

**FRUITA CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
OCTOBER 4, 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, Kyle Harvey, Ken Kreie, Joel Kincaid and Louis Brackett. Mayor Buck was excused absent, so Mayor Pro Tem Bruce Bonar presided over the meeting, which he called to order at 7:02 p.m.

3. AGENDA – ADOPT/AMEND

Mayor Pro Tem Bonar asked if there were any corrections or additions to the agenda. City Manager Mike Bennett stated that there were not.

- **COUNCILOR KARISNY MOVED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED. COUNCILOR BRACKETT SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION PASSED WITH SIX YES VOTES.**

4. PROCLAMATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

A. CITIZEN’S AWARD PRESENTATION – POLICE CHIEF JUDY MACY WILL PRESENT A FRUITA RESIDENT WITH A CITIZEN’S AWARD

Chief Macy introduced Patti Heinz, owner and manager of The Cowboy Mercantile on Highway 6 & 50 in Fruita.

Chief Macy stated that the Fruita Police Department wanted to honor Patti for many reasons, including what she does for young people in Fruita. She is very involved in Future Farmers of America (FFA), whom she allows to have fundraising bake sales in her store. Patti gives the FFA kids discounted rates for necessary items and also donates supplies as well.

Patti is also a big supporter of the 4H Club. Last Christmas, the River Riders 4H Club was looking for a family to sponsor and Patti knew of a family that was in need, so she helped organize, facilitate and donated many items herself to help the family and make the Christmas a little bit better for them.

Chief Macy continued that Patti also gives the 4H Club advice on feeding programs and allows them to hold fundraisers in her store.

Chief Macy stated that the Fruita Police Department has been on the receiving end of Patti's generosity as well for many years. Patti has literally brought in tons of food, snacks and many thank you cards long before policing was such a divisive concept in the United States. Chief Macy said Patti is very sincere with her words and her gestures.

This spring, Patti helped with the canine agility trials, which were held at Little Salt Wash Park to benefit the Colorado Police Canine Association and a group called Vested Interests, who purchases vests for canine officers. She purchased a lot of items for the event and donated all proceeds from any products sold.

Patti has also helped the Fruita PD with lost and found animals by fostering them and locating owners. Chief Macy noted that recently, there was an accident where there was a bunch of hay and grain that was spilled on Broadway. Fruita Police officers called Patti, who rounded up a tractor and helped clean up the road. Another time, there was a horse running at large in the City and Fruita officers called Patti, who got a horse trailer and hauled the horse to a veterinarian to be held until the owner could be located.

Chief Macy added that there was a local business owner that was battling cancer last year and Patti took care of her animals and helped with her business, as well as bills and many other things.

Chief Macy presented Patti with a plaque and a certificate for dinner at Rib City for her many acts of kindness and generosity.

5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mayor Pro Tem Bonar asked if anyone in the audience who would like to speak on any item that did not appear on the agenda.

Richard Sander, 129 S. Maple Street, said that he had heard that someone from Winter Park had a contract on the house that is part of the Sacred Heart Catholic Church properties. He said he also heard that the church has decided to put in sewer for the house separate from the church. Mr. Sander said this was good news.

Fruita Area Chamber of Commerce Director Frank Ladd thanked the City Council for allowing the Chamber to present a plaque to Mark Angelo, commemorating him as the 2016 Fruita Fall Festival Grand Valley Bank Parade Grand Marshal. He then read an article written by Chamber President Denise Hight for the 2016 Fall Festival Guide.

Mr. Ladd extended the Chamber's gratitude to Mr. Angelo and presented him with a plaque of appreciation.

Mr. Angelo stated that he was truly honored to represent many current and past co-workers, community members he has and continues to work with, and the Fruita City Council for allowing him to proceed with the project that he proposed over a year ago. He also thanked City Manager Mike Bennett, Planning Technician Henry Hemphill, his wife and family and everyone who

continues to trust and support him so that his ideas could come to fruition. Mr. Angelo said he couldn't have accomplished what he has without all that support.

Mr. Gennaro Connors, 151 S. Elm, stated that he was requesting the City to look into possibly passing a law banning or at least making it very difficult for people from out of state to come to Fruita to buy a house so that they can rent it out to others. He said that a few days prior, he was helping a customer who said she was from Moab and was here just to look for a house to buy because she wanted to rent it out. She said that in Moab, there is nowhere to live. Mr. Connors said he believes this is because people are buying up houses in Moab and renting them out.

Mr. Connors continued that he is has lived in Fruita for ten years and is very involved in and concerned about the community. He said that absentee landlords are just using rental housing as a money making opportunity and that they don't really care who they rent to.

Mr. Connors said that he believes this degrades the community and one of the things Fruita has going for it is the people who live here.

There were no further comments from the public.

6. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. MINUTES – A REQUEST TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE SEPTEMBER 20, 2016 CITY COUNCIL MEETING**
- B. BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS APPOINTMENT – A REQUEST TO APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF PATTY DOSS TO THE ARTS AND CULTURE BOARD FOR A THREE-YEAR TERM TO EXPIRE IN JUNE OF 2019**
- C. BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS APPOINTMENT – A REQUEST TO APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF WHITNEY RINK TO THE PLANNING COMMISSION FOR A THREE-YEAR TERM TO EXPIRE IN OCTOBER OF 2019**
- D. ORDINANCE 2016-11 - FIRST READING – AN INTRODUCTION OF AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING APPROXIMATELY 32.76 ACRES OF REAL PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1081 16 ROAD FOR PUBLIC TRAIL AND OTHER PUBLIC RECREATIONAL PURPOSES FOR PUBLICATION OF PUBLIC HEARING ON NOVEMBER 2, 2016**
- E. ORDINANCE 2016-14 – FIRST READING – AN INTRODUCTION OF AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE, SALE AND DELIVERY OF TAX EXEMPT AND TAXABLE REVENUE BONDS FOR THE COLORADO CANYONS HOSPITAL PROJECT, SERIES 2016, IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$46 MILLION**

- F. CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT REQUEST – A REQUEST TO APPROVE A CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT FOR WICKED WRENCH**
- G. CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT REQUEST – A REQUEST TO APPROVE A CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT FOR A VACATION RENTAL BY OWNER (VRBO) FOR MUDD**

Mayor Pro Tem Bonar opened the public hearing on the Consent Agenda. Hearing no comments from the public, he referred back to the City Council.

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

7. PUBLIC HEARINGS

There were no public hearing items on the agenda.

8. ADMINISTRATIVE AGENDA

A. PROPOSED 2017 GENERAL FUND BUDGET REVIEW

1) PUBLIC SAFETY BUDGET – CHIEF MACY

City Manager Mike Bennett noted that staff and the Council had talked about the General Fund at the last workshop session, but staff wanted to dive a little bit deeper. He said that the purpose of the budget presentations was to cover some of the highlights from 2016 and also to talk about highlights in the 2017 Budgets for Public Safety, Public Works and Parks and Recreation. He added that there have already been discussions about how tight of a budget year 2017 is and some of the things that were not included in the budget that are still important and that the City will be working towards as soon as possible in upcoming years.

Fruita Police Chief Judy Macy stated that in the Public Safety Department, operating expenses are flat in the 2017 Budget, however, there are a few increases in Capital items including four police cars and replacement of the mobile computer systems in all police cars.

Factors affecting expenses in the Public Safety Department include the Grand Junction Regional Communication Center (911 Dispatch) expenses, which will increase 12%. Chief Macy said this is going to be an ongoing problem. While Fruita's calls for service were somewhat flat, the Communications Center had an increase in personnel and technology expenses.

Chief Macy stated that the Police Department's Administration Division is made up of herself, Lt. Krouse and 2.5 records clerks.

Accomplishments of the Public Safety Department in 2016 include:

- Assistance with the transition of all Municipal Court personnel
- A Volunteer Program was initiated
- Temporary resolution to the Enoch's Lake project/issues
- All Records Technicians received their certification for Records through SAM, the statewide criminal records organization

Chief Macy continued that a budget challenge for Public Safety Administration was that the Division wanted to reclassify the records clerks up to Administrative Assistants because she felt that the records clerks do the same level of work as Admin Assistants in the City. She said she didn't feel this would be a reality this year.

Chief Macy stated that the Public Safety Department added one full-time School Resource Officer (SRO) last year who has received 40 hours of SRO training as required by POST. She said both SROs with the Department cleaned up a problem area around a school where kids were allegedly partaking in various activities. During the summer months, one of the SROs did a business contact outreach program and talked to over 200 businesses face-to-face to update their emergency contact information and inquire as to whether they had any law enforcement concerns. Chief Macy stated that budget wise, the Department is in good shape with the SROs. She noted that she reduced the overtime line item for the SROs in the 2017 Budget because usage was down in 2016.

Chief Macy said that the Patrol Division consists of two sergeants, two corporals and ten officers including one canine officer.

Chief Macy stated that Patrol Division has been working very hard to help people in the community who have mental health issues and have done an outstanding job in that regard.

Chief Macy said that the Public Safety Department has state-mandated training requirements which were met this year. In addition, there are four officers who are attending formal education and one officer who obtained his Master's Degree in 2016.

Chief Macy stated that no positions have been added to the Patrol Division since 2009. She said staffing is always tight with employees scheduling training, vacations and sick time and that it has been a struggle.

Chief Macy noted that salaries and recruitment continue to be issues. Public Safety is currently recruiting a Police Officer and Lt. Krouse stated that one of the top candidates (with considerable experience) brought up the fact that he/she would be taking a significant pay to work for the City of Fruita. He added that the City's generous benefits package used to be a big plus for recruiting, but salaries are definitely a problem every time during recruitment.

