

**Grand Junction City Council**  
**Minutes of the Special Meeting**  
**March 31, 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 31<sup>st</sup> day of March, at 5:30 p.m. Those present were Councilmembers Scott Beilfuss, Cody Kennedy, Jason Nguyen (virtual), 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, Housing Supervisor Ashley Chambers, City Clerk Selestina Sandoval, and Deputy City Clerk Krystle Koehler.

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

**Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

**REGULAR AGENDA**

- 1.a.i      Discussion and Possible Authorization of an Extension of the Lease with United Way of Mesa County and/or Homeward Bound of the Grand Valley for the Resource Center on the Property at 261 Ute Avenue, Grand Junction, Colorado. The Lease Extension, if any, will be on terms to be established by the City with an amended lease, if any, to be considered, ratified and approved by City Council on April 16, 2025**

This item was for discussion and potential authorization of a lease extension with Homeward Bound of the Grand Valley and/or United Way of Mesa County for the Resource Center located at 261 Ute Ave. The lease extension would be based on terms established by the City, with an amended lease to be considered and finalized by City Council on April 16, 2025. This follows the Council discussion held during the March 26, 2025, workshop.

United Way Executive Director Faith Rodriguez, United Way Outreach and Services Coordinator Phillip Masters, HomewardBound Board Chair Emeritus Bill Wade, HomewardBound Chief of Staff Chris Masters, and Founder Executive Director at

Mutual Aid Partners Stephania Vasconez presented this item and were available to answer questions from Council.

The public hearing was opened at 5:43 p.m.

Public comments were heard from Kian Highland, Porcia Silverberg, Kristen Sidel, Wendy Jones, Jeremy Sheetz, Lehua La'a, Lisa Sandoval, Lisa Solmen, Candace Carnahan, Scott Aker, Jeremy Burgen, Jodi Visconti Clow, Chris Silverberg, Sue Jerome, Nathan Jewkes, Richard Crespín, Rene Grisier, Jane Burton, Travis Obernick, and Rick Hamm.

The public hearing was closed at 6:33 p.m.

Council took a short break at 6:33 p.m.

The meeting resumed at 6:45 p.m.

The Council acknowledged they had reviewed all emails and community outreach received prior to the meeting. They addressed concerns regarding transportation and public safety, specifically in relation to restroom access. Non-profits have stepped forward to help, and efforts are underway to streamline services at the Resource Center to shorten the timeline. Any service that can be moved from the Resource Center will be transitioned immediately. The Council emphasized the importance of providing clarity and transparency to the community, outlining the steps to ensure smooth closure and the extension details. The Council directed staff to explore a holistic approach to assist with the availability of toilets and to explore security options for the Resource Center to begin on May 15, 2025, for days they are closed.

Council President Pro Tem Reitz moved, and Councilmember Simpson seconded, to extend the lease with Homeward Bound of the Grand Valley and/or United Way of Mesa County for the property at 261 Ute Avenue; beginning April 15 the center will operate six days a week, Tuesday through Sunday with regular hours, starting May 15, three days a week with limited hours from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m., beginning June 15, one day a week, be vacated by June 30, and torn down on terms established by the City as contractors are available, with the form of an amended lease to be considered for ratification and approval by City Council on April 16, 2025. The motion carried 7-0 by roll call vote.

## **8. Non-Scheduled Comments**

Council President Pro Tem Reitz expressed gratitude to Chief Smith and the Police Department for their dedication and the effective security measures implemented during recent events at Colorado Mesa University (CMU).

## **9. Other Business**

## 10. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

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Selestina Sandoval, MMC  
City Clerk

