

ORDINANCE NO. 4915

AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE TO MAKE A SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION OF \$500,000.00 FROM THE CITY GENERAL FUND RESERVE TO SUPPORT THE CITY'S #GJSTRONG FUND IN THE CITY OF GRAND JUNCTION, COLORADO

RECITALS:

On March 10, 2020, Governor Polis issued an Executive Order declaring a State of Emergency in response to the novel coronavirus of 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic

On March 13, 2020 President Trump declared a national emergency in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

On March 23, 2020 the Grand Junction City Council declared a local emergency due to the health and economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Pursuant to the local declaration of emergency, and by and with this Ordinance, the City is authorized to assist persons impacted by complying with the Federal, State or local public health official's imposition or recommendation of social distancing, self-quarantine, business closures and other measures related to COVID-19 that have direct and indirect impacts on business and economic conditions.

The temporary assistance afforded by this ordinance includes the creation of an emergency fund (“#GJSTRONGFUND” or “Fund”) in the City’s budget for expenditure for the expenses directly and indirectly related to providing basic needs of food and shelter, in collaboration with the Western Colorado Community Foundation (“WCCF”) in the City of Grand Junction.

The City Manager is authorized to expend the appropriation for temporary provision of food and shelter – basic needs – of persons served, benefitting from, and aided by certain agencies applying for and receiving funds through WCCF.

The Fund shall in all ways be expended in furtherance of the purposes of the #GJSTRONG FUND and in response to and because of the declared COVID-19 emergency.

The City of Grand Junction has the authority pursuant to its Charter, ordinances and law to declare a state of emergency when it appears that the general health, safety and welfare of the inhabitants of the City are threatened. The threats of the COVID-19 virus emergency are not just related to people’s health but instead, and possibly to a much greater extent, relate to their economic health and well-being.

Given the unprecedented economic impacts, some of which are known and some of which remain unknown, of the COVID-19 outbreak on the local, regional, State and national economy the City Council finds and determines that an appropriation is necessary, proper and that adoption of this ordinance will further the general health, safety and welfare of the community.

This ordinance appropriates a certain sum of money to defray the expenses and liabilities of the Fund. Furthermore, the 2020 budget shall be deemed to be amended for the expenditure of money for the Fund, all as specifically or generally stated in this Ordinance.

Supplemental appropriations are required to ensure adequate appropriations by fund. If a new project or spending is authorized by City Council a supplemental appropriation is required for the legal authority to spend the funds. This Ordinance confirms that authority and the City Manager is directed to forthwith develop and implement a plan for the expenditure of the Fund.

This emergency supplemental appropriation provides, upon passage of the Ordinance, for the disbursement of funds to the #GJSTRONGFUND. The Fund will add \$500,000.00 to the General Fund 100 of the City budget for emergency, temporary assistance with the basic needs of food and shelter. The appropriation shall be allocated such that:

- a) the Fund will be dedicated to support emergency response services to assist meeting basic human needs in light of the fast-moving and sweeping impacts of COVID-19. People have lost, and will be losing jobs, and the nonprofit organizations are seeing increased demand for services to meet basic needs related to food and shelter.
- b) the Fund will provide emergency funding to alleviate some demands and assist local nonprofits addressing new and emerging needs resulting from the COVID19 pandemic and the sudden and dramatic escalation in demand for services.
- c) the primary goal of the Fund is to keep nonprofit organizations, who are struggling to meet people's basic needs, open and able to expand or reorganize operations to best meet the sudden and unprecedented demand for services, and,
- d) the appropriation will be available only to qualified 501c3 nonprofit organizations providing basic needs of food and shelter that serve the Grand Junction community. The Fund may be used for general support or special needs related to the COVID19 pandemic - supplies, support to cover salaries to maintain adequate staffing for operations, *etc.*

The Western Colorado Community Foundation has agreed to utilize a simple Rapid Response Application, which when the Fund is available, will be made available to eligible organizations, which will have 7 to 10 days to apply. Applications will be reviewed within three days of the application deadline, and applicants will be notified by email of application status within a week.

In accordance with the *New Fund Agreement* to be negotiated and entered into by the WCCF and the City, the WCCF will provide administrative support and funding recommendations for this #GJStrong Fund process, including managing the online application, reviewing proposals, selecting projects and determining grant award amounts, issuing grant checks and monitoring use of funds. The City Council authorizes the City Manager, with the consultation of the City Attorney, to negotiate and sign a *New Fund Agreement* with WCCF for the purposes described in this Ordinance.

The WCCF will be compensated in a lump sum in the amount of \$2000.00. The City Manager is authorized to pay that sum for the services of WCCF.

