

Grand Junction City Council
Minutes of the Regular Meeting
May 15, 2024

Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance, Moment of Silence

The City Council of the City of Grand Junction convened into regular session on the 15th day of May 2024 at 5:30 p.m. Those present were Councilmembers Scott Beilfuss, Cody Kennedy, Dennis Simpson, Anna Stout, Council President Pro Tem Randall Reitz, and Council President Abram Herman. Councilmember Jason Nguyen was absent.

Also present were Interim City Manager Andrea Phillips, City Attorney John Shaver, Transportation and Engineering Director Trenton Prall, Parks and Recreation Director Ken Sherbenou, Deputy City Clerks Selestina Sandoval, and Krystle Koehler.

Council President Herman called the meeting to order. Councilmember Kennedy led the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by a moment of silence.

Proclamation

Proclaiming May 12 - May 18, 2024 as National Police Week

Councilmember Kennedy read the proclamation; Police Chief Matt Smith accepted the proclamation and introduced Mesa County Sheriff Todd Rowell, Police Chief David Krouse, Lieutenant Nick Peck from Fruita Police Department, Deputy Chief Bill Baker, Sergeant Stan Ancell, Police Officer Arnold Naik, and Commander Sean Crocker.

Proclaiming May 19 - May 25, 2024 as National EMS Week

Councilmember Stout read the proclamation; Deputy Fire Chief Gus Hendricks and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Chief Mark McIntire accepted the proclamation. EMS Chief Mark McIntire thanked Council for their continued support.

Proclaiming May 18, 2024 as Colorado Public Lands Day

Council President Herman read the proclamation, and he will be presenting it Saturday May 18th at the River Front Festival.

Public Comments

Sherrie Harmon expressed her concern regarding the Orchard Mesa Cemetery.

Karol Ward shared she is actively seeking ways to save the Orchard Mesa Pool.

Interim City Manager Report

Interim City Manager Phillips had no report.

Boards and Commission Liaison Reports

Councilmember Beilfuss gave updates on the Historic Preservation Board, and the Forestry Board.

Councilmember Kennedy shared information about the Grand Junction Regional Airport Authority, and Grand Junction Economic Partnership.

Council President Pro Tem Reitz had updates about the Grand Junction Housing Authority, Visit Grand Junction, and had an annual update regarding Rides and Vibes.

Councilmember Stout shared that she attended a community meeting for Mind Springs and her new board Air Service Alliance will meet June 7th.

Council President Herman also had updates on the Rides and Vibes event.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approval of Minutes

- a. Summary of the April 29, 2024 Workshop
- b. Minutes of the May 1, 2024 Special Meeting
- c. Minutes of the May 1, 2024 Regular Meeting

2. Set Public Hearings

- a. Legislative
 - i. Introduction of an Ordinance Making Supplemental Appropriations to the 2024 Budget of the City of Grand Junction, Colorado for the Year Beginning January 1, 2024 and Ending December 31, 2024, and Setting a Public Hearing for June 5, 2024

3. Agreements

- a. Authorization to Defer TCP Fees for Blackout Sports

4. Procurements

- a. Construction Contract for 27 Road Safe Routes to School Project (SRTS)

Regular Agenda

A Resolution Authorizing the Interim City Manager to Sign a Contingent Offer to Purchase Property at or Near 2767- 2773 C 1/2 Road Including Two Unaddressed Parcels in Grand Junction, Colorado

The City Council has been presented with the opportunity to purchase approximately 12.5 acres of property adjacent to the Colorado River (Property) for \$1,855,000. The Property is located at/near 2767-2773 C ½ Road and includes two unaddressed parcels owned by the Sellers in south Grand Junction. The Property, if purchased, will, among other things, provide the land necessary for completing the Riverfront trail. After discounting the purchase price by \$190,000 for a life estate to Bennie Skinner, the balance will be paid in equal amounts by the City, Mesa County, and Colorado Parks & Wildlife (CPW). After the purchase, the City will convey a conservation and trail easement (C&TE) to CPW at no cost. The C&TE will concern approximately 5.5 acres of the Property. The public will not be allowed to access the Property until construction of the trail is complete. When complete, the City will assume management responsibilities for the C&TE easement area in accordance with a management plan. The City and Mesa County have not determined the eventual use of the 7+/- acres; however, each has committed to a *public use* of that portion of the Property, with one such possible use being for workforce, affordable and/or attainable housing.

City Attorney John Shaver, and Director of Engineering and Transportation Trenton Prall presented this item.

Conversation highlighted how exciting it will be to complete the Riverfront Trail, if this item will come back to the council for approval as it is based on a contingency in the contract and gratitude to staff for working on this project and completing the trail.

The public comment period opened at 6:07 pm.

There were no public comments.

The public comment period closed at 6:07 pm.

Councilmember Stout moved, and Council President Pro Tem Reitz seconded to adopt Resolution No. 36-24, a resolution authorizing the Interim City Manager to sign a Contingent Offer to Purchase Property at or Near 2767 - 2773 C 1/2 Road including two unaddressed parcels owned by the sellers in Grand Junction, Colorado. Motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

A Resolution Updating City Park Rules

As happens every year or two, the Parks and Recreation department is in the midst of updating park rules. This effort also involves redesigning park rule signs for a more effective presentation. With the redesign, a few rule changes are proposed. These changes are in the spirit of acknowledging that the parks and recreation system is growing and, with that growth, the system is more susceptible to negative behavior in

the parks, including increased vandalism. As such, staff proposed changes to the rules and the rules' presentation. The updated rules are proposed to help make the parks safer and more attractive to the entire community.

Parks and Recreation Director Ken Sherbenou, and Police Chief Matt Smith presented this item.

Conversation discussed opportunities to work together and solve problems, the health and safety of everyone, respecting each other, and the danger tents that are being erected in public parks pose to our police officers.

The public comment period opened at 6:31 pm.

Jared Carty, Tyler Glassman, and Tammi Hickie are in support of this item.

Ashley, Andy Sweet, Li hua Le, Lee Peak, Gerika Thristen, Bishop Walden, Kylee Mayfield, Jade Beachem, and Kristen Sidell, spoke in opposition of this resolution.

Council took a break at 7:03 pm and resumed at 7:12 pm.

Mya (no last name given), Ken Hyland, Stephania Vasconez, Richard Crespin, Zachary Drake, and Sherry Cole, spoke in opposition of this resolution.

Lisa Fry, Ruth Kennent, Rochelle Fleck, Nina Anderson, Baird Brown, and Hogan Peterson spoke in support of this item.

Chris Masters, Chief of staff with Homeward Bound shared the facility is not at capacity and space is available for homeless individuals.

The public comment period closed at 7:51 pm.

Conversation ensued ensuring the community Council is listening to their concerns. The level of violence, mental and health issues are observed at Desert Vista, and building a plan to get to a better solution were discussed. Comments were made that parks should be accessible, and that this is a very difficult decision that people all over the world are trying to solve. The effective date of the resolution was also discussed.

Councilmember Stout moved, and Councilmember Kennedy seconded to adopt Resolution No. 37-24, a resolution adopting the 2024 Park rules. Motion passed by roll call vote 5-1, with Councilmember Beilfuss voting No.

Non-Scheduled Comments

There was none.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:29 pm.

Selestina Sandoval, CMC

City Clerk