Chief Macy said another issue with Patrol Officers is the salary disparity. There are officers who have been with the City for ten years who are doing okay in the pay range, but officers who have been with the City for two to five years who are way down on the pay grade, so this is also an issue.

Chief Macy said that technology and equipment will continue to be a challenge. The Public Safety Department did decide this year to discontinue using the device that extracts data from cell phones,

which costs about \$4,000 per year to license not including continual upgrades and training. The City of Fruita will instead rely on the City of Grand Junction and Mesa County for assistance with this service.

Chief Macy noted that two of the new patrol cars were cars that were held over from last year, so that is why four cars are being requested in 2017. Two other cars were supposed to be cycled out but will be kept for another year.

Chief Macy continued that the mobile computer data computers in the patrol cars should be replaced at about ten years, but the City of Fruita just doesn't have the capacity to do so.

Chief Macy said that there was patrol officer brought in for an investigations position that attended forensic interview training. Other accomplishment include working the with Critical Incident Team on the Deputy Geer homicide and Operation Cross Country, which is a joint task force with the FBI and other agencies on human trafficking.

Chief Macy stated that sometime in the future, the City of Fruita should have an Investigation Sergeant overseeing that division to keep a close eye on complex investigations. Currently, Lt. Krouse is doing that, but ideally it would be good to have the additional position of Investigation Sergeant.

Chief Macy stated that Police Support Services (PST) consist of two part-time positions; one Animal Control Officer and one Evidence Technician. She said that the Animal Control Officer has researched and recruited Harmony Acres, a livestock facility outside of Fruita that is utilized when there are issues such as a horse abuse case. She also works with local veterinarians. Chief Macy said that the Kokopelli Animal Hospital has been very generous to the City of Fruita; they have done a lot of emergency care for animals at no cost and the Fruita PD wants to reimburse them for at least their expenses, so \$300 was added as a line item in the budget for that.

Chief Macy stated that Fruita's Animal Control Officer will be holding a feral cat forum on October 22, 2016.

She also said that the Evidence Technician has been working on a forfeited firearms program where the PD will receive firearms that have been forfeited by the courts.

Chief Macy said that her number one budgetary request was making a Police Support Services person full-time, primarily because two people are needed if the evidence person is gone or on vacation, criminal cases won't stand up without the evidence practices. She said cross-training and a backup is needed for that.

Chief Macy added that there a many, many animal calls and there is a level of expertise that the Police Support Services person has that the officers don't have, nor do the officers want it. PST also handles cold calls at the counter, VIN inspections, fingerprinting and other duties that are crucial.

This concluded Chief Macy's budget presentation.

Councilor Karisny asked if the patrol car that Chief Macy was using needed to be replaced was not going to be. Chief Macy responded that both she and Lt. Krouse will be keeping their cars for another year and they will be on the list for replacement next year.

Chief Macy noted that the Comm Center (911 dispatch) was something that will be brought up at a municipalities dinner at some point and all of the Comm Center board members will be looking to City Managers and elected officials because there has to be some way to figure out a funding source for the Comm Center (it is close to \$287,000 out the City of Fruita's General Fund).

Mr. Bennett said he wanted the Council to have an idea of some of things that will not be included in the budget for 2017, although they are definite needs that the City has.

Councilor Karisny asked if there was an approximate cost of adding an additional PST to Public Safety staff. Chief Macy responded that it was approximately \$33,000.

2) PUBLIC WORKS BUDGET – KEN HALEY

Public Works Director Ken Haley noted that in June, he presented the Council with an overview of the different divisions of the Public Works Department and all the operational things that they are all trying to accomplish. He added that this presentation was in regards to what some of the operational things have been accomplished in 2016 and what is planned for next year. Mr. Haley said he was going to focus on the General Fund pieces of the Public Works Department, which is the majority of where the money from Public Works comes from. The Department also has a number of utility and capital projects funds that will be discussed at upcoming budget meetings.

Mr. Haley said that the Public Works Department provides a variety of core services for the City of Fruita including streets, building maintenance and utilities, among others. The Department has gotten into the mode of having to be very reactive as of late because over the years; a lot of infrastructure has been added and the Department has not necessarily been unable to keep up with the staffing needs to meet those demands.

