

GRAND JUNCTION CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP SUMMARY

January 4, 2021

Meeting Convened: 5:30 p.m. Meeting live streamed and broadcast on cable channel 191.

Meeting Adjourned: 7:55 p.m.

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

Staff present: City Manager Greg Caton, City Attorney John Shaver, Finance Director Jodi Welch, Community Development Director Tamra Allen, Parks and Recreation Director Ken Sherbenou, Senior Planner Lance Gloss and Deputy City Clerks Janet Harrell and Selestina Sandoval. Attended virtually: City Clerk Wanda Winkelmann, Public Works Director Trent Prall, and Senior Assistant to the City Manager Greg LeBlanc.

Mayor Wortmann called the meeting to order.

Agenda Topic 1. Discussion Topics

a. Discussion and Possible Direction Regarding Financial Support for Non-Profit Agencies Related to COVID-19 Impacts and Response

Community Foundation Board members Anne Wenzel and Tedi Gillespie provided an update on the impacts of COVID in regard to food relief entities in Grand Junction and suggested \$250,000 for post-holiday assistance. The application process would be competitive and conducted in the same as the City's earlier COVID relief programs, but allow more time to apply.

Councilmember Stout asked why non-profit businesses not serving hunger needs are not included in this funding as they have the same challenges to meet payroll and expenses and that many of the grants available specifically excluded funding for overhead expenses. It was explained that food relief was the parameter given.

Business Incubator Center Executive Director Jon Maraschin agreed with Councilmember Stout and said many non-profits are not able to provide the required financial information for grant applications. Grand Junction Chamber of Commerce Director Diane Schwenke noted non-profits are eligible for CARES Act and PPE Program funds.

City Manager Caton outlined next steps based on the discussion which are to add a Supplemental Appropriation Ordinance to include \$525,000 for small businesses, \$250,000 for

hunger relief and \$250,000 for the broader non-profit community to the January 6th agenda for first reading and the hearing scheduled for January 20th.

Council President Wortmann asked for this item to be added to the next agenda.

b. Discussion and Possible Direction Regarding a COVID19 Response Grant Fund to Aid Small Businesses

Mr. Maraschin explained the proposed \$525,000 would go toward small business fixed cost support (not covered in previous funding) and requested these funds be limited to locally owned businesses with 50 or fewer full time equivalent (FTE) employees and asked for direction on how to define local (city limits, Mesa County or Colorado). He said the average loan would be up to \$5,000 for previous recipients and \$7,500 for new applicants; these amounts should be adequate to cover 2 – 4 months of fixed costs. Ms. Schwenke suggested the FTE limit be lowered to 25. It was decided to limit FTE's to 25 and allow up to State ownership. The program will be open 45 days from the time funds are available.

Council President Wortmann asked for this item to be added to the next agenda.

c. Discuss Expenditure of HUD CDBGCV Round 3 Funds Allocated to the City of Grand Junction in the Amount of \$357,800

CDBG Administrator Kristen Ashbeck provided an overview of previously allocated funds from the first tranche of COVID relief from the CARES Act and said a third and final allocation of \$357,800 will be made. It is suggested these funds be used for stable housing needs.

Council President Wortmann asked for this item to be added to a February agenda.

d. Discussion and Possible Direction Regarding a Potential Marijuana Ballot Question

Senior Planner Lance Gloss reviewed the timeline and structure of the City's marijuana discussion and explained that the main questions before Council now are 1) would they like to refer marijuana questions to the April 2021 ballot and 2) if so, guidance regarding the ballot language regarding repeal of the moratorium and taxation. He gave an overview of license types and buffering mechanisms (zoning, buffering, exclusion/green zones, use specific standards, numerical caps).

Council expressed concerns regarding the cultivation license type, odor issues, not having regulatory measures in place (staff will continue work on this) and not specifying where tax proceeds will be allocated.

After discussion, this item will move forward with ballot language to be decided at a later date.

e. Community Center Feasibility Study

Parks and Recreation Director Sherbenou, Barker, Rinker and Seacat Principal Craig Bouck and GreenPlay, LLC Principal Pat O'Toole reviewed the survey results which included preferred phased Lincoln Park buildout, operating costs (debt service not included) and revenue resources.

Discussion included how one large buildout versus multiple buildouts in various locations is less expensive, would offer more services, be easier to finance, what the debt service amount will be and which 2021 election cycle would be better for this item.

Agenda Topic 2. City Council Communication

There was none.

Agenda Topic 3. Next Workshop Topics

The January 18th Workshop is cancelled due to the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day holiday.

Agenda Topic 4. Other Business

There was none.

Adjournment

The Workshop adjourned at 7:55 p.m.