

GRAND JUNCTION CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP SUMMARY

July 15, 2019

Meeting Convened: 5:36 p.m. in the City Hall Auditorium

Meeting Adjourned: 7:20 p.m.

City Councilmembers present: Councilmembers Chuck McDaniel, Phillip Pe'a, Anna Stout, Duke Wortmann, and Mayor Rick Taggart.

Staff present: City Manager Greg Caton, City Attorney John Shaver, General Services Director Jay Valentine, Public Works Director Trent Prall, Assistant to the City Manager Greg LeBlanc, and City Clerk Wanda Winkelmann.

Agenda Topic 1. Discussion Topics

a. Council Policy - Attendance Via Phone or Other Electronic Forms

Mr. Caton introduced the topic. Mr. Shaver noted that tonight's discussion concerns allowing for a Councilmember to participate and vote by telephone or electronic means at a meeting of the City Council if the Councilmember is unable to physically attend the meeting.

Discussion ensued about not implementing a new policy because Councilmembers are elected to serve and should physically be in attendance; it might be helpful to have a policy in place in the event there might be a lack of a quorum; a policy might be helpful to those who want to serve the community; controls would need to be in place for remote meeting attendance; remote meeting attendance is available for many large organizations; a hybrid system might work; a possible survey of citizens might be helpful.

A draft policy was included in the meeting materials that contains a restriction on the number of annual meetings that could be attended electronically. It was suggested that electronic participation could be permitted but not allow the person attending remotely to vote; this could be done on a trial basis and revisited in a year. Support was expressed for this option and staff is asked to bring a draft policy back for Council's consideration.

b. City Council Compensation

Mr. Caton noted that City Council inquired into compensation. Currently, the City Charter sets the salary for City Council at \$500 per month, with the Mayor earning \$750 per month. Those amounts were approved by the voters in 1999. The Mayor pro tem receives the same salary as the rest of City Council.

Discussion ensued that the service is not about the money; an escalator could be put in place to keep up with inflation; it would be helpful to have the median calculated and compared with cities of similar size; an advisory committee made up of citizens could research the issue further; any changes would be made after the current Councilmember leaves office; this could be placed on the next municipal election (April 2021).

Staff will provide a follow-up report with the requested information for the median City Council salary and a comparison of Council salaries with those communities of similar size.

c. Possible Ballot Items for the November 2019 Election

Mr. Caton noted community discussion has occurred about potential questions for the November ballot.

Transportation Funding

On June 24, staff met with members of the Citizens Transportation Finance Committee to discuss the possibility of the City moving forward with a transportation funding ballot question in the Fall of 2019.

The committee recommended the City pursue a funding strategy for a series of projects around the community that would enhance transportation capacity. The committee's recommendations were as follows:

- \$50-\$60 million debt authorization
- Utilize TABOR excess (after 2022) and funds currently allocated to service the Riverside Parkway (after 2024) to service the new debt
- Ballot question November 2019

A public open house could be held to engage community members and elicit their feedback.

Charter Amendment for Length of Leases of Public Property

A section in the City Charter limits a lease of public property to no more than twenty-five years. Increasing the term from twenty-five to ninety-nine years for certain property(ies) may benefit the public by allowing the highest and best use of the property(ies) and contribute to economic development in the community. Leasing of any public property is permissive and within the sole and sound discretion of the City Council.

It was suggested this change would be targeted for the Los Colonias development.

Support was expressed to put these two items on the November ballot.

Agenda Topic 2. Next Workshop Topics

City Manager Caton reported there will be a joint City Council/Planning Commission Workshop on August 5 to discuss impact fees.

The City's Economic Development Partners (GJEP, the Business Incubator, the Chamber of Commerce, the Air Alliance, and the Sports Commission) are invited to attend the August 19 Workshop to provide an update on their activities.

3. Other Business

Councilmember Stout stated our Sister City is being awarded the most innovative Youth Program and Professional and Technical assistance. A ceremony is being held in Houston.

Adjournment

The workshop adjourned at 7:20 p.m.