

## GRAND JUNCTION CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP SUMMARY

September 16, 2019

**Meeting Convened:** 5:30 p.m. in the City Hall Auditorium

**Meeting Adjourned:** 6:54 p.m.

**City Councilmembers present:** Councilmembers Kraig Andrews, Chuck McDaniel, Phyllis Norris, Phil Pe'a, Duke Wortmann, and Mayor Rick Taggart.

**Staff present:** City Manager Greg Caton, City Attorney John Shaver, Finance Director Jodi Romero, Public Works Director Trent Prall, Sr. Assistant to the City Manager Greg LeBlanc, and City Clerk Wanda Winkelmann.

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### **Agenda Topic 1. Discussion Topics**

#### a. **Xcel Energy Update**

Mr. Caton introduced Kelly Flenniken, Area Manager with Xcel Energy. Ms. Flenniken provided updates on:

1. Colorado Energy Plan
2. December 2018 Carbon Announcement
3. 2019 Electric Rate Cast
4. Electric Vehicles

Ms. Flenniken shared Xcel's *Community Report*, which describes carbon emissions, street light conversions to LEDs, and the energy supply. Street light outages are generally fixed within five days.

As a way to give back to the community, Xcel Energy participates in Day of Service, United Way, and Corporate Giving. Xcel also helped relocate a transmission line in the Dos Rios development.

Discussion ensued about the number of crews working on the 7<sup>th</sup> Street project; the demand for linemen service; residential installs occurring only weekly; the perception of Xcel's mission; and possible LED conversion of ball park lights. Ms. Flenniken was complimentary of the Public Works department.

#### b. **Broadband Update**

Mr. Caton introduced the topic.

Mr. John Lee with Charter Communications reviewed the current status of the offering of Broadband providers. Over \$32 billion was invested nationwide for the Broadband infrastructure; \$456 million in 2018 in Colorado in infrastructure upgrades. Upgrades were done with minimal disruption to infrastructure.

Steve Fullerton with Unite Private Networks noted they started with upgrades for District 51 and it is now a 10-gig network. Additionally they have added 30 new cell sites and 9000 miles of fiber in the valley and serve 7000 customers. Unite continues to work with existing companies to upgrade their services.

Rock Johansen with Emery Telcom stated a large partner is putting in new fiber between Salt Lake City and Denver along Interstate 70 with a completion date May 2021.

Discussion ensued about service in Montrose as a rural area; the State Broadband map; Federal policy to provide incentives to rural areas; and other municipalities who provide Broadband to their citizens.

Diane Swenke, Chamber of Commerce Executive Director, said the business community is being served very well in this area and the available Broadband is not a barrier for business expansion.

**Agenda Topic 2. Next Workshop Topics**

Mr. Caton reported the September 30 workshop (which starts at 4:00 p.m.) is a presentation of the City Manager's recommended budget.

**3. Other Business**

Discussion ensued about future revenues and growth and the impact on the 2020 budget. Mr. Caton stated that the budget Council will be presented is modest.

Mayor Taggart reviewed a recent concern expressed by a citizen about possible mill tailings at the high school. A radon test of the property will be conducted and, if any concerns are found, the soils will be removed and the property remediated accordingly.

**Adjournment**

The workshop adjourned at 6:54 p.m.