Mr. Haley stated that in 2016, some of the Public Works' biggest accomplishments include:

- Undertaking a sidewalk inventory project. Staff evaluated the condition of every sidewalk in Fruita, assigned a score to them and put them into a GIS database. Staff now has a baseline of what sidewalks need to be fixed rather than just responding to citizen complaints and potential lawsuits for tripping hazards. He added that it really opened staff's eyes to the fact that there are a lot of sidewalks in the City that need attention and investment.
- The Sidewalk Replacement Program. The City has a cost share of 80%/20% with adjacent residents to replace sidewalks. The City pays 80% of the replacement cost (as funds allow) and the resident pays 20%. In years past, there has not been significant participation in the program because it used to be the responsibility on the property owner to go out and get multiple cost estimates from contractors and make sure they were licensed and had all necessary permits. The property owners were then responsible for all the costs and the City of Fruita would reimburse them after the fact. The program was changed in the past year to

put the responsibility on the City to get the cost estimates and then the property owner pays the 20% upfront. City staff then uses licensed and bonded contractors to complete the work and inspections. This allows staff to have more control over the quality of work that is being done and it has actually turned out to cause less work for staff this way. The change has resulted in a lot more participation in the Sidewalk Replacement Program; the Public Works Department has already spent all funds for 2016 for it. Mr. Haley said hopefully, this will take a step towards addressing some of the issues the City has with the sidewalks.

- Partnership with Mesa County on Chip Seal Program. Mr. Haley stated that in years past, Fruita has always contracted out chip sealing to a private contractor, but this year Mesa County was chip sealing a number of roads out in District A (west end of the valley), so the City partnered with them and staff from both entities worked together to get the streets done, resulting in a cost savings of 30% including staff time. Mr. Haley added that staff had not planned to chip seal Kingsview Road from Snooks Bottom out to the edge of the City limits including half of the Devils Canyon trailhead, but due to the cost savings, it was added into the project and was accomplished this year. Mr. Haley noted that he wanted to continue pursuing the partnership with Mesa County.
- Mountain Water. City staff replaced 1,580 feet of pipe on the mountain that delivers water to the Glade Park Pipeline Water Users Association and other users. The City has been installing a number of “band-aids” on leaks over the years, but those had reached the end of their life cycle. Another reason staff spent a lot of time on the mountain was due to some sloughing on Reservoir #2 Dam and some cracking on the face of the dam to where the City was required to monitor the dam twice per week for stability and safety as required by the State Engineer’s Office. Mr. Haley said this took a lot of time adjusting water to get it to all the irrigation users while also doing additional surveying and reports on the dam. He said that he hopes staff can reduce the level of effort on these in the coming year.
- Capital Equipment Replacements. The Public Works Department was able to (through an acquisition) replace a number of vehicles in 2016. Some of these had been rolled over from 2015. Replaced equipment includes a Vactor truck, street sweeper, right-of-way mower, a patrol car and two pickups.

Mr. Haley said these programs are all included in the General Fund piece of the budget under Public Works including administration, engineering, road maintenance, traffic safety, building maintenance and mountain water. He stated that his department has tried to keep these things as flat as possible, if not decreased in the 2017 Budget.

Road Maintenance is decreasing by 18%, Mountain Water decreasing by 63% and Capital decreasing by 72% in 2017. Mr. Haley said that overall, this results in a 23% reduction for the Public Works budget next year, which is significant, especially since a lot of core services have to be maintained.

Mr. Haley stated that in 2017, the 18% reduction for Road Maintenance is due largely in part to transitioning the chip seal program. He noted, however, that Mesa County is only going to do overlays in District A every other year, but at the same time, by partnering with them, staff believes

they can get more done if they go to a cycle of chip sealing every other year. Even while doing a big project, Public Works can actually save money in the long term. Mr. Haley said that right now, the Department is spending approximately \$100,000 per year on chip seal, whereas they could be spending \$150,000 every other year.

Mr. Haley continued that the Public Works Department is also looking at doing a big chip seal project one year and then a big overlay project the next.

Mr. Haley said that 2017 is the year that the Public Works Department is scheduled to update their street condition index, or the Pavement Surface Evaluation Reading (PASER) program. This is normally done every three years. Similar to the sidewalk program, staff goes out and evaluates and scores every section of street and then a database is updated with the information about which streets are in the worst conditions. This is used along with traffic data to prioritize which streets get repaired.

Mr. Haley said there was also a big reduction in the 2017 Budget for Mountain Water. Staff anticipates a 63% reduction in Mountain Water expenses next year, largely due to reducing a certain level of service in the area. Rather than going up to the mountain two to three times per week, staff is planning on going up there once per week. Irrigation users will probably notice that their level of service is probably going to drop, as will the consistency of their irrigation flows.

Mr. Haley added that trash service on the mountain may actually be eliminated in 2017 at the reservoirs, but mainly at Enoch's Lake. Staff has been removing trash at Enoch's Lake twice per week, but since it has been turned into a day-use only facility, staff thinks going up there once per week might be adequate, although they are still evaluating how frequently the trash needs to be removed.

Mr. Haley said that the City is somewhat caught up with the pipeline repairs on the mountain, so staff is not planning any big pipeline projects in 2017. Staff does have some repaired parts in stock that they plan to use to fix spot repairs on the system for the short term. He added that staff is looking for some long term direction on what to do with the mountain water system as well as the land in the area.

