

GRAND JUNCTION CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP SUMMARY

March 1, 2021

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

Meeting Adjourned: 6:21 p.m.

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

Planning Commission Present: Chair Andrew Teske attended virtually.

Staff present: City Manager Greg Caton, City Attorney John Shaver, Community Development Director Tamra Allen, Senior Planner Lance Gloss, City Clerk Wanda Winkelmann and Deputy City Clerk Janet Harrell. Attending virtually: Deputy Police Chief Mike Nordine.

Mayor Wortmann called the meeting to order.

Agenda Topic 1. Discussion Topics

a. Discuss an Outline and Timeline for the Regulation of Marijuana Related Businesses

At the January 20, 2021 hearing of the City Council, the Council voted to refer two questions to the April 6, 2021 municipal ballot concerning the licensing, permitting, and taxation of marijuana businesses. At that same public hearing, Council directed City Staff and the Planning Commission to develop an outline of a regulatory approach for marijuana businesses. Specifically, this outline was proffered as a step toward defining the potential contents of a future Ordinance(s) concerning marijuana businesses, should both ballot questions be passed by a vote of the People in April. Further, the Planning Commission was requested to develop a set of recommendations pertaining to land use and use-specific standards for businesses involved in the sale, cultivation, and/or processing of marijuana.

The Planning Commission considered this subject at a sequence of workshops and has recommended that regulations for marijuana businesses parallel those of corollary business types in the community, with an emphasis on the parallel between marijuana sales and liquor sales as well as between marijuana processing or cultivation and general indoor industrial activities.

Mr. Caton introduced the topic and noted that tonight's workshop will present an opportunity for the Council to further direct staff as to the pace, nature, and substance of further regulatory development.

Mr. Gloss reviewed the outline provided in the packet materials that describes activities related to licensed marijuana businesses: Enforcement, Operations, Security, Stores, Product Manufacturers, Cultivations, Other License Types, and Taxation.

Discussion ensued about the timeframe, number of stores (cap), fees, buffering, resource materials used to draw conclusions, cultivation licenses, and collaborating with Mesa County regarding agricultural uses and license types.

Mr. Caton noted if the ballot items pass on April 6, staff will develop and present ordinances to develop the regulatory framework for marijuana business licenses.

Agenda Topic 2. City Council Communication

Councilmember McDaniel stated a process and timeframe need to be developed for evaluations of the City Manager and City Attorney. Councilmember Norris noted that the evaluations usually occur in executive session and Human Resources Director Shelley Caskey is working on the scheduling

Councilmember McDaniel reported that Mesa County is currently at Level Yellow and discussed that the community is moving towards opening up and thinks the City should consider opening up Council meetings to encourage public participation. Councilmember Norris agreed so that the public can attend meetings in person.

City Manager Caton specified that City Hall will opening on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, and Court will be open on Tuesday and Thursday. Prior to the last closure, measures were in place to address capacity with the use of overflows room and those protections would be used again.

Councilmember Stout stated that the first April meeting might be an ideal time to start opening. This is when the vaccine will be widely available and will allow the community to open up at that time.

Councilmember Taggart asked if smoking marijuana is allowed in public parks. City Attorney Shaver stated public consumption of marijuana is not allowed.

Councilmember Pe'a noted that cost of living adjustments (COLA) should be discussed during the City Manager/City Attorney evaluations.

Councilmember Pe'a inquired into the status of Bonzai/Los Colonias Development Corporation (LCDC). Councilmember Norris stated that they are moving into their building this month. The

building is mostly leased; Rocky Mounts has moved in and are having difficulty getting product/material delivered to Grand Junction.

Councilmember Stout informed that the Grand Valley Task Force held their quarterly meeting and the recording is available online.

Agenda Topic 3. Next Workshop Topics

Mr. Caton stated that the March 15 workshop will be dedicated to the Comprehensive Plan Implementation Matrix. This will transition into the Strategic Plan.

Mr. Caton indicated that in past odd-numbered years, no workshops were held in April due to the election.

Agenda Topic 4. Other Business

There was none.

Adjournment

The Workshop adjourned at 6:21 p.m.