

**GRAND JUNCTION CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP SUMMARY**  
**October 19, 2020**

**Meeting Convened:** 4:02 p.m. in the City Hall Auditorium

**Meeting Adjourned:** 6:58 p.m.

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

**Staff present:** City Manager Greg Caton, City Attorney John Shaver, Finance Director Jodi Welch (attended virtually), Budget Coordinator Linda Longenecker, Financial Analyst Matt Martinez, Public Works Director Trent Prall, Senior Assistant to the City Manager Greg LeBlanc, Fire Chief Ken Watkins, Deputy Fire Chief Chris Angermuller, Utilities Director Randi Kim, Water Services Manager Mark Ritterbush, Parks & Recreation Director Ken Sherbenou, Police Chief Doug Shoemaker, and City Records Manager Debbie Kemp.

---

Mayor Wortmann called the meeting to order.

**Agenda Topic 1. Discussion Topics**

a. 2021 Budget Workshop:

- Lodging Share Partners and Economic Development Partners Funding Discussion
  1. Lodging Share Partner Grand Junction Regional Air Service Alliance  
Diane Schwenke, President and CEO of the Grand Junction Chamber of Commerce, shared with Council the accomplishments of the Grand Junction Regional Air Alliance during the year 2019. The COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 slowed progress for the Alliance; however, in August of 2020, progress resumed, and Ms. Schwenke shared what progress is being made. They hope to have continued progress with the use of the 2021 Lodging tax dollars.
  2. Lodging Share Partner Greater Grand Junction Sports Commission  
Derek Wagner, Vice President, Intergovernmental and Community Affairs, gave an overview of the 2019 supported events and stated that, with the pandemic, events were cancelled in 2020. They are hoping to be able to go forward with events in 2021.

3. Economic Development Partner Colorado Mesa University (CMU)  
Tim Foster, President of CMU, reviewed student enrollment and noted CMU has started a Physician Assistant (PA) program which requires a new building. A new building will be underway in December and will house the PA, Physical Therapy, and Occupational Therapy programs.

There was discussion concerning the funding to CMU of \$2.5 million (which stops in 2026) and \$250,000 starting in 2027.

4. Economic Development Partner Grand Junction Chamber of Commerce  
Diane Schwenke, President and CEO of the Grand Junction Chamber of Commerce, stated that the \$40,000 request for 2021 will help pay the salary of a Business Retention and Expansion Director position. She provided an overview what they have been doing to help the community during the pandemic.
5. Economic Development Partner Western CO Latino Chamber of Commerce  
Sonia Gutierrez and Jorge Pantoja, representing Western CO Latino Chamber of Commerce, reviewed their purpose and said with the requesting funding, they will provide classes, open forums, and discussions to give entrepreneurs, business owners, and community members in general a space to share their ideas, ask questions, express their concerns, address their needs, and connect with potential partners.
6. 5. Economic Development Partner Western Colorado Business Development Corp. DBA the Business Incubator Center  
Jon Maraschin, Executive Director of the Business Incubator Center, reviewed the Commercial Kitchen Programs, small business development, Business Loan Fund, GJMakerspace, and the 2020 demographics. The requested funding supports all of these programs.

There was discussion about the Business Loan Fund and retention of current businesses.

7. Economic Development Partner Grand Junction Economic Partnership  
Robin Brown, Executive Director of the Grand Junction Economic Partnership, highlighted projects for 2020, and reviewed projects for the 2021 funding request.

City Council asked about the Foreign Trade Zone. Diane Schwenke with the Grand Junction Chamber of Commerce stated that the pandemic slowed progress on

establishing the Foreign Trade Zone but is still optimistic that it will be established in three years.

Horizon Drive Business Improvement District Operating Plan and Budget Presentation  
Vara Kusal, Executive Director for the Horizon Drive Association Business Improvement District stated that their main focus for 2020 has been to work with the Urban Trails Committee, City of Grand Junction, Mesa County, Regional Transportation Planning Office and Colorado Mesa University to improve wayfinding with pavement markings and signage for the “Maroon Route,” a marked bike route beginning along Horizon Drive and ultimately connecting to the Riverside Trail. For 2021, they have budgeted for the “Dash” and a “Call for Artists” for artwork at the G Road and Horizon Drive roundabout with a theme of Outdoor Recreation.

A break was called for at 5:40 p.m. Mayor Wortmann excused himself from the remainder of the Workshop and Mayor Pro Tem Andrews presided. The Workshop resumed at 6:02 p.m.

- Non-profit Funding and Capital Budget Presentation

City Attorney Caton explained that the Non-profit Funding is part of the General Fund and referred to the list of Non-Profit requests and proposed funding. The process of reviewing the applications and selecting the Non-profits was discussed. Most of the requests are reoccurring; there are a couple of new ones, Caprock Academy and the Riverside Educational Center.

Councilmember Stout requested a better application process next year as she was advised by Non-profits that this was not a very clear application process. There are other Non-profits that should be given the opportunity to apply for funding.

Capital Budget Presentations were:

- Transportation by Public Works Director Trent Prall
- Parks & Recreation by Parks & Recreation Director Ken Sherbenou
- Utilities by Utilities Director Randi Kim

City Manager Caton reviewed the process for the adoption of the 2021 budget.

## **Agenda Topic 2. City Council Communication**

There was none.

**Agenda Topic 3. Next Workshop Topics**

There was no discussion.

**Agenda Topic 4. Other Business**

Interview Committees were selected for the Volunteer Board Vacancies for the Housing Authority and Visit Grand Junction.

Council discussed whether the City Council meeting should be canceled on November 4, 2020 due to the election being on November 3, 2020. Council will resume the conversation at the October 21, 2020 City Council meeting when all of Council will be present to decide.

**Adjournment**

The Workshop adjourned at 6:58 p.m.