Mr. Haley said that as far as Capital Equipment replacements go, the Public Works Department did spend quite a bit this year, but next year they plan on replacing two vehicles; one being a pickup and the other a bucket truck. The bucket truck is actually replacing what the City has now (an aerial man lift), which is what is used to reach outside windows and hanging banners. The bucket truck only gets 40 hours of use per year, so rather than replacing it with another aerial lift, staff is looking at sharing a bucket truck, which will be shared with the Parks Department, who will use it to trim trees and hang Christmas lights. Mr. Haley said it is more expensive, but will be a better utilized piece of equipment.

A new piece of equipment next year for Public Works is a forklift, which is something that was requested last year and would be a completion of the City Shop project. There is a 6,000 square foot mezzanine for storage and staff currently has to hand carry everything up the steps to get it up there, so a forklift would be extremely useful for that as well as general use in the yard and

unloading deliveries. Currently, if Public Works receives deliveries and they are on a pallet, they don't always have equipment that can unload it.

Mr. Haley continued that in 2017, staff is trying to plan appropriately for staffing needs. The area that Public Works is suffering the most is the Fleet Department. This year, Public Works alternated to a Fleet Manager with two part-time mechanics, which seems to be going well, but has resulted in more total Fleet hours. It is still not enough to maintain the equipment, especially as the fleet keeps growing. Therefore, Public Works was requesting to change one of the part-time mechanics to full-time, but this is something that is not going to be possible in the draft budget for 2017. Mr. Haley said this is probably the highest priority in staffing needs for the department. They will, however, try to streamline fleet operations as much as possible for next year even though the City has approximately 120 vehicles and two part-time mechanics working on them. Additionally, three to five new vehicles will be added in a year or so.

Mr. Haley pointed out that in the General Fund, there is also a significant cut in the fuel budget for 2017. This year, the City budgeted for gas at around \$3.50 per gallon, but gas prices have been substantially lower than that, so for 2017, staff is budgeting for 25% - 30% less in fuel costs estimating that lower fuel costs will continue. Mr. Haley said that if fuel does climb much higher than \$3.00 per gallon, there may be some risk in this assumption.

Councilor Karisny asked if Public Works would still be doing overlays in 2017 and not any chip sealing. Mr. Haley confirmed this to be true. Councilor Karisny asked that if staff would then be doing a double chip seal in the 2018 budget cycle at a cost of about \$100,000, wouldn't that increase this budget by \$100,000 for that year? Councilor Haley confirmed this was correct and said it will be that much harder in 2018 to come up with the \$100,000.

Councilor Karisny asked Mr. Haley if he had a cost for the fleet position. Mr. Haley said that it was approximately a \$29,000 increase to go from a part-time to a full-time mechanic.

Councilor Brackett asked if there had been any thought about alternative energy sources. He said some other communities have looked at that and have actually planned on exchanging some of their fleet vehicles to alternative energy sources.

Mr. Haley stated that he knows that Grand Valley Transit operates a number of compressed natural gas (CNG) buses in their fleet and the City of Grand Junction has a number of CNG trucks and a couple other vehicles as well. He continued that the City of Fruita has evaluated doing this in the past, but Fruita hasn't had a big enough fleet for it to make sense in the past. He added that this is something that the City will continue to evaluate as time progresses. Mr. Haley also said another consideration is the availability of fueling stations, which has been a limiting factor in the past. He said that staff also looks at alternative power for building maintenance issues, and right now, the only facility that the City has that has solar is the Fruita Community Center. A number of other sites have been evaluated for solar, but most evaluations that have been done have showed that it's not actually a cost-savings measure although it is more environmentally friendly.

3) PARKS AND RECREATION BUDGET – TURE NYCUM

Parks and Recreation Director Ture Nycum pointed out that he would be addressing the General Fund and not the Community Center Fund activity, which would be presented to the Council at another time.

Mr. Nycum said that the elements of recreation in the General Fund include three full-time staff; himself, the Administrator Technician and the Recreation Supervisor plus five full-time clerk staff. The Recreation Admin budget includes Mr. Nycum and an Admin person, as well Youth Activities, Youth Athletics, and all of the City's special events.

