

Grand Junction City Council
Minutes of the Special Meeting
May 29, 2025

1. Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance, Moment of Silence

The City Council of the City of Grand Junction convened into a special session on the 29th day of May, at 5:30 p.m. Those present were Councilmembers Robert Ballard (virtual), Scott Beilfuss, Laurel Cole, Jason Nguyen, Anna Stout, Ben Van Dyke, and Council President Cody Kennedy.

Also present were City Manager Mike Bennett, City Attorney John Shaver, Engineering and Transportation Director Trent Prall, City Clerk Selestina Sandoval and Deputy City Clerk Krystle Koehler.

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

2. Council Discussion and Direction

a. 4th and 5th Streets Reconsideration

At the May 5th City Council workshop, the City staff presented proposed changes for possible near-term implementation to the configuration of 4th and 5th Streets. Those changes, which are intended to address certain perceptions about the current configurations this spring, include 1) reviewing and further refinement of sight distances at various intersections and 2) relocating the bike lane to be adjacent to the through-lane (buffered from angled parking where possible). Collectively, the proposed changes were referred to as Version 2.0. City Council discussed Version 2.0 during the workshop and directed the Staff to bring Version 2.0 to the May 7, 2025, regular City Council meeting. At that meeting, Council voted 4-3 against Version 2.0 and instead to revert the corridors to pre-pilot, 2-lane, one-way configurations. After the May 7, 2025, meeting the Council received significant feedback in the form of emails, telephone calls/voice mail messages, and over 40 public comments were offered at the May 21, 2025, Council Meeting. That feedback principally supported/asked the Council to reconsider the reversion and instead adopt and implement Version 2.0. Because expectations and directions regarding next steps are unclear, the City Manager proposed that the Council convene a Special Meeting on May 29th to discuss and conclusively decide the question. The meeting provided an opportunity for the Council to revisit project background, including the findings and recommendations of the initial study, the implementation to date, and provided conclusive direction regarding whether to implement the reversion to pre-pilot configuration; or adopt and implement Version

2.0 and conduct public outreach and engagement regarding the same; or provide direction to more fully implement the findings of the study.

The public comment was opened at 6:04 p.m.

Public comments were heard from Abe Herman, Kristen Bornham, Adam Pindel, Connie, John Partin, Karen, Ted Ciavonne, Diana Rooney, Brennan Fetherston, Bryan Alexander, Beniah Adams, Ruth Kinnett, Lisa Fry, Linda Arnes, Michelle Duncan, Keith Ehlers, Ian Thomas, Travis Reid, Bryan Tap, Tara Flarity, Matt Speth, Kaitlin Ceci, Diana Tap, John Leary, Lauren Akins, Cole Hanson, Debbie Buckley, Libby Olson, Jenny Nitzky, Erin Allard, John Taylor, Julia Circus, Deena Peterson, Randall Reitz, Ryan Dutch, David Niemann, Karthik Vishwamitra, Thomas Copp, Brantley Bond, John Hodge, and John Long.

The public comment period closed at 7:24 p.m.

Council took a short break at 7:25 p.m.

The meeting resumed at 7:36 p.m.

Discussion ensued regarding the options presented, with broad support for bifurcating the corridor at Grand Avenue. North of Grand would keep the current single-lane configuration due to safety and residential quality of life. South of Grand would be changed to a two-lane option to support downtown businesses and emergency vehicle access. There were mixed opinions on prioritizing parking, especially angled parking in front of the post office, the safety impacts of parallel parking and turning sightlines, and whether Version 2.0 or the two-lane solution better supports long-term goals. There was a general consensus on continuing public engagement and potentially reassessing design based on speed and crash data over time.

Councilmember Ballard moved and Councilmember Nguyen seconded to direct staff to move forward with two lanes plus bike lane for 4th and 5th south of Grand Avenue and to move forward with Phase 2.0 north of Grand Avenue. The motion carried by a unanimous roll call vote.

8. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

Selestina Sandoval, MMC

City Clerk

