

**GRAND JUNCTION CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING**

March 23, 2020

Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance, Moment of Silence

The City Council of the City of Grand Junction convened into special session on the 23rd day of March 2020 at 6:00 p.m. Those present were Councilmembers Kraig Andrews, Chuck McDaniel, Phyllis Norris, Phillip Pe'a, Anna Stout, Duke Wortmann and Council President Rick Taggart.

Also present were City Manager Greg Caton, City Attorney John Shaver, City Clerk Wanda Winkelmann and Deputy City Clerk Selestina Sandoval. Council President Taggart called the meeting to order. Councilmember Andrews led the Pledge of Allegiance which was followed by a moment of silence.

REGULAR AGENDA

Electronic Meeting Participation

The purpose of the Policy is the facilitation of City Council operations during the pandemic by providing for Councilmembers participation in meetings without exposing themselves or others to risks of contagion.

City Attorney John Shaver presented this item.

Conversation ensued about citizen participation in electronic City Council meetings (GoToMeeting, online Citizen Comment forms, and via phone), other municipalities who are using virtual meetings, excluding quasi-judicial hearings from the policy due to the requirement of evidence and testimony, and the number of Councilmembers necessary to appear in person.

Councilmember Wortmann moved to adopt Resolution No. 14-20, a resolution providing for telephone and electronic participation in City Council Meetings and that three Councilmembers need to be present. Councilmember Andrews seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Emergency Declaration

The purpose of this item is to declare an emergency due to COVID-19 (coronavirus).

City Attorney John Shaver presented this item.

Conversation ensued regarding frequency and level of communication to Council by the City Manager regarding actions related to this declaration, clarification that the declaration is for an

economic emergency (not a health emergency declaration which falls under Mesa County's scope), importance of the declaration given the local economic conditions, intent to streamline processes to help the community, the requirement of unanimity for emergency ordinances and how this resolution is a predicate to apply for FEMA funds.

Councilmember Andrews moved to adopt Resolution No. 15-20, a resolution declaring a local economic emergency regarding COVID-19 (Coronavirus disease 2019). Councilmember Pe'a seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

An Emergency Ordinance to Amend the Grand Junction Municipal Code Regarding Lodging, Sales and Use Tax in the City of Grand Junction, Colorado in Order to Defer the Payment of City Sales, Use, and Lodging Taxes

The City recognizes that the COVID-19 Pandemic is significantly impacting businesses and employees in Grand Junction. In order to provide some relief and infuse funds back into the local economy, the City proposes to defer the payment of City of Grand Junction sales, use, and lodging taxes collected by businesses in February 2020. These taxes would normally be remitted to the City in March 2020, however by this action the payment due date would be extended until July 31, 2020.

City Manager Greg Caton presented this item.

Conversation ensued about possible extension of the deferral/rebate time frame, the sunset provision, the requirement of businesses to file their sales tax report but not remit the payment, and the need for application to receive the referral/rebate.

Councilmember Stout moved to adopt Emergency Ordinance No. 4912, an Emergency Ordinance to Amend the Grand Junction Municipal Code Regarding Lodging, Sales and Use Tax in the City of Grand Junction, Colorado with the amendment of adding February and March and possibility of April and May. There was no second.

Councilmember Norris moved to adopt Emergency Ordinance No. 4912, an emergency ordinance to amend the Grand Junction Municipal Code regarding lodging, sales and use tax in the City of Grand Junction, Colorado on final passage and ordered final publication in pamphlet form. Councilmember Pe'a seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

An Emergency Supplemental Ordinance to Appropriate \$4,400,000.00 from the City General Fund Reserve to Support the City's Economic Stimulus and Recovery Response Fund in the City of Grand Junction, Colorado

The purpose of this item is to adopt an emergency ordinance that creates an emergency fund for expenditures related to economic stimulus and recovery.

City Manager Greg Caton presented this item.

Conversation ensued regarding how these jobs would differ from typical seasonal help, where this expense is being paid from (General Fund Reserve), the minimum reserve policy, impact of the City's future budget, cuts on expenditures that are already taking place, the need to update Council on reserves going forward given this expenditure, and discussion of the offset between the short public notice that was given for this item versus the need to infuse this money into our local economy immediately.

Councilmember Andrews moved to adopt Ordinance No. 4913, an emergency supplemental ordinance to appropriate \$4,400,000.00 from the City General Fund Reserve to support the City's Economic Stimulus and Recovery Response Fund in the City of Grand Junction, Colorado on final passage and ordered final publication in pamphlet form. Councilmember Norris seconded the motion. Motion failed by roll call vote due to the need of a unanimous vote on the emergency ordinance with Councilmembers Pe'a and Stout voting no.

The Council will reconvene on Wednesday, March 25, 2020 to revisit this item.

Non-scheduled Citizens & Visitors

There were none.

Other Business

There was none.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:27 p.m.

Wanda Winkelmann, MMC
City Clerk