

**GRAND JUNCTION CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE CANDIDATE FORUM AND SPECIAL MEETING**

July 10, 2013

The City Council of the City of Grand Junction convened into Candidate Forum and Special Meeting on the 10th day of July, 2013 at 6:00 p.m. in the City Auditorium. Those present were Councilmembers Bennett Boeschstein, Rick Brainard, Martin Chazen, Jim Doody, Phyllis Norris, and Council President Sam Susuras. Also present were Deputy City Manager Tim Moore, City Attorney John Shaver, and City Clerk Stephanie Tuin. City Manager Rich Englehart was absent.

Council President Susuras called the meeting to order. The candidates were seated at the dais.

Council President Susuras allowed each candidate to introduce themselves and then posed questions to each. After all of the City Council questions were asked, questions were solicited from the audience including the media.

Council President Susuras closed the question and answer portion of the meeting and called a recess in order for the City Council to take their place on the dais for deliberation.

The meeting recessed at 8:00 p.m.

The meeting reconvened at 8:10 p.m. All members of Council were seated at the dais.

Councilmember Boeschstein said they were really good candidates and he appreciates the time they took to study the issues. The decision will be difficult, but he is ready to make a decision.

Councilmember Doody thanked everyone for coming. He noted the big shoes to replace Councilmember Harry Butler. He is prepared to make a decision.

Councilmember Norris thanked all the candidates. She understands how difficult it is to be in their positions of answering questions under pressure. The decision will be difficult.

Councilmember Chazen thanked the candidates and noted it takes courage to be willing to be up at the dais and answer questions. He believes there is a bigger audience than those in attendance in the Auditorium. He is ready to make a decision.

Councilmember Brainard said there were great candidates and great answers. It will be a hard decision.

Council President Susuras thanked the candidates. He asked the City Clerk to call the roll and for the Council to indicate their selection.

Councilmembers Brainard, Doody, and Boeschstein nominated Les Miller. Councilmembers Chazen, Norris, and Council President Susuras nominated Duncan McArthur.

Council President Susuras noted there was a tie between Les Miller and Duncan McArthur. He asked City Attorney Shaver to explain the options for breaking a tie.

City Attorney Shaver summarized the options and encouraged Council to deliberate, identify, and determine what decision factors would break the deadlock between the two candidates.

Council President Susuras opened up discussion for how Council should proceed.

Councilmembers Chazen and Brainard said they had no preference to determine how the deadlock should be broken.

Councilmember Norris said she would like to discuss the reasons for nominating their selections.

Councilmembers Doody and Boeschstein agreed with Councilmember Norris.

Councilmember Boeschstein said he has worked with Les Miller on the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) and is impressed with his quiet consideration. Mr. Miller has studied the issues, is a strong supporter of planning, and has supported the Greater Downtown Plan. He has a vested interest in the community, is independent, and follows local issues. He will support Mr. Miller.

Councilmember Doody agreed with Councilmember Boeschstein. When Mr. Miller talked about the bond issue for the Public Safety Facility, he was well versed and he knew the process for using Certificates of Participation (COPs). He thinks Mr. Miller could bring understanding and leadership to the dais and could make informed decisions for the community.

Councilmember Norris agreed that Mr. Miller was very impressive, however she can see those same attributes in Duncan McArthur and has seen him at more Council meetings. Mr. McArthur came in second in the election for District E and the citizens know who he is.

Councilmember Chazen said Mr. McArthur knows the planning process intimately and has been involved with builder groups; he has a good grip on the planning process from a developer's perspective and this experience would be valuable. Mr. McArthur also has a market view on issues. He is known from the campaign process and was effective in

expressing his views. He came in second, and the perspective of an experienced market view is needed. He thinks Mr. McArthur is a good choice.

Councilmember Brainard said it is a difficult decision as both Mr. Miller and Mr. McArthur did well in all categories. He noted Mr. Miller is an entrepreneur and he liked his presence as a leader; when he speaks, he does it from a position of strength and knowledge.

Council President Susuras said Mr. McArthur is a strong candidate. He ran a strong race and has been attending Council meetings and workshops for several years. Mr. McArthur is well versed in planning and development and he thinks this background and experience is needed on Council. He supports Mr. McArthur.

Council President Susuras asked if anyone on Council wished to change their vote. If there is not a change in vote, he asked if someone would be willing to make a motion to direct the City Clerk to go back and start the candidate process again, as he sees this as being the only choice because the tie cannot be broken.

Councilmember Boeschstein asked if they could consider another candidate who spoke at the forum.

City Attorney Shaver said Council could deliberate over another candidate to see if there could be a majority consensus over that candidate.

Council President Susuras asked Council if they would like to consider another candidate from the forum.

Councilmember Brainard said the two leading candidates have been identified, so he thinks it is not reasonable to consider another candidate that is not in the top two selection.

Councilmember Chazen said he is firm on who he thinks the best candidate is, unless Council takes another vote on all five candidates again.

Councilmember Norris said last time an appointment to Council was made, she was disappointed that this person had not been a candidate during the previous election and the public did not know anything about this person who ended up being appointed to Council. She believes the citizens would support Mr. McArthur over the other candidates as he campaigned during the 2013 election and has been most visible.

Councilmember Doody said the people didn't elect Mr. McArthur so he does not agree with Councilmember Norris on that point. He wants to support Les Miller.

Councilmember Boeschstein said he would also continue to support Les Miller. Mr. Miller would be an advocate for planning, economic development, and moving the community forward.

Council President Susuras confirmed that no one would change their vote and asked Council for a motion to start the process all over again.

Councilmember Chazen asked City Attorney Shaver if there were time constraints for filling this position. City Attorney Shaver said that according to State Statute, Council has 60 days from the official declaration of vacancy to fill the position.

Councilmember Chazen asked City Clerk Tuin if there would be enough time to start the process again. Ms. Tuin said that, although difficult, it could be done. However, if an appointment cannot be made within the 60 day time frame, a special election would be called. City Attorney Shaver confirmed Ms. Tuin's answer.

Councilmember Doody moved to start the process over for seeking candidates for appointment to District E Council seat. Councilmember Boeschstein seconded the motion. Motion carried by roll call vote.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Stephanie Tuin, MMC
City Clerk