

Grand Junction City Council
Minutes of the Regular Meeting
January 15, 2025

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 January, at 5:45 p.m. Those present were Councilmembers Scott Beilfuss, Cody Kennedy, Jason Nguyen, Dennis Simpson, Anna Stout, Council President Pro Tem Randall Reitz and Council President Abram Herman.

Also present were City Manager Mike Bennett, City Attorney John Shaver, Planning Manager Niki Galehouse, City Clerk Selestina Sandoval, Deputy City Clerk Krystle Koehler, and Administrative Assistant Kerry Graves.

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

Proclamations

Proclaiming the Month of January 2025 as National Crime Stoppers Month in the City of Grand Junction

Councilmember Kennedy read the proclamation. Bob Culver, with Mesa County Crime Stoppers, accepted the proclamation.

Proclaiming January 20, 2025, as Martin Luther King Jr. Day in the City of Grand Junction

Councilmember Beilfuss read the proclamation. David Combs, with Black Citizens and Friends, accepted the proclamation.

Proclaiming The City of Grand Junction an Inclusive City

Council President Pro Tem Reitz read the proclamation. Monique Terpstra Sturgeon, Executive Director of Western Slope Native American Resource Center accepted the proclamation.

Public Comments

Public comments were heard from Donald Hunger, Kian Highland, Madeline Mejia, Mikolai Weer and Eric Niederkruger.

City Manager Report

City Manager Mike Bennett had nothing to report.

Boards and Commission Liaison Reports

Councilmember Kennedy reported on the Grand Junction Economic Partnership.

Council President Pro Tem Reitz gave an update on the Grand Junction Housing Authority.

Councilmember Beilfuss reported on the impact fee stakeholder meeting and the homeless camp cleanup.

Council President Herman gave an update on the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approval of Minutes

- a. Summary of December 16, 2024, Workshop
- b. Minutes of December 18, 2024, Executive Session
- c. Minutes of December 18, 2024, Regular Meeting

2. Set Public Hearings

- a. Legislative
 - i. Introduction of an Ordinance for Supplemental Appropriations for Confluence Center of Colorado and Setting a Public Hearing for February 5, 2025
 - ii. Introduction of an Ordinance Proposing Amendments to the Charter of the City of Grand Junction, Colorado to Change the General Municipal Election Date from the First Tuesday in April of Odd Numbered Years to the First Tuesday in November of Odd Numbered Years and to Extend the Terms of Current Council Members to Coincide with the Change in Election Dates and Refer the Same to the April 8, 2025, Municipal Election and setting a Public Hearing for February 5, 2025 – ***Moved to the Regular Agenda***

3. Procurements

- a. Purchase Two Compressed Natural Gas Front Load Refuse Trucks from Nextran Truck Center
- b. Authorization for a Contract for Traffic Control Services with AWP Safety DBA WS Barricade Corp.

4. Agreements

- a. Authorize the City Manager to Execute a 3-year Contract Extension for Professional Services with Mesa County for Building Permitting, Inspection, and Contractor Licensing

5. Resolutions

- a. A Resolution Issuing a Revocable Permit within 1824.9 sf of the Rood Avenue and Fourth Street Right-of-Way for Lighting Bollards Adjacent to 130 North 4th Street
- b. A Resolution Finding the 2020 One Grand Junction Comprehensive Plan, Together with the 2025 Grand Junction Municipal 3 Mile Plan Map, Serves as the City's Three-Mile Plan and its Annual Update
- c. A Resolution Authorizing the City of Grand Junction Regular Municipal Election on April 8, 2025, Authorizing the City Clerk to Sign the Intergovernmental Agreement with Mesa County Clerk and Recorder to Conduct Said Election
- d. A Resolution Authorizing an up to Six-month Extension of the Travel and Tourism Memorandum of Understanding Concerning the 2018 Voter Approved Three Percent Lodgers Tax Increase

Councilmember Stout moved to adopt Consent Agenda Items 1 through 5, excluding item 2.a.ii., seconded by Councilmember Pro Tem Reitz. Motion carried by a unanimous voice vote.

REGULAR AGENDA

- 2.a.ii. Introduction of an Ordinance Proposing Amendments to the Charter of the City of Grand Junction, Colorado to Change the General Municipal Election Date from the First Tuesday in April of Odd Numbered Years to the First Tuesday in November of Odd Numbered Years and to Extend the Terms of Current Council**

Members to Coincide with the Change in Election Dates and Refer the Same to the April 8, 2025, Municipal Election and setting a Public Hearing for February 5, 2025

At the City Council workshop on January 13, 2025, Council heard a presentation from Staff regarding options for conducting future municipal elections. Two options were presented, summarizing the pros and cons of keeping the regular municipal elections in April and those of moving them to November to coordinate with Mesa County Elections. Direction was given by Council to move forward with an ordinance for consideration at a regular meeting to place this on the April 8, 2025, ballot for a charter amendment to move elections to November.

