make a motion to approve.

- **COUNCILOR BUCK MOVED TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA AS PRESENTED. COUNCILOR KREIE SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION PASSED WITH FIVE YES VOTES.**

7. ADMINISTRATIVE AGENDA

A. COVID FINANCIAL UPDATE – FINANCE DIRECTOR/CITY CLERK MARGARET SELL

Finance Director Margaret Sell gave the Council her ongoing financial update with a PowerPoint presentation. Highlights include:

- The City is still sitting fairly well financially for sales tax revenues and reductions in General Fund expenses. There are some needs that staff would like to restore such as part-time seasonal personnel if revenues continue with the positive trend that they are on. No hiring will be done in that area until staff has at least another month of data to analyze.
- Under a best-case scenario for the General Fund, the City will see an addition to fund balance of \$26,000 and worst-case scenario, the City will dip into fund balance by about \$600,000.
- For the Community Center Fund, the best-case scenario shows a use of fund balance of about \$165,000 and worst-case, a use of fund balance of \$399,000.
- Lodging tax revenues decreased 71% for the month of April 2020 and are down \$8,100 year-to-date (36%) from last year.
- Marketing and Promotions Fund expense reductions of \$32,500 (22%) have been identified in the 2020 Budget.
- In the Marketing and Promotions Fund, the best-case scenario shows a use of fund balance of about \$9,000 and for worst-case, a use of fund balance of \$26,000.
- Staff will continue to review and update the numbers on an ongoing basis. Forecasted numbers are based on the major revenue sources and are not intended to be comprehensive.

- Enterprise Funds are not forecasted to decline significantly but will continue to be monitored. Budget reductions of \$70,000 have been identified in the Sewer Fund and result mainly from personnel vacancy savings and postponement of capital equipment purchases.
- B. RESOLUTION 2020-26 – AMENDING THE 2020 ANNUAL BUDGET TRANSFERRING FUNDS FROM DEPARTMENTS WITHIN A FUND TO THE CONTINGENCY ACCOUNT WITHIN THE SAME FUND DUE TO ANTICIPATED REVENUE SHORTFALLS ARISING FROM THE ECONOMIC IMPACTS OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

Finance Director/City Clerk Margaret Sell recalled how staff had identified budget reductions in the General, Marketing & Promotions, and Community Center Funds and explained how Resolution 2020-26 essentially transfers funds to contingency accounts.

- **COUNCILOR O'BRIEN MOVED TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 2020-26 – AS STATED. COUNCILOR BUCK SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION PASSED WITH FIVE YES VOTES.**

Representative Matt Soper, scheduled to give the Council a presentation at the beginning of the meeting, joined the Zoom meeting at 7:23 p.m. after attending to an emergency and requested to proceed with giving his update on the Legislative Session of the Colorado General Assembly. Mayor Kincaid and the Council had no objections.

UPDATE ON THE LEGISLATIVE SESSION OF THE COLORADO GENERAL ASSEMBLY FROM COLORADO STATE DISTRICT #54 REPRESENTATIVE MATT SOPER

Mr. Matt Soper advised that the Legislative Session resolved the previous evening, so there will be no more legislating until January of 2021. He reviewed the following:

- His case for repealing the Gallagher Amendment (that will be sent to the vote of the people in November)
- State funding for K-12 had to be cut by \$621 million.
- Also cut was retirement by about another \$220 million.
- The state's General Fund Budget is about \$12.5 billion (of discretionary funds) and \$3.3 billion total was cut from that budget.
- Legislators are still looking for more ways to cut funding and there are ideas being kicked around such as:
 - Privatizing Pinnacol Insurance
 - Borrowing against employees' retirement account (PERA)
 - Borrowing against the School Trust Fund
 - Selling off state buildings and buying them back by doing a "Lease Back Agreement"

Mr. Soper welcomed any ideas from the City Council to help the state's financial situation and added that he doesn't have all the levers of power, but that he can at least influence the members on the Joint Budget Committee (JBC) and the Governor's Fiscal Policy Team a little bit. He said he doesn't have their full ear, but he has the ability to get in to talk to them.

Mr. Soper further discussed funding for schools, tax breaks and deductions that will not be around next year, bills such as one that codifies much of the Governor's Executive Orders for tele-medicine, a bill that makes abuse of a corpse a felony, and SB 20-217, or the Police Integrity Bill, for which he voted no (he provided many reasons). He also warned that the state grant fund for body cameras and data storage was never funded.

Mr. Soper stated that he would like to attend the next Fruita City Council meeting as well because he thought it was very important to have more conversations with the Council and keep the issues very fluid. He thanked them for their dedication and hard work.

C. 2018 – 2020 ACTION ITEMS UPDATE – CITY MANAGER MIKE BENNETT

City Manager Mike Bennett pointed out that at the upcoming workshop meeting the following week, the Council was slated to review City Council goals, update specific action items and set action items for the next two years, as is typical after every municipal election. He added that in the Council packet, there was a spreadsheet containing action items that the City has been working on over the last couple of years and that this was provided as an update to save time when the Council will be discussing new action items at workshop session.

