

GRAND JUNCTION CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP SUMMARY

January 31, 2022

Meeting Convened: 5:30 p.m. Meeting held in person at the Fire Department Training Room, 625 Ute Avenue, and live streamed via GoToWebinar.

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

Staff present: City Manager Greg Caton, City Attorney John Shaver, Senior Assistant to the City Manager Greg LeBlanc, Finance Director Jodi Welch, Interim City Clerk Laura Bauer, and Deputy City Clerk Selestina Sandoval.

Agenda Topic 1. Discussion Topics

a. Public Market Feasibility Study

Councilmember Taggart introduced presenter Dr. Kathryn Bedell. Dr. Bedell is a local rancher seeking funding for a feasibility study to determine the interest of the community and area ranchers and farmers for a public market. The public market would provide a market for local farmers and ranchers and local food for consumers. The preferred location is the plaza at Las Colonias for the marketplace and an industrial spot nearby for food storage. The federal government has grant funding for these projects; however, the timeline for submittal is tight. Dr. Bedell sees her role as a facilitator of the entire project, starting with the feasibility study and curating bulk producers and local business owners. She anticipates her time commitment to be 10-20 hours per week, over a 6-8-week period at a rate of \$50 per hour.

Council had questions about the history of funding feasibility studies for private enterprise, obtaining funding assistance from other agencies, supporting county producers versus city producers, site selection and whether this would be a project for LCDC. After some discussion Council felt this would likely be a two-phase process. Phase I would be the feasibility study and Phase II would be a site analysis. Council directed City Manager Caton to connect with the City's grant writers and seek funding partners.

b. Audit Committee

The discussion was broken down into steps.

Step 1. Should there be an audit committee? Council felt there would be value in an audit committee to provide transparency, accountability, and more information to Council.

Step 2. What would be the functions of the committee? Council agreed that the committee would not conduct a separate audit but serve as a point of contact to discuss matters and facilitate the audit. The committee would review the RFP for audit services, supervise the audit, oversee the audit process, and serve as a point of contact for the auditor.

Step 3. How many members should serve on the committee? Council discussed the possibility of having someone from academia serve on the committee, having the Mayor and Mayor Pro Tem serve as ex-officio members, and if other Councilmembers should serve. It was decided that this was a good function for the Mayor and Mayor Pro Tem as ex-officio members.

Step 4. Charter Document. The City Attorney's Office will provide a draft Charter for review.

c. Internal Controls Audit

Council felt that an internal controls audit could assure Council that there are appropriate internal controls in place, and they are being followed. Upon completion of the regular audit, Council doesn't receive any feedback relative to internal controls. There were questions about whether this had to be a separate audit, how often it should occur, and the cost. In response to Council questions, Finance Director Jodi Welch stated that there has never been an internal controls audit. She reached out to an auditing firm who conducts these types of audits and cost would be based on the development of an RFP and scope of service. Council was supportive of moving forward with drafting an RFP for an internal controls audit.

d. Quarterly Financial Reports

Since May, Council has received two quarterly reports. Council expressed concerns about the format, the amount of detail in the reports, and some potentially conflicting information among the different reports. A Councilmember asked about the water fund, the sewer fund and the sales tax money allocated to capital projects. In response to Council questions, Finance Director Jodi Welch stated that finance can run numerous reports. Some Councilmembers felt that it was not their function to review all revenues and expenditures, but to review the overall finances of the City.

Agenda Topic 2. City Council Communication

Councilwoman Stout reported on the 360 Review Process for the City Manager and City Attorney. There was 100% response rate from both Council and Leadership. The City Manager and City Attorney reviews will be in upcoming executive sessions.

Councilman Taggart would like to see a portion of the TABOR overrides rebated to the citizens.

Councilwoman Stout volunteered to serve on the interview committee for the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. There are four members with expiring terms.

Agenda Topic 3. Next Workshop Topics

City Manager Caton stated that the next City Council workshop will be held on February 14, 2022, to discuss cannabis regulations.

Agenda Topic 4. Other Business

Councilmember Reitz was appointed to replace Councilmember Stout to the ARPA Committee. The first meeting is Tuesday, February 1, 2022, at 1:30 pm either virtually or at the stadium. The committee will do preliminary work such as setting up a Charter.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the workshop adjourned at 7:50 p.m.