Mr. Nycum reviewed the accomplishments of the Parks and Recreation Department in 2016. They include:

- Adjustments in park rental fees (which generated about \$5,400 in revenues so far this year)
- Program revenues are on track to meet or exceed the 2016 Budget at \$70,600 to date (youth soccer, basketball, ballet classes, etc.)
- Sponsorships brought in about \$19,000 for various City events such as Mike the Headless Chicken, the Sweetheart Run and the 2016 Concert Series
- Two new events were created in 2016: the Arts and Culture Board Evening of Art Gala (\$3,300 was generated that will go towards future art projects in the City) and a Youth Scholarship Golf Tournament (which brought in about \$5,800)
- The Parks and Recreation Department received a \$8,500 donation from the Fruita Thrift Shop to make improvements to weatherize and re-stucco Grrreta. This was completed at the end of 2015.
- The Parks Department maintains 41 acres of developed parkland and 192 acres of open space, over ten miles of trails, City facilities, and downtown planters. Another mile of trail (Little Salt Wash Trail) has been added to the inventory this year, which will cost the City about \$2,000 per year in staffing time.
- The Department has been working more closely with the BLM and trying to support some of their endeavors. The City has agreed to help with the trailhead a little bit to keep dog waste picked up.
- A 32-acre parcel of land was accepted by the City, which Parks will take care of next year.
- The Parks and Recreation Department has worked with Code Enforcement and the Lower Valley Fire Department to clean up the wash, mainly around Dan Williams Park. This will be continued throughout the year.
- The Department is working with the Western Colorado Conservation Corp to do more tamarisk and Russian olive removal at Snooks Bottom
- The Department worked with the Tamarisk Coalition to pole plant 140 Cottonwood trees
- Athletics and activities still remain solid.
- A new running event "Girls on the Run" was added and held at the Fruita Community Center. It brought in about 2,000 racers to community.
- First Annual 0.038 marathon in conjunction with the Rim Rock Marathon
- Moved the Mike the Headless Chicken Festival to the first weekend June, at which the band Cracker headlined
- Other Special Events to include Arbor Day, Bike Rodeo, Thursday Night Concert Series, Sweetheart Run, July 3rd Fireworks, Truck 'n Treat and others

Project accomplishments for the Parks and Recreation Department in 2016 include:

- Acquired Kokopelli Trail Section of the Riverfront Trail funding
- Multiple grant applications
- Mack Ridge Trails – working with the BLM, Colorado Plateau Mountain Biking Association (COPMOBA) and local businesses to get through all the environmental analyses to get 6.5 miles of new mountain bike trail done at Mack Ridge and the Kokopelli trail areas
- Participated in Civic Center Park improvements: replaced pavilion overhang and added canopy and cleaned the Veterans' Memorial
- City Shops – the Parks Department has moved into their new space
- Participated in the Downtown Streetscape Project by installing new bike racks, benches, and a shelter, reworked planters and irrigation, and increased electrical availability
- Replaced windscreens on Field #2 and #3 and the Little Salt Wash Park and worked with the Fruita Little League to install two batting cages

Mr. Nycum stated that Budget highlights for 2017 include:

- Minimal changes in operational line items
- Increased tamarisk removal by \$7,000 (offset by Drainage District fees acquired in 2016)
- Decreased landscaping supplies by \$1,000 (clean settling pond at Little Salt Wash Park)
- Supplies and tools went up by \$3,000 and uniforms and safety equipment by \$500
- Increased marketing and advertising by \$500 in athletics and activities mainly due to PeachJar (e-mail distribution system) advertising through the School District
- Decreased professional development by \$200 per full-time employee
- Increase \$1,000 for the Arts and Culture Budget for the Evening of Art event (revenues also increase by \$1,000)
- Proposed cancellation of July 3rd fireworks: \$23,000 was budgeted in 2016 (\$15,000 for the fireworks themselves plus \$8,000 for traffic control and \$3,300 in estimated staffing costs)
- Working to get fireworks show back into the 2017 Budget

Other Parks and Recreation 2017 Budget highlights include:

- Capital Equipment: 2 replacement trucks and 1 new truck for the Parks Department and replacing sails for the playground canopies at the Little Salt Wash Park

Mr. Nycum noted that the Department was scheduled to get a front mower, but that will be deferred for one more year (a \$38,000 savings).

Mr. Nycum showed some graphs indicating Parks expenses and Recreation expenses compared to previous years back to 2009.

Mr. Nycum said that the Parks and Recreation Department is faced with some personnel considerations such as the new law that will go into effect in December of 2016 and will affect five recreation supervisors within the department. Staff is looking at upgrading the five from a Grade 10 to a Grade 11. Mr. Nycum stated that these employees make less than \$47,500 per year and are

currently classified as exempt employees, so as of December 1st, these employees will qualify to be paid overtime. Staff is currently evaluating the best way to address this.

Mr. Nycum said another issue is the minimum wage question on the 2016 Election ballot because if it passes, there will be a significant amount of part-time staff that will be affected; their pay will need to be adjusted to \$12 per hour by the year 2020.

Mr. Nycum added that in regards to the Parks Department, with the addition of new trail and new plans for parks, it is getting more and more difficult to have adequate staffing to maintain these facilities and he hopes to be able to address this in future years.

Councilor Karisny asked if the part-time staff in the Parks and Recreation Department all start at minimum wage. Mr. Nycum responded that there would be more in-depth discussion about this when the Council will be presented with the Fruita Community Center budget.

