

GRAND JUNCTION CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP SUMMARY

March 17, 2025

Meeting Convened: 5:34 p.m. The meeting was in-person at the City Hall Auditorium, 250 North 5th Street, and live-streamed via GoTo Webinar.

City Councilmembers Present: Councilmembers Scott Beilfuss, Cody Kennedy, Jason Nguyen, Dennis Simpson, Anna Stout, Mayor Pro Tem Randall Reitz, and Mayor Abram Herman.

Staff present: Interim City Manager Matt Smith, City Attorney John Shaver, Assistant to the City Manager Johnny McFarland, Community Development Director Tamra Allen, Housing Manager Ashley Chambers, Deputy City Clerk Krystle Koehler and City Clerk Selestina Sandoval.

This workshop's purpose was to hear public comment regarding the Resource Center and its impacts on the downtown area and hold a roundtable discussion with service providers to discuss the Resource Center's future, its current operations, and options moving forward.

1. Discussion Topics

a. Listening session on the Resource Center at 261 Ute Avenue

Public comment was heard from:

Chris Silverberg, Rob Arnold, Scott Aker, P.J. McGovern, Chris Masters, Charlie Quimby, Porcia Silverberg, Andi Tilmann, Caroline Ely, Candace Canahan, Andy Sweet, Ben VanDyke, Jodi Visconti Clow, Wendy Harley, Kristen Seidel, Kevin Tinsley, Lehua Laia, Niki Hunn, Shane Burton, Nicki Campbell, Richard Crespín, and Stephania Vasconez.

b. Discussion with Service Providers

Key Themes from Service Providers:

- The current model may need revision, but ending services abruptly is not viable.
- Providers need more time to transition services or relocate them.
- There is concern about fracturing the collaboration between organizations if the Resource Center closes without a new location.
- Ideas proposed included mobile outreach, decentralized service hubs, and potential use of other agency spaces temporarily.

City Council Discussion Highlights:

- Some Councilmembers emphasize honoring the April 15th closure date for trust and consistency; others are open to a brief extension if a tangible plan can be developed.
- The need for a concrete transition plan was suggested : identifying essential services, alternative locations, and transportation options.
- Council agreed to hold a special workshop on March 26th to discuss the extension and may schedule a special meeting if needed.

2. Other Business

Mayor Herman stated that Councilmember Simpson asked 448 Bookcliff Avenue be added to the March 19th regular meeting and had three other councilmembers' support for doing so. He reiterated that it would be a policy-level discussion.

5. Adjournment

There being no further business, the Workshop adjourned at 8:33 p.m.