

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

Fire Administration Training Room

March 4, 2024

Call to Order

Council President Anna Stout called the Special Meeting of the Grand Junction City Council to order at 4:00 p.m. on the 4th day of March 2024.

Councilmembers Scott Beilfuss, Cody Kennedy, Jason Nguyen, Randall Reitz, Dennis Simpson, and Council President Anna Stout were present. Council President *pro tem* Abe Herman was absent. Also, present was City Attorney John Shaver.

There was also a member of the media in attendance and several staff members.

President Stout called the Special Meeting of March 4, 2024 to Order. She stated that the Council in open session will consider/establish as determined pertinent by the City Council, the following items:

- (I) Job Search Goal(s);
- (II) Job Description, if other than the Current City Manager Job Description;
- (III) Recruitment/Appointment Deadline(s) and/or Time Frame for Appointing or Employing an Interim City Manager;
- (IV) Requirements for Applicant(s)/Selection Procedure(s).

Discussion focused on filling the Interim City Manager role due to the impending departure of the current City Manager. Discussion emphasized the timeline, potential candidates, and the need to avoid a leadership gap. There were debates about whether to appoint someone from the existing staff temporarily or to reach out to retired city managers or those between jobs.

Councilmember Simpson had questions and concerns regarding going into an Executive Session for the selection process; City Attorney Shaver responded with the Councilmember expressing that he had a differing opinion, based on opinions expressed by attorneys, than the City Attorney's interpretation of the law.

For clarification of the record the City Attorney noted that if the Executive Session were held it would be for the specific and limited purpose of the Council reviewing the resume of one applicant and considering whether to ask that applicant to be interviewed. Additionally, the City Attorney corrected for the record the notice allowing the Executive

Session to take place with the inclusion of "(4)" after 24-6-4020(4)(F)(I), so that it read: *PURSUANT TO C.R.S. SECTION 24-6-402(3.5) AND/OR 24-6-402(4)(F)(I) REGARDING AND RELATING TO DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION OF APPOINTMENT OR EMPLOYMENT MATTERS RELATING TO AN INTERIM CITY MANAGER.*

President Stout asked for a motion and second to convene in Executive Session.

Councilmember Reitz moved and Councilmember Nguyen seconded to convene into *EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS AND CONSIDER APPOINTMENT OR EMPLOYMENT MATTERS RELATING TO AN INTERIM CITY MANAGER PURSUANT TO C.R.S. SECTION 24-6-402(3.5) AND/OR 24-6-402(4)(F)(I) REGARDING AND RELATING TO DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION OF APPOINTMENT OR EMPLOYMENT MATTERS RELATING TO AN INTERIM CITY MANAGER.*

With a vote (5/1), with Councilmember Simpson in opposition, the Executive Session was convened in accordance with the posted notice and for the purpose stated. The meeting was conducted in the Fire Administration Training Room. Staff members and the media representative present exited the room. The time was 4:57 p.m.

Upon completion of the Executive Session, Councilmember Simpson moved, and Councilmember Reitz seconded a motion to adjourn the Executive Session. The motion passed 6:0.

Council President Stout reconvened the Special Meeting at 5:07 p.m. and stated for the record that Council met in Executive Session: *TO DISCUSS AND CONSIDER APPOINTMENT OR EMPLOYMENT MATTERS RELATING TO AN INTERIM CITY MANAGER PURSUANT TO C.R.S. SECTION 24-6-402(3.5) AND/OR 24-6-402(4)(F)(I) REGARDING AND RELATING TO DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION OF APPOINTMENT OR EMPLOYMENT MATTERS RELATING TO AN INTERIM CITY MANAGER.*

Councilmembers continued a brief discussion regarding the need for the open session items to be addressed and expressed a desire to invite Interim City Manager candidate, Robert McLaurin for an interview in an Executive Session on Wednesday, March 6, 2024.

A motion was made by Councilmember Simpson and seconded by Councilmember Kennedy to send an invitation to Interim City Manager candidate, Robert McLaurin, for an interview in an Executive Session on Wednesday, March 6, 2024. The motion passed unanimously by a vote of 6:0.

There being no further business or discussion, Council President Stout adjourned the Special Meeting at 5:10 p.m.

Amy Phillips
City Clerk