This concluded Mr. Nycum's presentation.

City Manager Mike Bennett stated that he really appreciates the work of all the Directors, even those who weren't presenting and for all the time that Margaret Sell has put into the 2017 Budget, which has been challenging to balance. He said that there are things that staff would like to include in the budget but didn't, and that the things that were included were the result of a general consensus of what staff felt was most important.

Mr. Bennett said that staff wants to cover any last minute changes to the budget at the November workshop session before its adoption in December. At the workshop, there will be a more detailed, long-term discussion on some of the results of the analysis staff completed on the mountain water and mountain properties. Mr. Bennett noted that this will not directly impact the 2017 Budget, but it is something that needs further discussion because it does impact the decisions being made each year and going forward into the future.

9. COUNCIL REPORTS AND ACTIONS

COUNCILOR BRACKETT

Councilor Brackett reported that the Police Commission met the previous Wednesday and Chief Macy went over highlights and challenges of the 2017 Budget. He said he would be participating on a panel for applications for the Police Department.

Mr. Brackett stated that the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board would be meeting on Monday evening instead of Thursday. The Board will continue to meet on the first Monday of the month from now on rather than the first Thursday.

COUNCILOR KINCAID

Councilor Kincaid reported that he attended the Museum of Western Colorado's (MWC) Board of Directors meeting the previous week and several things were discussed. The biggest discussion

currently is the issue of the Mesa County Commissioners pushing to have one facility for the MWC and how Fruita has proven to be the most profitable facility. The museum in downtown Grand Junction is in need of a lot of repairs and the park requires a lot of maintenance.

The MWC has written a letter regarding an application for a Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) grant to do a \$40,000 feasibility study, which will be a budgetary challenge. They are applying for a 50/50 match of \$10,000 and the other \$20,000 of the \$40,000 would be through a DOLA Administrative grant. The thought process is that the MWC wants to make sure that consolidating their assets in Fruita is the right move; how much traffic they would get and if there is adequate space, among other things. Councilor Kincaid noted that since the City of Fruita owns the MWC building (Dinosaur Journey), the City will be applying for the grant in cooperation with the MWC.

Councilor Kincaid continued that the MWC has had some great events this year. They are just beginning their budget process, so he said he would know more about that in the next few months.

COUNCILOR KREIE

Councilor Kreie noted that his two boards have not had their monthly meetings yet, so he would report on those later.

COUNCILOR HARVEY

Councilor Harvey stated that his other board meetings are also forthcoming.

COUNCILOR KARISNY

Councilor Karisny reported that the Grand Valley Regional Transportation Committee (GVRTC) did not meet, but the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT), the City of Fruita, the City of Grand Junction and Mesa County had a meeting a few weeks prior and Ken Haley and Sam Atkins were also in attendance.

Councilor Karisny stated that Fruita is part of something called Region 3. He gave the following overview of what was discussed at this meeting:

- CDOT is involved right now in a Highway 340 study to expand the existing shoulder where it is so narrow.
- CDOT is continuing to work on the I-70B Project (from First Street down to Pitkin Ave.) in Grand Junction.
- US Highway 6 near the 20 Road interchange will be studied this year. It is on the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP).
- The Kokopelli Trail is on the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP). There are ten projects in Region 3 that are vying for the same kind of TAP grant funds, and the west phase of the Kokopelli section of the Riverfront Trail is one of them. Councilor Karisny noted that the City of Fruita has applied for \$1.2 million for the project and the grant awards will be announced in the October TPR meeting.
- CDOT has a four-year plan (STIP) and a “rolling year” between plans.

- The current City Manager of the City of Grand Junction came out and said that nobody wants the proposed roundabout on Broadway, but CDOT will complete the project with Hazard Elimination Funds. Councilor Karisny noted that these funds cannot be used for anything else at this intersection, which has had some serious accidents.
- CDOT is talking about a project at 15 Road and all the way to the interchange at 22 Road, for which studies need to be completed. The hope is that the project keeps marching on (it is part of both CDOT's four and ten-year plan).
- CDOT discussed the additional lane on I-70 by the tunnels to reduce traffic.
- 20 or 30 years ago, Greyhound has a lot of bus routes, but over time, the routes became eliminated. The new bus service called "Bustang" (assisted by federal funds) is trying to create ways of getting people from one community to the next in a day run along I-70. Bustang currently goes from Denver to Glenwood Springs, but they are trying to expand the service to run from Denver to Grand Junction. This service will provide riders with a wi-fi connection, more comfortable seating configurations and restrooms.
- Next month, the GVRTC will have an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) to consider and vote on in October.

Councilor Karisny also reported that he helped out at Skinner Cabin on September 24th by putting in rustic fence posts to keep people out while the cabin's interior is being rehabbed.

