

CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP SUMMARY
August 31, 2020

Meeting Convened: 5:29 p.m. in the City Hall Auditorium

Meeting Adjourned: 6:56 p.m.

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

Staff present: City Manager Greg Caton, City Attorney John Shaver, Finance Director Jodi Welch, Senior Assistant to the City Manager Greg LeBlanc, Fire Chief Ken Watkins, Deputy Fire Chief Gus Hendricks, Deputy Fire Chief Chris Angermuller, Public Works Director Trent Prall, and Deputy City Clerk Selestina Sandoval.

Mayor Wortmann called the meeting to order.

Agenda Topic 1. Discussion Topics

a. Las Colonias Plaza Discussion

Robin Brown, Executive Director of Grand Junction Economic Partnership, presented on the Las Colonias Development Corporation (LCDC) board, funding sources and policy. The LCDC is positioned to become a sustainable funding source for economic development projects within the River District. Through public-private partnerships, the LCDC will tackle needs of the community that are not being filled by private developers, or that cannot be achieved through traditional avenues.

Ms. Brown gave an update on the Business Park; RockyMounts has moved into their building; Bonsai Design has broken ground with a completion date of December; the LCDC are finalizing a lease with an outdoor industry manufacturer and working with a fourth outdoor industry manufacturer on a potential relocation.

Ms. Brown spoke of plaza development and how LCDC became the developer working with a local architect and builder, Blythe & Co and Asset Engineering. She spoke of potential tenants and the plaza "village" concept and closed with next steps regarding costs and funding.

b. Consideration of Providing Fire and Emergency Medical Services to the Central Orchard Mesa Fire Protection District

Chief Ken Watkins gave an overview of the Grand Valley Fire Districts, and discussed current issues for the Orchard Mesa Fire Protection District (personnel, recruiting & retention, and emergency service

response). He shared the district response and financial analysis. Chief Watkins outlined the district's assets and provided district service options (East Valley Cooperative, Service Agreement with other fire/EMS agency, or continue as is). He closed with the proposed service agreement and next steps (due diligence on financials, closer evaluation of assets, research FPPA volunteer pension obligations and legal review of contract).

Conversation ensued regarding the difficulty of these smaller districts having the necessary resources to be effective and the likelihood of more of these requests moving forward to protect neighborhoods, capacity to provide services to this area, clarification on anticipated billing volume, ability to recruit and staff responders to meet the added need, revenue stream basis, possibility of raising the mil levy to meet expenses (via ballot question), termination of service requirements, and annual distributions from the County. Council agreed to move forward with these discussions and in acquiring more information.

Agenda Topic 2. City Council Communication

Councilmember McDaniel asked for feedback about Mr. Brian Masters' email which expressed concerns about the open meeting law. Councilmember Norris expressed concern that the timing was too late for a response. City Attorney Shaver recommended a response to Mr. Masters to address his concerns. Councilmember Stout stated that Mr. Masters felt the changes at the prior meeting had addressed his concerns. Councilmember Taggart felt compelled to respond. Council came to a consensus to respond via letter focusing on procedural changes that the City is making to improve City Council meetings.

Councilmember McDaniel said progress was made during a meeting with the County regarding the Persigo Agreement.

Councilmember McDaniel spoke of the need to educate the public of our boards and commissions. Councilmember Norris stated that the meetings are public and the possibility of encouraging volunteers to attend the meetings to educate themselves on the requirements. Councilmember Stout said the City should actively host sessions that give an insider view on the workings of the boards and commissions. Mayor Wortmann concurred that this would be beneficial. City Manager spoke of the potential of providing a Citizen Academy to address these needs. Councilmember Stout spoke of how periodic Boards and Commissions training may assist with spoken goals of the new Task Force to remove barriers of how citizens can be involved in their local government.

Agenda Topic 3. Next Workshop Topics

Councilmember Stout requested more information on the potential Marijuana Ballot item. City Manager Caton would like to add this to the September 14th workshop to listen to the public and get more information from staff and industry.

Agenda Topic 4. Other Business

There was none.

Adjournment

The Workshop adjourned at 6:56 p.m.