

Grand Junction City Council
Minutes of the Regular Meeting
October 2, 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 2nd day of October 2024, at 5:30 p.m. Those present were Councilmembers Scott Beilfuss, Jason Nguyen, Dennis Simpson, Cody Kennedy, Anna Stout, Council President Pro Tem Randall Reitz and Council President Abram Herman.

Also present were Interim City Manager Andrea Phillips, City Attorney John Shaver, Parks and Recreation Director Ken Sherbenou, City Clerk Selestina Sandoval, and Deputy City Clerk Misty Williams.

Council President Herman called the meeting to order. Student August Greenwood-Colvin led the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by a moment of silence.

Proclamations

Proclaiming October as Arts and Humanities Month in the City of Grand Junction

Councilmember Beilfuss read the proclamation declaring October as Arts and Humanities Month in the City of Grand Junction. Chairman of the Commission on Arts and Culture Matt Janson and members of the board accepted the proclamation.

Proclaiming October 6-12, 2024 as Fire Prevention Week in the City of Grand Junction

Councilmember Stout read the proclamation declaring October 6-12, 2024, as Fire Prevention Week. Fire Chief Ken Watkins and members of the Grand Junction Fire Department accepted the proclamation.

Appointments

To the Forestry Board

Council President Pro Tem Reitz moved to appoint Tanya Travis and Earl Perry for full terms expiring November 30, 2027 and to reappoint Mollie Freilicher, Bill Cooper, and Dan Komlo for full terms expiring November 30, 2027, seconded by Councilmember Simpson. Motion carried by a unanimous voice vote.

To the Historic Preservation Board

Councilmember Kennedy moved to appoint Kevin Tinsley for a partial term expiring December 2026, seconded by Councilmember Nguyen. Motion carried by a unanimous voice vote.

Public Comments

Public comments were heard from Sean Jacobson, Tad Hatter, Brandon Towles, Daniel Watson, Jeremy Sheetz, Thomas McCloskey, and John Monette.

Interim City Manager Report

Interim City Manager Andrea Phillips did not have a report for Council.

Boards and Commission Liaison Reports

Councilmember Kennedy provided an update on the Grand Junction Regional Airport Authority, including Weststar improvements and progress on the restoration of the Salt Lake City flight schedule. He also reported on the Museums of Western Colorado receiving a presentation from the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) on the Terminal Project and various events at the museum.

Councilmember Stout provided updates on Colorado Municipal League's policy making schedule, the Opioid Settlement Governance Board, the Air Service Alliance and its marketing of Grand Junction, and a conference for the Council of Geographic Naming Committee.

Council President Pro Tem Reitz provided updates on the Porchella event this weekend.

Councilmember Beilfuss provided a report on the Commission on Arts and Culture Board selection of art in the roundabouts, as well as the selection of an artist for the bike racks and benches downtown. He attended the Basque Event as part of the Historic Preservation Board. He also gave updates on the Colorado Water Summit, and on the homeless population, regarding medical response calls and transport, and the Business Incubator.

Council President Herman reported on the Arts Festival this weekend, DDA's car show that was held on September 21st, an AI-driven chat for visitors to downtown, a grant for the Terminal Project, and the grand opening of the Asteria Theater.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approval of Minutes

- a. Minutes of the September 16, 2024, Special Meeting
- b. Summary of the September 16, 2024, Workshop
- c. Minutes of the September 18, 2024, Regular Meeting
- d. Minutes of the September 18, 2024, Special Meeting Executive Session

2. Set Public Hearings

- a. Legislative
 - i. Introduction of an Ordinance Regarding the City of Grand Junction Procurement Policy and Setting a Public Hearing for October 16, 2024
 - ii. Introduction of an Ordinance Concerning the Salary of the City Manager and Setting a Public Hearing for October 16, 2024

3. Procurements

- a. Sole Source Purchase Access Control (Security) Hardware Installation and Software Programming for Multiple City Buildings

4. Resolutions

- a. A Resolution Authorizing an Easement on City-owned Property at 1351 Riverfront Loop (Las Colonias)
- b. A Resolution Authorizing the Interim City Manager to Submit a Grant Request to the Colorado Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) for the Local Planning Capacity Grant Program

Councilmember Kennedy moved, and Councilmember Nguyen seconded to adopt Consent Agenda Items #1- #4. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

REGULAR AGENDA

5. Public Hearings

- a. Legislative
 - i. An Ordinance for Supplemental Appropriations

Interim Finance Director Jodi Welch provided a brief presentation on the details of the Ordinance for Supplemental Appropriations.

This supplemental appropriation will provide necessary spending authority for additional funding for the contract with MA Construction for the emergency repair of the storm water conveyance infrastructure at 733 Horizon Drive, the Energov SAAS migration, Salt Flats infrastructure, and funding towards a property purchase near the intersection of Ute Avenue and 1st and 2nd streets.

Comments were heard from Councilmember Kennedy and Council President Pro Tem Reitz.

The public hearing was opened at 6:40 pm.

No comments were heard.

The public hearing was closed at 6:40 pm.

Councilmember Kennedy moved, seconded by Councilmember Nguyen to adopt Ordinance No. 5233 making the 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, on final passage and ordered final publication in pamphlet form. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

6. Procurements

- a. Discussion and Consideration of an Agreement for the Construction of a Materials Recovery Facility

Since additional information was received by staff that was not able to be reviewed prior to the City Council meeting, staff requested a continuance on this item. (TBD)

Councilmember Kennedy requested updates on incoming information, to keep Council abreast of any changes that may occur.

Councilmember Stout moved, seconded by Councilmember Nguyen, to continue item indefinitely, no specified meeting date at the moment. Motion carried by a unanimous roll call vote.

7. Other Business

- a. Consideration of Lease Amendments, 2024 Rent Abatement and Approval for Additional 2025 Fireworks Displays

The Jackalopes have approached the City with several requests to continue their operation. Several conversations with the team owner, league president and team manager have occurred. The Jackalopes have indicated they are considering leaving Grand Junction since they have stated that they have had substantial and unsustainable financial losses during the 2024 season. As such, they have proposed several items for the City's consideration. In addition to some changes to their lease with the City, they are seeking abatement of 2024 rent and a renegotiation of the terms of their lease.

Interim City Manager Andrea Phillips presented information on this request.

Jackalopes Owner Mike Tomlin and Pioneer League President Mike Shapiro, gave a detailed background on the items requested. Parks and Recreation Director Ken Sherbenou provided information on the stadium lease and financial stats.

Comments were heard from Councilmembers Stout, Kennedy, Simpson, Beilfuss, and Council President Herman on the lease amendments and 2024 rent abatement requests.

Comments were heard from Councilmembers Stout, Council President Pro Tem Reitz and Council President Herman on the fireworks displays. Concerns were brought up about how the fireworks displays affect citizens and their pets, as well as citizens suffering from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

The public comment was opened at 7:18 pm.

Comments were heard from Jack Delmore and Brian Rasmussen.

The public comment was closed at 7:24 pm.

Discussion was had by Council regarding the items requested. Councilmember Stout moved to deny the request for additional fireworks displays, 2024 rent abatement and consideration of lease amendments, seconded by Councilmember Simpson. Motion carried by a unanimous roll call vote.

8. Non-Scheduled Comments

Comment was heard Brian Rasmussen.

Comment was heard from Councilmembers Kennedy, Beilfuss, Nguyen, Stout, Council President Pro Tem Reitz, and Council President Herman.

9. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:47 pm.



Selestina Sandoval, CMC

City Clerk

