

GRAND JUNCTION CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP SUMMARY

May 3, 2021

Meeting Convened: 5:30 p.m. Meeting held in person at 250 North 5th Street, live streamed, and broadcast on cable channel 191.

Meeting Adjourned: 8:33 p.m.

City Councilmembers present: Councilmembers Abe Herman, Phil Pe'a, Randall Reitz, Dennis Simpson, Anna Stout, Rick Taggart and Mayor Pro Tem Chuck McDaniel.

Staff present: City Manager Greg Caton, City Attorney John Shaver, Community Development Director Tamra Allen, Senior Planner Lance Gloss, General Services Director Jay Valentine, City Clerk Wanda Winkelmann and Deputy City Clerk Janet Harrell.

Mayor Pro Tem McDaniel called the meeting to order. The order of items discussed at the workshop was:

- a. Discuss the Regulation of Marijuana Businesses as Enabled by Voter Approval of Measures 2A and 2B (April 6, 2021 Municipal Election)
- b. Procurement Process for Capital Construction Projects, and
- c. Future Election Options

Agenda Topic 1. Discussion Topics

a. Discuss the Regulation of Marijuana Businesses as Enabled by Voter Approval of Measures 2A and 2B (April 6, 2021 Municipal Election)

Senior Planner Gloss noted that Referred measures 2A and 2B were passed on April 6, 2021 in the municipal election, providing City Council with the opportunity to consider establishing tax rates and regulations for marijuana businesses. For discussion and consideration were the following questions:

1. Should regulations be developed? If so, should licensing be simultaneous or staggered by type?
2. By what date(s) should an ordinance be adopted and the licensing process be opened?
3. Should a numerical cap be applied? If so, what type of selection process should be used?
4. What type of public engagement should be sought?
5. What tax rate should be adopted?
6. What policy goals should be prioritized?

Discussion ensued regarding the purpose of workshops, if direction can be given at a workshop, if a decision can be made in a workshop, whether motions can be made at a workshop, and the applicability of Robert's Rules of Order to a workshop. Councilmember Simpson made a motion to direct staff to develop regulations establishing marijuana businesses; seconded by Councilmember Stout. A voice vote was taken and the motion failed with Councilmember Simpson voting, "Yes" and Councilmembers Herman, Pe'a, Reitz, Stout, Taggart and Mayor Pro Tem McDaniel voting, "No." It was indicated that those voting, "No," did so because no formal decisions can be made at a workshop and therefore motions should not be made.

Support was expressed on the following items:

1. Staff should proceed with the development of draft regulations.
2. License types should be staggered for the purposes of regulation development and licensing. Stores should be considered first, then product manufacturers, and then cultivation.
3. The draft timeline targeting January 1, 2022 for first issuance of store licenses and other license types staggered at approximately 6-month intervals thereafter is generally acceptable.
4. Public engagement is a priority, and should adhere to the following:
 - a. Should be facilitated by the development of several policy alternatives for each topic, similar to the working group format.
 - b. Should provide a creative and wide-reaching set of opportunities for engagement.
 - c. Should include at least one Council listening session on each topic, such as stores, taxation, and enforcement respectively.
5. A revised outline of staff, Planning Commission, and working group recommendations is requested.
6. A summative packet containing public comment to date, maps demonstrating buffering, and similar is requested.

Additional City Council conversation is needed on the following items:

1. Should a numerical cap be applied?
2. If so, what type of selection process should be used?
3. What type of policy priorities should be served in selection criteria for stores?

Next Steps

1. Strategize for community engagement per Council Direction.
2. Develop a packet of "alternatives" for presentation to the public on each sub-topic for the purpose of community engagement.
3. Develop an in-depth policy memo focused on taxation.

4. Develop an in-depth policy memo focused on a numerical cap and the options for selection.

b. Procurement Process for Capital Construction Projects

General Services Director Jay Valentine noted this discussion was held at the request of City Council prior to the May 5 City Council meeting when the contract for the construction of Fire Station #3 will be considered.

Mr. Valentine reviewed the duties and purpose of the Procurement Division. The procurement methods of *Design-Bid-Build (DBB)* and *Construction Manager/General Contractor (CM/GC)* were explained and the pros and cons of both methods were discussed.

For the procurement of Fire Station #3, the DBB method of delivery was used. This method involves selecting an architect to complete the design of the building first and then put the project out to bid. The winning firm is the lowest bid received and, with the Fire Station #3 solicitation, FCI was the lone bid received.

City Council will discuss the award of Station #3 at the May 5 City Council meeting.

c. Future Election Options

City Clerk Winkelmann stated that the purpose of this item is for a City Council discussion regarding two options for future elections: 1) move April elections to November or 2) the City conduct its own election. While Mesa County Elections (MCE) has contracted with the City for many years to conduct the City's April elections, MCE has indicated they no longer wish to conduct the April elections and requested that the City switch to November elections.

Ms. Winkelmann reviewed the advantages and disadvantages of both options. Discussion ensued regarding the purchase vs. rental of tabulation equipment, the cost of past elections, the permanent and temporary personnel needed to run an election, the use of an election manager during non-election periods, additional furniture/equipment needed, needed ballot processing space, using MCE equipment, election judge pool, extending Councilmember terms, a full explanation of costs, risk of running elections and the validity of elections, other municipalities who hold November elections, dedicated MCE staff to run elections, need for Charter amendments, Home rule municipalities who have switched to November elections, if the other Mesa County municipalities will conduct their own elections in 2022, voter fraud, non-partisan elections, public knowledge of this issue, and timing of development of ballot language.

Next steps include a memo with the additional data requested, such as the cost to run an April election and information from the other municipalities (Fruita, Palisade, and Collbran) about their plans for their future elections.

d. Making Council Less Formal

Due to the length of the workshop, this item was continued for a future discussion.

Agenda Topic 2. City Council Communication

Councilmember Stout stated it would be helpful to discuss the social and ceremonial events that City Council is invited to – who should attend?

Councilmember Simpson inquired into the upcoming Chamber of Commerce events and the respective dates.

Councilmember Herman noted that City Council receives general voicemails and emails – who will respond? Mayor Pro Tem McDaniel replied that he will respond.

Councilmember Stout commended City Manager Caton for his handling of a recent concern by a neighborhood regarding recent a series of accidents and the favorable outcome of a lower speed in the neighborhood.

Councilmember Reitz commended staff for a well-edited packet.

Councilmember Herman appreciated the new Council orientation sessions.

Councilmember Simpson liked the format of the “Future Election Options” staff materials.

Agenda Topic 3. Next Workshop Topics

Mr. Caton is developing a calendar of future Workshop topics and will provide it to City Council.

Agenda Topic 4. Other Business

There was no other business.

Adjournment

The Workshop adjourned at 8:33 p.m.