

Grand Junction City Council
Minutes of the Regular Meeting
May 21, 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 21st day of May, at 5:30 p.m. Those present were Councilmembers Robert Ballard, Scott Beilfuss, Laurel Cole (virtual), Jason Nguyen, Anna Stout, Ben Van Dyke, and Council President Cody Kennedy.

Also present were City Manager Mike Bennett, City Attorney John Shaver, Housing Supervisor Ashley Chambers, Interim Communications and Engagement Director Hannah Ellis, Deputy City Clerk Krystle Koehler and Deputy City Clerk Misty Williams.

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

Proclamations

Proclaiming May 18 - May 24, 2025 as National EMS Week in the City of Grand Junction

Councilmember Van Dyke read the proclamation, which Gus Hendricks, Interim Fire Chief, and Ginger Oviatt EMS Captain accepted.

Honoring National Peace Corps Volunteers in the City of Grand Junction

Councilmember Beilfuss read the proclamation, which Returned Peace Corps Volunteer Bennett Boeschstein, and District Court Judge Dan Robinson, along with other returned peace corps volunteers accepted.

Appointments

Councilmember Nguyen moved and Councilmember Van Dyke seconded to appoint Adam Nikirk and Beth Washburn to the Historic Preservation Board for partial terms ending December 2025. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Public Comments

Public comments were heard from Amy Czarnecki, John Hodge, Josh Niernberg, George Gatseos, Jenny Nitzky, Matt Bollig, Lillian Dinkins, Leah Lyon, Jean McFall, John Longlin, Ryan Dutch, Tom Acker, Jordyn Madsen, Chesley Dinkins, John Partin, Jeffery

Winters, Nathan Jenkes, Ian Moore, Dave Collins, Debbie Buckley, Betty Fulton, Matt Speth, Shana Wade, Diana Ronney, and Ben Herman.

Council took a short break at 6:58 p.m.

The meeting resumed at 7:10 p.m.

Public comments were resumed and heard from Steve Lightfoot, Caitlin Ceci, Abram Herman, Gabe Kahn, Kristen Bornham, Sandra Tinsman, Dean Bressler, Aaron Healy, Garrett Portra, Karthik Vishwamitra, Penelope Zovan, Aletha Zyvan, Joe Mc Burney, Kari Sholtes, Chris Romero, David Lehman, Coleman Sperando, Kaia Sumpler, Ian Thomas, Jim Hargis, William Riley, Nikki Hann, Thomas Copp, Penny Sholties, and Lee Soifer

City Manager Report

City Manager Mike Bennett reported two upcoming events, Coffee with the City Manager on May 29th at 7:30 a.m. at Fire Station Number 3 and Get to Know Your City June 5th from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the Dos Rios Park Magpie Shelter.

Boards and Commission Liaison Reports

Councilmember Nguyen took this time to extend his deepest apologies about a post on social media.

Councilmember Stout shared that the Colorado Municipal League (CML) requires a consensus every two years for her to continue serving on its Executive Board. She also shared the ribbon-cutting event for 'The Junction,' which is a new downtown housing development.

Councilmember Beilfuss shared he attended the One River Front Interviews and also attended the ribbon cutting for “The Junction.”

Council President Kennedy provided an update on the Grand Junction Economic Partnership, and the Grand Junction Regional Airport.

Councilmember Cole shared that JUCO will be starting on May 24th – May 31st. She encouraged the community to attend the games.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approval of Minutes

- a. Summary of May 5, 2025, Workshop

- b. Minutes of May 7, 2025, Regular Meeting

2. Set Public Hearings

- a. Quasi-judicial
 - i. Introduction of an Ordinance Zoning Approximately 5.0 Acres from County I-2 (General Industrial District) to I-1 (Light Industrial) for the Wendi Gechter IRA Annexation, Located at 377 28 Road, and Setting a Public Hearing for June 18, 2025

3. Resolutions

- a. A Resolution for the Purchase and Sale Agreement for Four Canyons Parkway Right-of-Way with Public Service Company of Colorado (dba Xcel Energy)

Councilmember Stout moved to adopt Consent Agenda Items 1 through 3, seconded by Councilmember Ballard. Motion carried by a unanimous voice vote.

REGULAR AGENDA

4.a. A Resolution Regarding Communication and City Council Conduct

This item is for Council consideration and, if approved, adoption of the Resolution.

City Manager Mike Bennet and City Attorney John Shaver gave a short summary of this item and were available to answer questions from Council.

Conversation ensued regarding the importance of how councilmembers conduct themselves.

The public comment period was opened at 8:42 p.m.

Public comment was heard from Abram Herman.

The public comment period closed at 8:44 p.m.

Councilmember Ballard moved and Councilmember Nguyen seconded to adopt Resolution No. 26-25, a resolution regarding communication and City Council Conduct. The motion carried by a unanimous voice vote.

