



## 2022 Budget Adopted by the Fruita City Council

During the regular City Council meeting on December 7, 2021, the Fruita City Council formally adopted the 2022 Municipal Budget. The City's annual budget mirrors the priorities of the community and the City Council, following the results of the Community Survey and the extensive

public participation received from recent Master Plan Updates. The Budget serves as a roadmap for spending and revenue for 2022. The adoption is the culmination of almost eight months of work from the City Council, staff, and the public.

The 2022 Adopted Budget

reflects the commitment of the City Council and staff to achieve a balance of a conservative fiscal policy and enhancing the quality of life for Fruita residents through providing essential core services and amenities, maintaining a stable and quality workforce, and preserving the character and small-town feel of Fruita.

In the 2021 Community Survey, Fruita residents identified three priority areas for the City. These priorities areas are:

1. Overall quality of city streets
2. Overall flow of traffic and congestion management
3. Overall effectiveness of City communication

With these priorities in mind, the budget includes significant investments in the City's capital infrastructure, specifically on roads and bridges, parks and open space, and investments in sewer and broadband. To help with communication efforts, in addition to creating and implementing a middle-mile broadband connection, the City is investing in staff to help disseminate public information and to facilitate

community engagement. This is one of two new positions in the budget for next year; the second is an Engineer Technician position that will help plan and aid in future capital projects to address the two top priorities found in the Community Survey.

These are only a few of the projects and items that are included the 2022 City of Fruita Municipal Budget. The budget includes \$25.3 million in projected revenues (excluding transfers from other funds and other financing sources), and \$30 million in proposed expenditures between all funds. The City of Fruita is utilizing savings from previous years to help with the costs of some of the large-scale infrastructure projects.

The full budget can be found at our website at [fruita.org/budget](http://fruita.org/budget). A summary of all of the changes can be found at the beginning of the budget in the transmittal letter.

If you have any questions, please feel free to email them to [communications@fruita.org](mailto:communications@fruita.org)



**Fruita City Council:** If calling City Hall at 858-3663 does not answer your questions, please feel free to contact any of your City Council members.



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## City Election News

The next regular City election will be held on April 5, 2022. The election will be conducted by mail ballot and ballots will be sent out to registered voters in mid-March 2022. The ballot will include the election of one Mayor for a two-year term and three City Council members for four-year terms each. 🗳️

## City Council and Mayor

This is a great time to start thinking about getting involved in the Fruita community as an elected official. The best part about local politics is that you really do get to make a difference in the place that you live.

The City of Fruita is a Home Rule City with a Council-Manager form of government. The six-member elected City Council makes policy decisions and enacts legislation while a professional City Manager carries out the Council's policies and administers the city government. The Mayor is the political head of city government, presiding over City Council meetings, representing the City at public functions and exercising other powers. For additional information on Mayor and City Council terms of office and powers and duties, refer to the Fruita City Charter.

In order to be eligible to hold office as Mayor or as a member of the City Council, you must be at least 21 years old and a registered voter residing in Fruita city limits. Nomination petitions for the Council and Mayor positions may be picked up at the City Clerk's office on or after January 4, 2022. The nomination petition requires signatures from 25 registered voters of the City of Fruita. Completed petitions must be filed with the Fruita City Clerk's Office by January 24, 2022. Additional information is available from the City Clerk's office. 🗳️



## 2021 Accomplishments

Well, stop if you have heard this before, but again, what a year, Fruita! Despite the ongoing and second year of the COVID-19 pandemic, the City of Fruita still completed several important projects and identified many for the upcoming years. We continue to be proud of what we were able to accomplish as a team and as a community, and wanted to reflect upon and share some of the highlights. While not all of the accomplishments, provided below is a snapshot of a few:

