

**GRAND JUNCTION CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING**

March 11, 2013

The City Council of the City of Grand Junction, Colorado met in Special Session on Monday, March 11, 2013 at 6:00 p.m. in the City Auditorium. Those present were Councilmembers Bennett Boeschstein, Jim Doody, Tom Kenyon, Laura Luke, Sam Susuras, and Council President Bill Pitts. Councilmember Teresa Coons was absent. Also present were Deputy City Manager Tim Moore, City Attorney John Shaver, and City Clerk Stephanie Tuin.

Council President Pitts called the meeting to order.

Airport Authority Board Appointee

City Attorney John Shaver reviewed the purpose of the meeting as being to review the process and recommendation for appointment of the seventh member of the Airport Board of Directors. He referred the City Council to the packet of applications they received via email. City Attorney Shaver explained how the seventh member of the Airport Authority is appointed. He then asked Chair of the Airport Authority Tom LaCroix to add more information.

Mr. LaCroix explained the process the Airport Authority went through to make a recommendation for the seventh member of the Airport Authority. He spoke to how the committee ranked the finalists, and disclosed any relationship any of the interviewers had with the finalists.

Council President Pitts inquired about the next steps. City Attorney Shaver said the next steps have not yet been decided.

Councilmember Doody asked if the selected candidate will be appointed by the Board and that it will not come back to the City Council. City Attorney Shaver said the bylaws are not completely clear so that process has not yet been decided but the opportunity is being made to make sure the City Council did not have any objection to any of the candidates.

Councilmember Kenyon said as the City Council's representative he needs to know if there is anyone being considered who the City Council would object to.

Council President Pitts inquired if there has been a background check on the applicants. Mr. LaCroix said the credentials of the finalist are impeccable. Board member David Hibberd said that was done through the interview process.

Councilmember Susuras said he read through all the resumes and he came up with the same person the committee is recommending.

Councilmember Luke said she does not have any history of the person except what has been submitted so she doesn't know what she can object to.

Councilmember Boeschstein said the bylaws forbid any Airport Authority member to have real property interest in the airport. Was this applicant asked? Mr. LaCroix said the applicant was asked clarifying that it is a financial interest that is prohibited.

Councilmember Susuras said he does not have any objection to the Airport Board recommendation.

Councilmember Kenyon said he needs direction from the majority of Council.

Councilmember Doody said he was fine with the process.

Mr. Hibberd said once the four finalists were selected, each were told that if not selected for this at-large position, to apply with the City and County for their appointments. They felt the four were that strong of candidates.

Councilmember Susuras confirmed that the City Council will still have the final say on the appointment.

Mr. LaCroix said they had a similar meeting with the County last week and the Commissioners were comfortable with the recommendation.

Councilmembers Boeschstein and Luke both concurred with the process knowing they would have the opportunity to interview the appointee after they are appointed.

The Council gave Councilmember Kenyon the authority to go forward.

Other Business

Councilmember Kenyon said that on the news Parks and Recreation Director Rob Schoeber was saying the City would be entertaining the purchase of Glacier Ice Rink yet the owners do not have any knowledge of this intent. Councilmember Susuras concurred saying he too received a call in that regard.

Councilmember Kenyon said the City needs to take a step back and be in touch with the owners.

Councilmember Boeschstein said the purchase was brought up during budget discussions but it is not in the five year capital plan. He said that an ice skating rink could be a wonderful thing in the community.

Councilmember Susuras said the costs are unknown and all of that needs to be considered before any purchase is discussed.

Regional Public Safety Training Facility

Deputy City Manager Tim Moore addressed the Regional Safety Training Facility to be located at Highway 141 and US Highway 50. Colorado Mesa University (CMU)

obtained this property from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). City Attorney Shaver advised that the City Council wrote a letter in support of the property acquisition.

Councilmember Kenyon said there was a proposal years ago about a regional training facility at the National Guard Armory. It was determined that location may not be suitable for all the training (like burning a building). He asked where the facility is to go.

Deputy City Manager Moore said the National Guard site was going to be difficult and this site along Highway 141, owned by CMU, is being explored as possibly a better location. It could be used by both police and fire.

Mesa County bid out the construction of the facility and it came in over budget by \$725,000. There is a \$400,000 grant from DOLA but that is in jeopardy if the project does not go forward. The Seizure Board is also planning on committing \$630,000. CMU offered to fund one third of the shortfall. The City and the County are also being asked to fund one-third of the shortfall each.

Councilmember Luke asked if this facility will include all the needs the Fire Department has expressed in the realm of a training facility. Deputy City Manager Moore said for the most part, although there may be a water issue. The Fire Department is currently training in Rifle.

Council President Pitts asked if other jurisdictions on the western slope would be able to use the facility. Deputy City Manager Moore said it will primarily be used for police training and they are looking at working fire training into the scope.

Council President Pitts asked if the shooting range will be open to the public. Deputy City Manager Moore said no, it will be for law enforcement only.

Deputy City Manager Moore explained what would be included in the reduced scope.

Councilmember Susuras asked if there should be an agreement in place first. City Attorney Shaver said there is a base agreement in place but with the change, an additional agreement would be advisable.

City Attorney Shaver said this will mostly be for law enforcement.

Councilmember Boeschstein asked if this will replace the current shooting range. Deputy City Manager Moore thought this one would be mostly for training, so likely both facilities would remain.

Councilmember Susuras agreed the facility is needed but there are not enough details worked out.

Council President Pitts summarized that the bottom line is the City would be committing around \$80,000.

Councilmember Susuras asked where the funds will come from. Deputy City Manager Moore said some of the \$120,000 allocated for the Pro Cycling Tour could be reallocated.

Deputy City Manager Moore clarified what was reduced in the scope of work noting it will be to standards but would be bare bones.

Councilmember Kenyon asked about the fire training. Deputy City Manager Moore said at a meeting today, the County and CMU are agreeable if there is enough real estate available to include the necessary facilities for fire training.

Councilmember Kenyon asked about other costs like pressurized water and capturing the water used to extinguish fires which could be considered a mini storm event.

Deputy City Manager Moore said those costs have not been addressed yet.

Councilmember Luke said it was mentioned during the last CMU request that the Council would be able to approach CMU with requests.

Councilmember Boeschstein was concerned about fire danger to the surrounding land, and protection of the drainages.

Deputy City Manager Moore said the partners have those same concerns.

Councilmember Boeschstein said there will also be a dust concern.

Councilmember Doody mentioned the lack of compliance with the County and the Orchard Mesa Pool maintenance contract that was broken; he wanted an iron clad agreement.

City Attorney Shaver said they will draft a suitable agreement. Deputy City Manager Moore needs direction to go forward.

Councilmember Kenyon said he would like to see plans and have more information from the Chiefs.

City Attorney Shaver said the agreement can be structured in any way the Council desires, last money in, includes value going forward, use of particular facilities, etc.

Council President Pitts said Deputy City Manager Moore needs a nod to go forward.

Councilmember Luke said it sounds like this will help public safety.

City Attorney Shaver said CMU will use the driving track to train students and the City use will be a secondary user.

Councilmember Susuras asked financial details. Deputy City Manager Moore said \$80,000 each unless the Communication Center also contributes, then it will be \$60,000 each.

Councilmember Kenyon suggested the City Council segregate the Orchard Mesa Pool issue from this negotiation. He also wants to know the whole vision. He is ok with exploring it, but needs to know the whole picture before the entire process is complete.

Other Business

There was no other business.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Stephanie Tuin, MMC
City Clerk