City Attorney John Shaver was available to answer questions about this item.

Council discussed adding explanatory language to the ordinance that explains the capitalization of charter language proposed to be added and the strike-outs for charter language that would be deleted for clarity on the ballot. City Attorney Shaver provided guidance on where best to note this so it wouldn't create confusion after codification. Council also discussed the impacts of the changes on the start date of terms for future Councilmembers should the ballot item pass.

Councilmember Stout moved and Councilmember Nguyen seconded to introduce an ordinance proposing amendments to the Charter of the City of Grand Junction, Colorado, to change the general municipal election date from the first Tuesday in April of odd-numbered years to the first Tuesday in November of odd-numbered years and to extend the terms of current council members to coincide with the change in election dates and refer the same to the April 8, 2025, Municipal Election and set a public hearing for February 5, 2025. The motion carried 6-1 by voice vote, with Councilmember Simpson voting no.

Council took a short break at 6:48 p.m.

The meeting resumed at 7:00 p.m.

6.a.ii. An Ordinance Amending Title 21 Zoning and Development Code to Create Provisions To Regulate Natural Medicine

During the 2023 legislative session, the Colorado General Assembly enacted legislation concerning natural medicine, such as psilocybin and psilocyn, allowing them to be provided in a regulated access model at licensed Healing Centers with licensed Facilitators. If the program is successful, the natural medicines could be expanded to include ibogaine, mescaline, and dimethyltryptamine, if recommended by the Natural Medicine Advisory Board. A newly created Division of Natural Medicine within the State of Colorado Department of Revenue is responsible for licensing and regulating these businesses. Local jurisdictions are preempted from prohibiting a facilitator from

operating within its boundaries, provided it is properly licensed, but may adopt reasonable regulations that are consistent with the Natural Medicine Health Act.

Planning Manager Niki Galehouse presented this item.

Conversation ensued regarding public input, buffering, and allowable zoning districts.

The public hearing opened at 7:17 p.m.

There was no public comment.

The public hearing closed at 7:17 p.m.

Council President Pro Tem Reitz moved, and Councilmember Nguyen seconded to adopt Ordinance No. 5244, an ordinance amending Title 21 Zoning and Development Code of the Grand Junction Municipal Code, creating provisions to regulate natural medicine as the same is defined by the Colorado Natural Medicine Health Act on final passage and ordered final publication in pamphlet form. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

6.a.iii. Introduction of an Ordinance for an Amendment of the City Charter to be Placed on the April 8, 2025 Election Ballot to Change the Salary of the City Council and Providing for a Method to Increase the Salary by Ordinance in Future Years and Setting a Public Hearing for February 5, 2025

In 1999 Section 38 of the City Charter Council was amended to provide that City Council members are paid a salary of \$500.00 per month, and the President of the Council is paid \$750.00 per month. The salaries have not been increased since 1999. Accordingly, the City Council has determined that it is appropriate to ask the voters if an increase should be approved. If amended, the salary increase would not become effective until 2027.

City Attorney John Shaver was available to answer questions for this City Council discussion.

Discussion ensued regarding future salary increases using a Consumer Price Index (CPI) instead of the proposed Adjusted Median Income (AMI) and the implementation date of the salary increase.

Council took a short recess at 7:35 p.m.

The meeting resumed at 7:40 p.m.

City Attorney Shaver summarized the changes that will be made to the ordinance for second reading based on the Council discussion:

- Alternative of the first Monday in May 2027 or the second Monday in January 2028 as the effective date in the recitals.
- Incorporate language that would provide an estimate of the 2024 AMI in the recitals.
- Adding explanatory language that explains the capitalization of charter language proposed to be added and the strike-outs for charter language that would be deleted.
- Amendment in the ballot question itself to reflect the first Monday in May 2027 or the second Monday in January 2028 dates.

The public hearing was opened at 7:49 p.m.

Public comment was heard from Thomas Freimann.

The public hearing closed at 7:51 p.m.

Councilmember Kennedy moved, and Councilmember Stout seconded to introduce on first reading, pass for publication, and set a public hearing an ordinance to amend the City Charter regarding City Councilmember salaries, and set a public hearing for February 5, 2025, included amendments noted above. Motion carried 6-1 by voice vote, with Councilmember Simpson voting no.

8. Non-Scheduled Comments

No comments were heard.

9. Other Business

Councilmember Kennedy thanked the staff for the impact fee stakeholder meeting.

10. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:57 pm.

Selestina Sandoval, CMC

City Clerk