Furthermore, the City Manager shall, within sixty days of the effective date of this Ordinance, inform the City Council on the effectiveness of the Ordinance at achieving its stated purposes and protecting the general health, safety and welfare of the residents of the City.

This action is unprecedented; however, it is wholly consistent with the City's *Strategic Plan*. The adoption of this ordinance furthers the City's partnership with the community. As stated in the *Plan the City*

“ ... views partnership in its broadest sense and not merely through the lens of delivering municipal services. Partnership with a common purpose is the key to success with public and private collaboration. Whether evaluating opportunities for shared services, partnering for economic development, or creating a shared vision for the future of our community, we recognize that our residents will be best served as we work together with other organizations to find solutions. We take every opportunity to celebrate past successful partnerships to build momentum for future collaboration.”

The adoption of this ordinance is fiscally responsible. In this time of emergency, it would in fact be irresponsible to not adopt this ordinance. The approval of the ordinance will help to stabilize some people and in turn some businesses and in turn blunt the impact of the emergency. According to City Council policy, City reserves are for a “rainy day”- the COVID-19 emergency necessitates expenditure of reserves so in the near and longer term future the economy may recover faster and stronger than if the Fund is not expended. As stated in the *Plan*

“The foundation of effective local governance is trust. To continue to build the trust placed in us by our citizens, we must be responsible stewards of the resources entrusted to our care. Because of limited resources, we must be effective in prioritizing our spending to focus on the things that citizens have identified as most important. As we establish plans and priorities, we do so with an eye to the future. It is not enough to merely find a way to fund a new project or amenity. We must also ensure that we are planning for long-term ongoing operations and maintenance with each item that we prioritize.”

The adoption of this ordinance serves to communicate with and engage the community at a time and under circumstances of severe need. As stated in the *Plan the City* will act to “build trust and ensure we continue to focus limited resources on our community's highest priorities.” Appropriating funds to the #GJSTRONGFUND is a high, if not highest priority of the community.

With the adoption of this Ordinance the City Council is endeavoring to serve the people that make this community great. As stated in the *Plan*

“Grand Junction was founded by innovative leaders, ready to lead the way to a new future. Our city continues in that tradition of leadership today. We are not content to wait around for the future, but rather desire to actively shape it. Our City holds a key position in the region. We must be a driving force in issues of regional importance and play

a leading role in the growth occurring on the Western Slope. We will do this by setting an example of how local government should operate – in our conduct, in our words, and in our ideas. The status quo will not satisfy us, nor will it work, as we continue to push ourselves outside of our comfort zone to be innovative leaders.”

At an April 6, 2020 meeting the City Council considered the foregoing Recitals, the purposes of this Ordinance and the importance of it to the Community and determined that an appropriation in the sum of \$500,000.00 is necessary and proper given the current emergency.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GRAND JUNCTION, COLORADO:

That the following sum of money be appropriated from unappropriated fund balance and additional revenues to the Fund indicated for the year ending December 31, 2020, to be expended from such funds as follows:

Fund Name	Fund #	Appropriation
General	100	\$500,000.00

Applicability, declaration of emergency and effective date.

City Council hereby declares that a special emergency exists and that this ordinance is necessary to ensure the preservation of the peace and the public health, safety and welfare by effectuating the Council's publicly articulated purposes as stated herein and in the Declaration of Emergency.

In declaring a special emergency, and by and with the adoption of this ordinance, the City Council is conscientiously stewarding the public's funds by infusing funds to temporarily support people's food and shelter needs resulting because of significant economic disruption, hardship or consequences of the declared COVID-19 emergency.

This Ordinance, immediately on its final passage, shall be recorded in the City book of ordinances kept for that purpose, authenticated by the signatures of the Mayor and the City Clerk. The full text of the amending ordinance, in accordance with the Charter of the City of Grand Junction, is to be published in full.

This Ordinance shall apply to the City of Grand Junction. This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon passage and with the unanimous approval of City Council.

Severability.

This Ordinance is necessary to protect the public health, safety and welfare of the residents of the City. If any provision of this Ordinance is found to be unconstitutional or illegal, such finding shall only invalidate that part or portion found to violate the law. All other provisions shall be deemed severed or severable and shall continue in full force and effect.



Rick Taggart
President of the Council

ATTEST:



Wanda Winkelmann
City Clerk



I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT the foregoing Emergency Ordinance, being Ordinance No. 4915 was introduced by the City Council of the City of Grand Junction, Colorado at a special meeting of said body held on the 6th day of April, 2020.

I FURTHER CERTIFY THAT Ordinance No. 4915 was read, considered, adopted and ordered published in the Daily Sentinel by the Grand Junction City Council.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the official seal of said City this 9th day of April, 2020.


Deputy City Clerk

Published: April 9, 2020 (full ordinance)
Effective: April 6, 2020 (date of adoption)