COUNCILOR BONAR

Councilor Bonar reported that he was absent from the Historic Preservation Board the previous evening. He reminded everyone that the County Commissioners' Candidate Forum was scheduled for Thursday, October 6th at the Fruita Civic Center.

10. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

City Manager Mike Bennett noted that there were some interesting things on the Consent Agenda, especially the donation of the lake to the City of Fruita. He said the 32-acre parcel has a value of \$245,700 and will help with flexibility with the Kokopelli trail design, opens up future public access and is potentially an incentive for business prospects. Mr. Bennett said staff had contacted Mesa Grand about a potential re-route of the trail onto more of their property east of Johns Mansville and Mesa Grand was completely willing to allow that. He added that Mesa Grand has been great partners with the City of Fruita.

Mr. Bennett continued that the Council would be hearing more from Family Health West (FHW) about their bonds. He said it was a great opportunity for them to be able to refinance at about half the interest rate. It also gives FHW some flexibility to do some new things and they will present these at the October 18, 2016 Council meeting.

Mr. Bennett congratulated Mark Angelo on being selected for Grand Marshal for the Fruita Fall Festival parade.

Mr. Bennett noted that earlier that day, City Engineer Sam Atkins presented to the Federal Mineral Lease District a grant application for the Aspen alley improvements project. The City of Fruita has

partnered with Xcel Energy (for 1%) to help get the utilities underground. \$80,000 has been aside in the 2017 Budget for the project for the matching grant application. There are a lot of maintenance issues for the alley; it will have to be regarded and new gravel will have to be put down often. There are also drainage issues, so the City is using some of its drainage funds to help with the match for the grant. Mr. Bennett added that there is tough competition for the grant funds. The amount of money being requested from all the applicants is double the amount of funds available. The grant award will be announced in a couple of weeks.

Mr. Bennett also stated that on Friday, October 7th, the Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) Board would be meeting in Carbondale and Mr. Nycum and Mr. Haley would be attending. Members of the Riverfront Foundation will also be in attendance. Staff has been told that Fruita's grant request was ranked #2 of the nine final requests and that it is being recommended for full funding. If awarded, the grant will result in another \$2 million towards the project.

Mr. Bennett stated that the staff would be bringing conceptual designs to the Council for the sewer lagoon property in November. In October, staff will be presenting to various interest groups in the area; businesses and a number of the City's boards and commissions members that might be involved. Feedback received will be incorporated in the presentation to the Council and the Council will see the final conceptual designs by the end of the year.

Mr. Bennett said that staff has requested a minor extension with DOLA on the grant application for the Gateway Conceptual Design project so that staff has time to let Ciavonne & Associates finalize some of the concepts that they've been putting together. The design firm received a lot of feedback from the packets that were made available to the public last year. Mr. Bennett said that staff would like to bring those conceptual designs to the Council in 2016 to get the Council's feedback as well.

Mr. Bennett said he had a great meeting earlier in the week with Rocky Mountain Bikes, a company out of British Columbia. Over the Edge Sports in Fruita is a dealer for their bikes. They are a large mountain bike company and Mr. Bennett said that some of the larger companies are deciding not to go to the very expensive trade shows to debut their products and are instead looking for opportunities to do their own events. Mr. Bennett continued that this is something staff has been pitching for the last year and a half to companies (understanding that not everybody is looking to relocate their business), so staff has taken the approach that if a business is not in that position, Fruita is still a great place to test products whether that be gear, components or apparel.

Mr. Bennett said that he and Mayor Buck have been talking to Rocky Mountain Bikes over the last two years at the Fat Tire Festival. They will be doing a launch of a brand new bike that will be coming out at the very end of April 2017 and Mr. Bennett said he would be presenting to the Fruita Tourism Advisory Board the possibility of partnering with some tourism funds. Rocky Mountain Bikes wants to launch the bike in Fruita and wants to highlight Fruita. Mr. Bennett said usually that when a company does this, they create a video for the new product that will showcase the area as well as the product. There is also a media component where Rocky Mountain Bikes will bring in anywhere from 6 to 10 different types of publications marketing their product and also the area it is being launched in.

Mr. Bennett continued that Rocky Mountain Bikes would also like to have a dealer component where they will bring their dealers to Fruita for two days to try out the product. There will also be a consumer-related event where people stream through Over the Edge Sports to actually try out the new bike. During all this, Rocky Mountain Bikes will hold other types of events by partnering with local businesses. One idea that they had was that it would be great to have the media up on the trails, but then also have them on a raft looking down below the trails.

Mr. Bennett said it was staff's hope that the more the City does things like this, it will create exposure for tourism and economic development and if done right, it will bring in more opportunities.

Mr. Bennett reminded everyone that he would be on vacation with this family for the rest of the week.

11. ADJOURN

With no further business before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra Woods
Deputy City Clerk
City of Fruita