



FRUITA
COLORADO

For Immediate Release
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City Manager of Fruita Declares Local Disaster Emergency in Response to COVID-19

Fruita, Colorado – At 9:20 p.m. Tuesday, March 24, 2020, the City Manager of Fruita declared a formal local disaster emergency. Fruita is one of many communities across the state of Colorado, and within Mesa County to take this type of action in recent days.

Pursuant to §24-33.5-709(1), C.R.S., the City Manager, as chief executive officer of the City, pursuant to Section 4.05 of the City’s Home Rule Charter, is authorized to declare a local disaster emergency. This step has been planned for as part of the City’s Emergency Operations Plan, the COVID-19 Response Plan enacted March 10, and most recently in discussion among the City Council at their March 17, 2020, City Council meeting.

The declaration lists out major actions broadly and locally that have led to this action, including “severe economic hardships on Fruita residents and multiple local businesses.” Tuesday, March 24, the County Emergency Services Director recommended all municipalities declare local emergencies. This declaration enables the City of Fruita to activate the response and recovery aspects of all applicable local and interjurisdictional disaster emergency plans and to seek and authorize the furnishing of aid and assistance under such plans. It is in the best interest of the City to be positioned and eligible to receive any possible aid and funding as a result of economic and disaster relief conditions that result of the response of the community to limit spread of COVID-19.

Now that the Local Disaster Emergency Declaration has been signed by the City Manager, the Fruita City Council must ratify the declaration within seven days to extend it. The Fruita City Council will be conducting a virtual public meeting to consider ratifying the Local Disaster Emergency Declaration, and this meeting will take place on Thursday, March 26, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. MST. The Local Disaster Emergency Declaration will remain in effect until such time as the Fruita City Council determines it is no longer necessary.

“I do not want this action to cause additional alarm to the Fruita community, but to assure our community that as we continue to work together to limit the spread of this virus, we are positioning our community for eligibility of aid in the future, says Mike Bennett, Fruita City

Manager. “This declaration does not change existing measures and we strongly urge all residents to adhere to the guidance of the Federal, State, County and City Governments which may be found or linked to via www.fruita.org/covid19 where the City provides continuous updates.

The City highlights the following measures, while emphasizing the measures still allow all residents to continue to support local businesses and enjoy the outdoors in a safe and helpful manner to reduce spread.

Mesa County Public Health priorities:

- Social Distancing: physical distancing is a set of actions intended to stop or slow down the spread of a contagious disease.
- Self-Care: residents who are not critically ill, should stay home and manage their symptoms.

State of Colorado Public Health Order 20-24 Implementing Fifty Percent Reduction In Nonessential Business In-person Work and Extreme Social Distancing, specifically:

- Urging Coloradans to stay home except for the following reasons:
- To obtain necessary services or supplies,
- To deliver those services or supplies to others who need assistance
- To engage in outdoor recreational activities while still following social distancing protocols, staying 6 feet away from other parties
- To perform work
- Or to care for a family member, a vulnerable person, or pet in another household, or to care for livestock kept at a location other than an individual’s home.

The City of Fruita would like to thank all residents for their patience and understanding during this ever-evolving situation.

Currently, and as previously announced to the public, all City of Fruita facilities are closed to the public until further notice. Although all facilities are closed, City services continue as normal. All City business can be conducted online, and links on how to conduct this business online can be found at fruita.org/covid19. If you need to reach anyone, please feel free to call us at 970-858-3663 or email communications@fruita.org. Acting Fruita Public Information Officer is Shannon Vassen.

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