

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

**September 5, 2013**

The City Council of the City of Grand Junction convened into the Candidate Forum and Special Meeting on the 5<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2013 at 6:00 p.m. in the City Auditorium. Those present were Councilmembers Bennett Boeschstein, Martin Chazen, Jim Doody, Duncan McArthur, Phyllis Norris, and Council President Sam Susuras. Also present were City Manager Rich Englehart, City Attorney John Shaver, and City Clerk Stephanie Tuin.

Council President Susuras called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. The candidates seated at the dais were Teresa Black, Riecke Claussen, Charles Michael Elliot, Tom Kenyon, Barbara Traylor Smith, and Reginald Wall.

Council President Susuras allowed each candidate to introduce himself or herself and then posed questions to each. After all of the City Council questions were asked, questions were solicited from the audience including the media. The candidates were then asked to make a brief closing statement.

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 8:04 p.m.

The meeting reconvened at 8:15 p.m. All members of Council were seated at the dais.

Council President Susuras asked for discussion.

Councilmember Boeschstein thanked all the candidates and encouraged anyone not selected for the At Large Council seat to apply for one of the City's volunteer boards. He said they should not be discouraged.

Councilmember Doody thanked all the candidates and said he knows how difficult it is to be up on all the issues. He agreed that serving on the City's boards and commissions is a good foundation for getting started.

Councilmember Norris also thanked the candidates and noted the decision will be very difficult as any of the candidates could serve and be a great contribution. She agreed with Councilmembers Boeschstein and Doody that the candidates should stay involved.

Councilmember Chazen echoed the thanks and noted that it is a difficult process and it will be a difficult decision. There were diverse questions and diverse answers. He

encouraged anyone not selected to volunteer for one of the City's boards or to run for City Council in the future.

Councilmember McArthur said he agreed that it will be very difficult decision and that anyone of the candidates could serve well.

Council President Susuras agreed with all of Council's comments.

Council President Susuras asked City Clerk Tuin to call the roll.

Councilmember Boeschstein voted for Tom Kenyon.

Councilmember Chazen voted for Barbara Traylor Smith

Councilmember Doody voted for Teresa Black

Councilmember McArthur voted for Barbara Traylor Smith

Councilmember Norris voted for Reicke Claussen

Council President Susuras voted for Reicke Claussen.

Council President Susuras asked each Councilmember to voice their reasons for their vote.

Councilmember McArthur said he liked Barbara Traylor Smith's answers and she has attended Council workshops and meetings.

Councilmember Chazen said his vote was based on Barbara Traylor Smith's skills and participation.

Councilmember Norris agreed that Ms. Traylor Smith was a strong candidate, however she feels that Mr. Claussen came across with a different perspective that she liked.

Councilmember Doody said Ms. Black is consistent, grounded, and knowledgeable on the issues and he liked her approach.

Councilmember Boeschstein said he is willing to change his vote to Ms. Traylor Smith. He has worked with Mr. Kenyon during his first term and has known him a long time. Mr. Kenyon is a good friend and a good ally, however in order to encourage a majority vote, he is willing to change his vote to Ms. Traylor Smith.

Councilmember Norris said she is would also change her vote to Ms. Traylor Smith.

Council President Susuras said he has known Mr. Claussen for a long time and he has high morals and standards. He also really liked Tom Kenyon and has the utmost respect

for him, however he also supports Ms. Traylor Smith. He thinks she is a great woman and respects her attendance at Council meetings. Council President Susuras said he would change his vote to Ms. Traylor Smith.

Councilmember Doody said he encouraged Ms. Black to be a candidate for the next Council election. He thinks Ms. Traylor Smith has put in her homework and believes it is important for Council to move forward in unison; his vote is for Ms. Traylor Smith.

Barbara Traylor Smith was elected by the current Councilmembers unanimously to fill the At Large Council seat.

City Clerk Stephanie Tuin administered the Oath of Office to Barbara Traylor Smith.

Councilmember Traylor Smith thanked the City Council and all others who participated and encouraged the candidates to participate on the boards and commissions.

### **Adjournment**

With no further business before Council, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Stephanie Tuin, MMC  
City Clerk