



MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Contact:
Sara Spaulding, APR
Communications & Engagement Director
970-985-8180
saras@gjcity.org

GRAND JUNCTION HOSTS COMMUNITY MEET AND GREET FOR CITY MANAGER CANDIDATES

GRAND JUNCTION, Colo. August 26, 2024 – The City of Grand Junction will host an open house style Community Meet and Greet for candidates for the position of city manager on Thursday, September 5 from 10-11 a.m. at the Grand Junction Convention Center on 159 Main Street in Grand Junction. The two candidates are Fruita City Manager Mike Bennett and Fountain City Manager Scott Trainor.

Comments cards will be available at the meeting for feedback to city council. Once the final candidate is announced, per City ordinance, after 14 days a formal offer of employment can be extended.

"My council colleagues and I are very pleased with the caliber of candidates who applied for the city manager position," stated Mayor Abram Herman. "We recognize the importance of selecting a collaborative, innovative leader who will serve as the driving force behind the city's strategic vision. Grand Junction is a friendly, welcoming city and we take a great deal of pride in being known as a place where people are connected and engaged in their community," continued Herman. "As we finish up our national search process to select a highly qualified candidate for the city manager position, we wanted to ensure that our community has an opportunity to meet our finalists and offer input."

Mike Bennett has served as the City Manager for the City of Fruita, Colorado since 2014. Prior to that time, he served the City of Hickory, North Carolina as the Director of Administrative Services (2010 – 2014), Assistant to the City Manager (2007 – 2010), and as Interim Transit Director (2006 – 2007). In 2023, he taught as an Adjunct Professor of Public Administration at Colorado Mesa University. Bennett has a Bachelor of Science degree in Journalism from Utah State University and a Master of Public Administration from Brigham Young University, where he has served on the program's Executive Advisory Board since 2018. Bennett graduated from the Senior Executive Institute at the University of Virginia in 2013. He is a credentialed manager through the International City/County Management Association and is an active member of that organization. He is a board member of the Colorado City/County Management Association (CCCMA), and in April of this year, was awarded the Colorado City Manager of the Year by members of that organization.

Since 2007, Scott Trainor has served as the City Manager for the City of Fountain, Colorado. From 2002-2007 he held the role of City Manager for the City of Ontario, Oregon. Prior to that, he was the City Manager at the City of Cedar Hills, Utah, from 1997 until 2002. Trainor holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Urban Planning and Resource Management and a Master of Public Administration, both from Brigham Young University in Utah. He is a credentialed manager through the International City/County Management Association, previously served as president of the Colorado City/County Management Association (CCCMA), and was awarded Colorado City Manager of the Year by members of CCCMA in 2022. He served on the Board of Directors for CCCMA from 2017-2023 and as a council member on the National League of Cities Military Communities Council from 2012-2019.

Grand Junction has a council/manager form of government and is a Colorado home rule municipality. The city manager is the executive head of the city and is one of three direct reports overseen by City Council, along

with the city attorney and the municipal judge. The city manager is hired by City Council to provide administrative leadership for the organization, direct and coordinate all city services, present information, and recommendations to the council, and implement policies and goals set by the City Council. The city manager is responsible for the day-to-day operations of city government. This includes managing city departments, implementing city policies, and ensuring that city services are delivered effectively and efficiently within the city's budget.

The city manager translates the council's directives into actionable plans and ensures that city operations align with the council's strategic plan and vision. The city manager is ultimately responsible for the city's budget and financial plans by allocating resources effectively, managing expenditures, and ensuring good stewardship of taxpayer dollars. The city manager provides advice and recommendations to the city council on various issues, including policy decisions, budgeting, and strategic planning. They serve as a key advisor and provide expertise on city management matters. The city manager represents the city in building relationships with community partners and the public.

#