- Administered the 2021 Fruita Community Survey – heard from residents about top priorities for the future.
- To help guide decision making in the future, adopted several long-range planning documents following extensive public engagement and feedback. The City Council formally adopted the Parks, Health, Recreation, Open Space and Trails Master Plan (PHROST), and the Land Use Code and Design Standards Update. The City of Fruita is also in the process of finishing the Multi-Modal Transportation and Circulation Master Plan, which identifies key road and infrastructure projects, both in the short-term and long-term.
- With the Arts and Culture Board, completed the landscaping and artwork on the two roundabouts on Highway 340. Had six sculptures installed that were locally made.
- Replaced aging sewer lines on Maple Street, Ash Street, and Aspen Avenue. Overlaid 5,250 square yards of streets.
- Finalized design and right-of-way acquisition for the Pine Street Bridge Replacement (at the Little Salt Wash). Construction of the replacement is scheduled to begin early next year.
- The Fruita Trails Initiative partnership completed paleo studies for the North Fruita Desert Trails, began fundraising for construction of trails, and helped to fund trail maintenance valley-wide. The City of Fruita also received a grant to help build one new trail at 18 Road next year.
- Received multiple grants for important projects –
  - o \$7,800 to subsidize costs for the outdoor dining spaces during the winter
  - o \$25,000 for engagement and possible design of permanent Mulberry Plaza Design
  - o \$10,000 for a Parks, Open Space and Trails Impact Fee Study
  - o \$5,000 for a market-based compensation study, and
  - o \$25,000 for a joint digital marketing effort with the Town of Palisade
- Staff continues to finalize an internal bike path wayfinding signage system (to be completed December 2021)
- Added an additional fulltime sworn police officer and the department is fully staffed for the first time in several years.
- In depth-research, vetting and compilation of recommendations to address the housing crisis, need for wired broadband to every house and business in Fruita, and increase communication with the public. 🗳️



## 2022 Utility Rate Changes

Following the adoption of the 2022 Budget, the following utility rate changes will be effective January 1, 2022.

- **Solid Waste Collection (Trash) Services –**
  - o Unlimited Residential - \$15.30/month. Increase of \$.55/month
  - o Unlimited Residential Senior Rate\* - \$13.30/month. Increase of \$0.55/month
  - o 96 Gallon Cart - \$16.60/month. Increase of \$0.60/month
  - o 96 Gallon Cart Senior Rate - \$14.60/month. Increase of \$0.60/month

- **Sewer Services –**
  - o Residential – \$50/month. Increase of \$2/month
  - o Residential senior/income eligibility rate\* - \$20.10/month. Increase of \$.80/month
  - o Commercial Base Rate - \$57.35/month. Increase of \$2.20/month
  - o Volume Charges:
    - 5,000 to 105,000 - \$7.50/gallon. Increase of \$.30/gallon
    - 105,000 gallons plus - \$4.65/1,000 gallons. Increase of \$.20/gallon
  - o Plant Investment Fee for

- single family residence - \$7,000. No change.
- **Irrigation Water –**
  - o On the main City Line - \$150/year. Increase of \$10/year
  - o No increase for rental share of water.
  - o Irrigation tab - \$750. Increase of \$250

\*Senior rates – Age and income eligibility requirements apply. Must be 62 years of age and annual income equal to or less than 133% of the federal poverty level or \$17,130/year for single individual and \$22,169/year for a couple. Ⓢ



### Being Snow Ready

City crews are equipped for snow removal operations to make sure our transportation system remains safe and accessible. This includes snow plowing and anti-icing operations that prioritize critical arterials for commercial corridors, school routes, emergency services, and City facilities. Residents should be aware that property owners have the responsibility to keep all sidewalks adjoining their property free of snow and ice. Snow and ice need to be removed from the sidewalks within 24 hours after a snow-fall. If you are a business owner with a sidewalk outside your business, the snow and ice must be removed within two hours after the storm stops. If the storm occurs during the night, the snow and ice needs to be removed by 10 a.m. the following morning. When shoveling snow or removing icicles from your roof, please remember to be careful and not overexert yourself. Cold weather can exacerbate underlying health issues and can be dangerous. Consider working with neighbors or hiring someone if needed to stay safe. Ⓢ



In December, the City of Fruita was awarded the “Leading the Way Award” by ETC Institute. This award recognizes local governments that rank in the top 10% of all communities in the United States with regard to resident satisfaction with overall quality of local government services, customer services, and the value provided for local taxes and fees. ETC Institute completes almost 100 surveys per year for local governments and Fruita was one of nine cities that was recognized in 2021. The data used to determine this originates from the results of the 2021 Fruita Community Survey, where residents overwhelmingly shared positive perceptions of the City of Fruita. We would like to thank the community for participating in this survey and we are very honored to receive this recognition. Ⓢ



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## Upcoming Activities

Night at the FCC	1/21/2022	7:00 p.m.	Fruita Community Center
Sweetheart Run	2/12/2022	10:00 a.m.	Fruita Community Center
Night at the FCC	3/4/2022	7:00 p.m.	Fruita Community Center
Fruita Fat Tire Festival	5/6-5/8/2022	Open Venue	Downtown Fruita and North Fruita Desert Trail System
18 Hours of Fruita	5/6 - 5/7/2022	Open Venue	Highline State Park
Mike the Headless Chicken Festival	6/3-6/4, 2022	Open Venue	Downtown Fruita