

GRAND JUNCTION CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL WORKSHOP SUMMARY

March 26, 2025

Meeting Convened: 5:30 p.m. The meeting was in-person at the Fire Department Training Room, 625 Ute Avenue, 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: City Manager Mike Bennett, City Attorney John Shaver, Assistant to the City Manager Johnny McFarland, Community Development Director Tamra Allen, Police Chief Matt Smith, Housing Supervisor Ashley Chambers, Deputy City Clerk Krystle Koehler, and City Clerk Selestina Sandoval.

1. Discussion Topics

a. Discussion with Service Providers Regarding the Resource Center

This special workshop was held to give the Resource Center Service Providers the opportunity to provide a plan to Council regarding their request to grant a lease extension for the facility and how it would impact the services provided differently than the April 15th scheduled closure.

Key Discussion Points –

- Recommendations from Providers
 - The majority recommended an extension of the Resource Center's operations, citing concerns over the closure of West Springs Psychiatric Hospital, which would increase behavioral health demands, and emphasized the importance of maintaining access to preventative care, such as nursing, mental health, and case management services.
 - Limit non-essential activities at the center (e.g., social or recreational activities).
 - Focus only on core services: behavioral and mental health, nursing, case management, AcuDetox, and essential food distribution.
 - Suggestions to restrict access: require service check-ins at a locked front gate, no loitering or yard use without accessing services.
- Extension Proposals
 - Option 1: Extend through June 30, 2025, with full services (except Sundays), stricter access, and visible dismantling efforts to signal closure.
 - Option 2: A hybrid model—open only three days a week (Tues/Thurs/Sat), with services gradually transitioning elsewhere.
 - Option 3: Immediate closure on April 15, triggering full teardown.

- Operational and Logistical Concerns
 - Providers noted they are not yet ready with a Plan B, emphasizing the need for transition time.
 - There are significant barriers to transportation for clients if services are decentralized.
 - Staff reported difficulty finding a suitable alternative location after months of active searching with a commercial broker.
- Council Feedback & Expectations
 - Several Councilmembers emphasized that any extension must include strict operational controls, reduced services, and a firm closure date.
 - Enforcement measures and lease modifications were discussed to ensure compliance.
 - Council agreed that plans for service transitions must be submitted in writing, outlining timelines and contingencies.
 - A request was made for providers to begin offering services at alternative sites immediately, where possible.
- Next Steps
 - A Special City Council meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 31, 2025, to formally consider a lease extension.
 - Anchor service providers (HomewardBound, United Way, and Mutual Aid Partners) will present their transition and operation plans.
 - Other providers are invited to submit written plans or speak during public comment.

2. Council Communication

There was none.

3. Next Workshop Topics

There are none currently scheduled.

4. Other Business

There was none.

5. Adjournment

There being no further business, the Workshop adjourned at 6:56 p.m.