

GRAND JUNCTION CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP SUMMARY

May 17, 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: 8:13 p.m.

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

City Councilmembers absent: Councilmember Randall Reitz.

Staff present: City Manager Greg Caton, City Attorney John Shaver, Community Development Director Tamra Allen, CDBG Administrator Kristen Ashbeck, Finance Director Jodi Welch, Sr. Assistant to the City Manager Greg LeBlanc, Public Works Director Trent Prall, City Clerk Wanda Winkelmann, and Deputy City Clerk Selestina Sandoval.

Mayor McDaniel called the meeting to order.

Agenda Topic 1. Discussion Topics

a. Board and Commission Assignments for City Council

Each year the City Council reviews and determines which members of the City Council will represent the Council on various boards, committees, commissions, authorities, and organizations.

City Council discussed the 2021/2022 assignments and a resolution making the assignments will be considered at the May 19 Regular City Council meeting. If a future assignment is made to the Historic Preservation Board, Councilmember Reitz will be the liaison.

b. Grand Valley Housing Needs Assessment

Ms. Allen introduced the topic. Staff began work in late December with Root Policy and Research, a Colorado consultancy with extensive experience in the housing field, on the Grand Valley Housing Needs Assessment.

Root Policy Research launched a community-wide housing needs survey on February 3rd which was open for responses until February 28th. A series of meetings with stakeholders' groups took place the week of February 15th. Information gathered through the survey and meetings with stakeholders and housing partners was used in conjunction with Census (2010), American

Community Survey (ACS), DOLA, among other data sources to formulate the assessment report.

Molly Fitzpatrick and Avilia Bueno with Root Policy Research presented the major findings of the Housing Needs Assessment. Included in the findings were income, rentals vs. home ownership, housing types and permits issued, affordability and gaps, special interest populations, and people experiencing homelessness.

The regional housing assessment provides information for staff to draft the required CDBG Five-Year Consolidated Plan. The subsequent Phase 2 of the project is to develop a housing strategy for the City of Grand Junction which is to be completed late summer 2021.

A break was called at 7:05 p.m. The workshop resumed at 7:12 p.m.

c. Community Development Block Grant 2021-2025 Consolidated Plan Update

Ms. Ashbeck noted that the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program provides annual grants on a formula basis to states, cities, and counties to develop viable urban communities by providing decent housing and a suitable living environment, and by expanding economic opportunities, principally for low- and moderate-income persons.

In 1996 the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) established Grand Junction as a community entitled to receive Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds. Every five years the City prepares and adopts a new five-year consolidated plan as required by HUD.

Ms. Ashbeck reviewed the Five-year Consolidated Plan goals:

1. Suitable Living Environment – Non-housing
2. Decent Affordable Housing
3. Creating Economic Opportunities
4. Suitable Living Environment - Homeless
5. Suitable Living Environment – Special Needs/Human Services/Youth/Minority

The 2021 Five Year Consolidated Plan will be considered by the Grand Junction City Council for adoption on July 21, 2021.

d. 2021 Program Year Community Development Block Grant Funding Requests

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds are an entitlement grant to the City of Grand Junction which became eligible for the funding in 1996. The 2021 Program Year, which

will begin September 1, 2021, marks the City's 26th year of eligibility. Applications for funding were solicited and received by the City in March 2021. The purpose of the City Council workshop is to establish a work plan for the 2021 CDBG Program Year by recommending which projects should be funded.

Ms. Ashbeck noted that the City has received grant requests of \$727,243 from outside agencies and has identified three City capital improvements projects totaling \$1,028,595 that would be eligible for CDBG funding for a total of \$405,000 in grant requests (excluding \$25,000 administration funding requested). The City's allocation is \$469,557 for the CDBG 2021 Program Year.

Discussion ensued regarding the Safe Neighborhood Routes/Connections requests that were recommendations from the Urban Trails Committee. Support was expressed to bring forward the recommendations by staff. The final funding decision is scheduled to be made by the City Council at its meeting on June 16, 2021 with adoption of the Annual Action Plan occurring at the July 21, 2021 meeting.

Agenda Topic 2. City Council Communication

Councilmember Pe'a requested a workshop with the Marijuana Enforcement Division (MED) to learn about regulations and enforcement from the State's perspective.

Councilmember Herman asked that the listening sessions for marijuana regulations be added to Council's calendar. It was noted a listening session will be held at the June 7 workshop.

Councilmember Stout requested a brief explanation from City Attorney Shaver regarding the procedures and protocols regarding Council service on a board or commission. Mr. Shaver noted that when a Councilmember serves on a board, the Councilmember should have the board's best interest in mind. Sometimes there are conflicts between the board's interests and the City's interest, and abstentions in these circumstances are appropriate. It was requested that staff send a letter to the board Chair introducing the new Councilmember.

Councilmember Stout asked if Council would consider issuing a statement or taking a position in opposition on the PAUSE bill (Protect Animals from Unnecessary Suffering and Exploitation). She indicated the bill would have extreme negative impacts on farmers and ranchers. Councilmember Taggart requested a brief on the issue and Councilmember Stout will provide the requested information.

Councilmember Stout inquired into Council's interest in having a guided conversation about *Intersection of Race in The United States*. It was noted that the one-year anniversary of Mr.

George Floyd's death is coming up. Support was expressed to have this conversation before the end of the year and Councilmember Stout will send out information.

Mayor McDaniel stated that progress is being made in the selection of the consultant for Council's strategic planning session.

Councilmember Taggart requested that future workshops be held in a different format than Council seated at the dais. Councilmember Simpson requested that the workshops continue to be recorded and made available to support transparency.

Agenda Topic 3. Next Workshop Topics

This topic was not discussed.

Agenda Topic 4. Other Business

There was none.

Adjournment

The Workshop adjourned at 8:13 p.m.