Mr. Bennett briefly reviewed the status of each of the following action items (focus areas):

- Lagoon Redevelopment project
- Community Plan Update
- Parks, Open Space and Trails Master Plan Update
- Sewer Master Plan
- Economic Development
- Transportation
- 5-Year Capital Improvement projects
- Personnel
- Financial Management
- Community Engagement, Marketing & Promotion
- Public Safety
- Education
- Fruita Youth Initiative
- Fruita Trails Initiative
- Partnerships
- Mountain Properties & Water Rights

At the upcoming Council workshop, Staff will want to hear ideas from the Council about the areas that the community has identified within the Comprehensive Plan for which future specific action items also need to be set.

Mayor Kincaid noted that he would be late to the workshop meeting, so the Council members came to a consensus to move the meeting time from 6:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

8. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

City Manager Mike Bennett, the Mayor and Council discussed having remote City Council meetings versus in-person meetings going forward. Mike noted that the Mesa County Public Health Department is in the process drafting the Phase 3 Reopening Plan, which will approach the removal of capacity issues but will likely still have some social distancing and mask wearing aspects to it. This plan could be ready within the next couple of weeks but there is also no guarantee that it will be.

Mayor Kincaid said he felt that workshops were more effective in person for dialogue and asked Council members for their input.

Councilor Harvey urged the Council to schedule some sort of meeting in the near future where the Council would invite representatives from Black Citizens & Friends, BLM, GJ and Right and Wrong, Grand Junction and other organizations to meet with members of the Fruita community to have dialogue about how everyone moves forward from this moment. He was unsure if this could be accomplished via a Zoom meeting, but stressed the urgency of scheduling the meeting for sooner rather than later.

After discussing dates and various meeting formats, it was agreed that Councilor Harvey would reach out to the various groups and let everyone on the Council know how they would like to proceed.

Mike also reported that the number of visits at the Fruita Community Center has doubled over the last few weeks and the swimming pools have reached their capacity limits.

Mike stated that there is another Land Use Code Update working group meeting on Thursday, June 18th from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. where the consultants will be bringing industry recommendations for further conversations with the Planning Commission and City Council. He said he believes that Council Liaison Heather O'Brien and one other Commissioner plan to attend this meeting and then they will update the rest of the Planning Commission. Mike said the hope was to keep this meeting small and in-person and to see if one other person from the City Council could also attend with Heather (he thought Councilor Leonhart was interested). Heather said she could check with Councilor Karen Leonhart and that she has also offered to attend any of Karen's meetings that she is not able to go to. Mayor Kincaid noted that no other Council members had said that they were able to attend.

9. COUNCIL REPORTS AND ACTIONS

COUNCILOR KEN KREIE

Ken reported that the Downtown Advisory Board had met the previous week and revisited the alleyway revitalization project. They resumed discussions about building some sort of enclosed structure for the dumpsters and having more conversations with business owners about getting at

least some of the dumpsters from the alley relocated. The board also talked about working with staff in Public Works and Planning about stringing some decorative lights across the alley.

COUNCILOR LORI BUCK

Lori reported that the Grand Valley Regional Transportation Committee (GVRTC) met a few weeks prior to begin discussions about how to use CARES Act funding. There are some scenarios that came out of it and Lori said in talking with Mike, Ken Haley and Sam Atkins, they have a direction they want to go with at the next meeting to be held on Monday, June 23rd.

COUNCILOR KEN KREIE

Ken recalled that the Associated Governments of Northwestern Colorado would be meeting the following day (June 17, 2020) in Palisade, but the meeting will be held virtually via Zoom. He said he would send the link to Mike or anyone else who was interested in attending.

COUNCILOR MATTHEW BREMAN

Matt noted that there was a Grand Junction Regional Partnership (GJEP) meeting scheduled for the following morning (June 17, 2020).

COUNCILOR KYLE HARVEY

Kyle reported that it was a somber meeting for the Arts & Culture Board as it was the first one held without Bill Holstein as the board's Chair. There are many things in the works in memory of Bill including the making of some benches by Jeff Bates using Bill's old pickup. Bookcliff Gardens is donating a tree to be planted somewhere in Fruita in memory of Bill and there's talk of a possible mural on the side of the Mason's building in downtown. There are currently a couple of different memorial bank accounts set up at Alpine Bank and Timberline Bank and the money will go towards these projects.

Kyle also reported that the Arts & Culture Board received the first installment of the 2020 Arts in Society grant money in the amount of \$10,000 for the Wellspring Project, which is slated for 2021 and will facilitate a conversation about water in the community. It will be a week of arts-related workshops and a rafting trip for a group of students from the community. The project is still in the planning stages.

The Arts & Culture Board is also working on a Summer Art Supply Program for Fruita and the Lower Valley youths.

COUNCILOR HEATHER O'BRIEN

Heather stated that she had nothing new to report because the Parks and Recreation Board's activities were presented at the last City Council meeting.

MAYOR JOEL KINCAID

Joel noted that he was unable to attend the Fruita Area Chamber of Commerce Board meeting, but Kayla updated him regarding the board's discussion about Fruita Fall Festival and whether the event is still going to be feasible. The first Farmers Market will be held at Reed Park, which is a new venue for the event.

10. ADJOURN

With no further business before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 8:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra Woods
Deputy City Clerk
City of Fruita