

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

Fire Administration Training Room

October 21, 2024

Call to Order

Council President Herman called the Special Meeting of the Grand Junction City Council to order at 5:31 p.m. on the 21st day of October 2024.

Those present were Councilmembers Scott Beilfuss, Cody Kennedy, Jason Nguyen, Council President Pro Tem Randall Reitz (via phone), Dennis Simpson, Anna Stout and Council President Abram Herman. Fire Battalion Chief Brian Lurvey, EMS Chief Mark McIntire and Police Chief Matt Smith were also present.

Executive Session

Councilmember Kennedy moved and Councilmember Nguyen seconded to convene into ***EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS MATTERS THAT MAY BE SUBJECT TO NEGOTIATIONS, DEVELOPING STRATEGY FOR NEGOTIATIONS, AND/OR INSTRUCTING NEGOTIATORS PURSUANT TO COLORADO'S OPEN MEETINGS LAW, C.R.S. 24-6-402(4)(e)(I), RELATIVE TO POSSIBLE CITY FINANCIAL PARTICIPATION TO FACILITATE AN AFFILIATION BETWEEN LARKIN COMMUNITY HOSPITAL FOUNDATION INC. AND COLORADO WEST INC. D/B/A MIND SPRINGS, INC.***

It was a unanimous vote to convene into Executive Session for the purpose stated.

Upon completion of the Executive Session, Councilmember Kennedy moved, and Councilmember Nguyen seconded to return to open session in the Fire Administration Training Room. The motion passed 7-0.

Council President Herman reconvened the Special Meeting at 6:36 p.m.

Consideration of UNITA Railway Amicus Brief

- The council reviewed and adopted a resolution supporting the city's participation in an amicus brief regarding the UNITA Railway project.
 - The brief focuses on ensuring that federal procedures are followed under NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act) for assessing environmental and community impacts.
 - Councilmembers emphasized that this support was purely procedural and does not reflect a stance on energy production or environmental concerns.

- Safety concerns related to increased rail traffic through Grand Junction were discussed, including potential impacts on transportation and safety at railroad crossings.
- Councilmember Stout moved, and Councilmember Nguyen seconded to adopt Resolution 77-24, a Resolution joining the *amicus* brief in the United States Supreme Court case of Seven County Infrastructure v. Eagle County, Colorado *et al.* The resolution passed unanimously (7-0).

Adjournment of the Special Meeting

There being no further business, the special meeting adjourned at 6:51 p.m.

Call to Order Council Workshop

The City Council Workshop was called to order at 6:51 p.m.

a. Resource Center Discussion

- Current State of the Resource Center:
 - Increased use has overwhelmed the Resource Center, leading to operational challenges, including:
 - Insufficient staff-to-client ratios.
 - Safety concerns for staff and users due to reports of drug use and altercations.
 - Significant impacts on surrounding businesses, especially in the hospitality sector.
 - High staff turnover and lack of training were noted as concerns.
- Financial Overview and Requests:
 - Homeward Bound requested \$135,000 in emergency funding to hire:
 - Two additional staff members to assist during operating hours.
 - A community navigator to connect users with needed services.
 - Current operational costs are estimated at \$415,000 annually.
- Key Discussion Points:
 - Council debated immediate and long-term strategies to address concerns:
 - Temporary closure for retraining and operational review.
 - Exploring relocation to reduce neighborhood impacts.

- Adjusting hours of operation and setting client limits to improve safety.
- Enhancing partnerships with organizations like United Way to improve service delivery and oversight.
- Council Decisions and Direction:
 - Staff was directed to:
 - Expedite the search for alternative locations.
 - Collaborate with service providers to create a comprehensive plan addressing staffing, safety, and operational concerns.
 - A progress report and potential budget considerations will be presented at a future workshop.

b. City Recycling

- Background:
 - General Services has paused the roll-out of additional phases of the curbside recycling program due to the inability to accept, store, sort, and process the amount of recyclables at the City Shops location.
 - Staff has been studying the City's needs, analyzing future tonnage, capacity, sizing of the facility, and options to scale up the robotics/sorting equipment to avoid overbuilding the facility, and ensuring a financial model to cover costs.
 - A Materials Recovery Facility appears to be a logical next step in the evolution of the City's recycling program.
 - A Request for Proposals was issued by the City, which received three responses, with very different possible solutions given by the respondents.
 - Staff is seeking consensus from Council on the next steps and recommends that Council create a committee of three Councilmembers to work with staff on a solution that can be brought forth as a recommended pathway for the city.
- Next Steps:
 - Council agreed to form a three-member committee to oversee the RFP process, ensuring:
 - Transparency through open meetings.
 - Clear communication of council expectations and criteria for applicants.

Other Business

There was none.

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.



Selestina Sandoval, CMC

City Clerk