4.b. A Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Execute Agreements with Homeward Bound of the Grand Valley for the Provision of Interim Supportive Services for Unhoused People

Homeward Bound of the Grand Valley (HBGV) has entered into a revised lease agreement with the City of Grand Junction for the transitional closure of the Resource Center at 261 Ute Avenue, by June 30, 2025. HBGV will reduce service hours over the next few months, with operations transitioning from full service to once a week before closure. As part of the transition, decentralization but continuity of resources, HBGV has proposed a satellite service site at 2851 ½ North Avenue to continue offering basic needs, transportation, case management and nursing. The City, is issuing an RFP for a long-term, coordinated approach to unhoused services. City staff recommend continuing HBGV satellite operations through the third quarter of 2025, with funding continuing on a month-to-month basis thereafter, depending on an assessment of need and aligning with other service provisions.

Housing Supervisor Ashley Chambers, Homeward Bound Chair Emeritus Bill Wade, Homeward Bound Chief of Staff Chris Masters, and Outreach and Services Coordinator for United Way Phillip Masters presented this item and were available to answer questions from Council.

Conversation ensued regarding the need for stable services for the houseless population and current transportation challenges. It was discussed whether existing RFPs could be reevaluated or extended until a more concrete plan is in motion. Additional topics included: addressing housing shortages, assessing what remains in the budget, ensuring neighborhood safety, and evaluating how the funding will be allocated.

The public comment period was opened at 9:11 p.m.

Public comments were heard from Kristen Sidel and Stephania Vasconez.

The public comment period closed at 9:14 p.m.

Councilmember Nguyen moved and Councilmember Stout seconded to adopt Resolution No. 23-25, a resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute an agreement with Homeward Bound of the Grand Valley for provision of interim supportive services for unhoused people. The motion carried by a unanimous voice vote.

4.c. A Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Execute Agreements with United Way of Mesa County for the Provision of Interim Supportive Services for Unhoused People

The City of Grand Junction is facilitating a phased closure of the temporary Resource Center at 261 Ute Avenue, with Homeward Bound of the Grand Valley overseeing

operations and United Way of Mesa County (UWMC) managing services through June 30, 2025. During this transition, UWMC is proposing a new temporary centralized Services and Outreach Hub at Hilltop Family Resource Center located at 1129 Colorado Avenue to ensure continued access to vital resources for the unhoused community. This Outreach Hub will offer coordinated services from over 20 agencies, transportation, outreach, and daily support, including integration with Mutual Aid Partners (MAP) and Sunshine Community transportation. Concurrently, the City has released an RFP seeking longer-term solutions for unhoused services. City staff recommend continued funding of the Services and Outreach Hub through September 30, 2025, followed by month-to-month support with a 30-day notice of termination, pending the RFP outcomes and potential role of UWMC in future service delivery.

Housing Supervisor Ashley Chambers, Homeward Bound Chair Emeritus Bill Wade, Homeward Bound Chief of Staff Chris Masters, and Outreach and Services Coordinator for United Way Phillip Masters presented this item and were available to answer questions from Council.

There was no further council discussion.

The public comment period was opened at 9:15 p.m.

There were no comments.

The public comment period closed at 9:15 p.m.

Councilmember Stout moved and Councilmember Nguyen seconded to adopt Resolution No. 24-25, a resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute an agreement with United Way of Mesa County for the provision of interim supportive services for the unhoused. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

5. Other Action Items

a. Update on 2024 Community Satisfaction Survey

In preparation for the City Council's update of the two-year Strategic Plan, staff provided the City Council with an overview of the 2024 Community Satisfaction Survey, which provides insights into the community's overall satisfaction with City services, their priorities, and concerns.

Interim Communications and Engagement Hannah Ellis presented this item and was available to answer questions from Council.

Discussion took place about whether staff can identify the location of the 17% neighborhood decline; whether this figure was based on a general trend across all neighborhoods, or if specific areas were referenced.

The public comment period was opened at 9:27 p.m.

There were no comments.

The public comment period was closed at 9:27 p.m.

6. Non-Scheduled Comments

There were no comments.

7. Other Business

Discussion took place regarding the next steps for 4th and 5th Street. It was noted that the community has not yet settled on a clear direction and needs to be presented with more options. Concerns were raised about the impact of high vehicle speeds on surrounding neighborhoods. Staff was directed to bring this issue to a future workshop to explore potential solutions and develop a clear plan of action. Additionally, it was encouraged that the newly elected councilmembers become more informed about homelessness, as it remains a complex and pressing issue. The next Mesa County Collaborative for the Unhoused meeting is scheduled for July 21, 2025.

8. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:33 p.m.

Krystle Koehler
Deputy City Clerk

