

GRAND JUNCTION CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP SUMMARY

June 2, 2025

Meeting Convened: 5:33 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, Laurel Cole, Jason Nguyen, Anna Stout, and Ben Van Dyke and Mayor Cody Kennedy. Councilmember Robert Ballard was absent.

Staff present: City Manager Mike Bennett, City Attorney John Shaver, Assistant to the City Manager Johnny McFarland, Police Chief Matt Smith, Deputy City Clerk Krystle Koehler, and City Clerk Selestina Sandoval.

1. Discussion Topics

a. Overview for Public Participation with City Council Meetings

The City strives to provide the public with convenient options for council meeting participation. Our website is rich with tools to facilitate this goal. This item provided an overview of the City's Agendas and Minutes page, highlighting the ways the public can access meetings live, virtually, and in recordings.

- Website Navigation & Public Access:
 - Council was shown how to use the city's website (gjcity.org) to access agendas, packets, and archived meetings.
 - Public participation options include:
 - In-person comments
 - Virtual registration via GoToWebinar
 - Voicemail to Council
 - Online public comment forms (PDFs are sent to Council by staff).
- Use of GoToWebinar:
 - Chosen over Zoom for enhanced security.
 - Three roles in GoToWebinar:
 - Attendees (public): cannot unmute/share content.
 - Panelists (Council/consultants): can share audio/video.
 - Co-organizers (staff): can manage participants.
 - Closed captioning and virtual participation options were detailed.
- Meeting Viewing Options:
 - Regular meetings are live-streamed with video archives and bookmarks.
 - Workshops are streamed only via GoToWebinar (not public live-stream).
 - Timestamps and voting records are accessible in archived videos.
- Accessibility/ADA Enhancements:
 - Listening devices and T-coil loop systems available.

- Auditorium layout adjustments to accommodate mobility devices.
- Examples of users from Hilltop Brain Injury Services highlighted.

b. Meeting Procedures and Policy

City Council has expressed interest in reviewing and discussing the City Council Meeting Policy and establishing procedures to ensure clarity and consistency of the roles and conduct of City Council Meetings. The proposed policy and subsequent referenced policies, i.e., Electronic Participation, Study Sessions, Public Comments, Res. 40-20 Decorum Policy, seek to establish the roles and procedures for conducting City Council meetings.

Key Policy Components:

- Council Participation:
 - Recommendation for a button/light system for orderly speaker recognition.
 - Strong desire for equitable and visible speaker queue systems (staff will research options).
- Presiding Officer Authority:
 - Discussion on the scope of control over councilmember speaking time.
 - Agreement to clarify policy language to avoid perceived or actual abuse of discretion.
- Public Comment Management:
 - Reaffirmed 3-minute limit as standard (modifiable with advance notice).
 - Clarification that content neutrality is required when granting additional time.
- Resolution vs. Ordinance Clarification:
 - Resolutions don't legally require public comment unless designated.
 - Discussion to clarify which agenda items invite public input and ensure consistent practice.
- Weapon Policy and Safety:
 - Past practices (e.g., "no weapons" signage) discussed.
 - No current policy for Councilmember or public weapons; legal and practical concerns highlighted.

Staff will bring forth the policy with suggested revisions for Council's consideration at a future meeting.

2. Council Communication

- Community Engagement Strategy:
 - Robust debate on how to structure additional outreach:
 - Virtual "town halls"
 - Listening sessions by district or zip code
 - Councilmember participation rotated based on availability
 - Concerns voiced about equity, time burden, and working councilmembers' access.

- Next Steps:
 - Staff to return with engagement format suggestions (e.g., forums, listening events).
 - Some Councilmembers will provide input directly or form an ad hoc committee.

3. Next Workshop Topics

Future workshop topics were not discussed.

4. Other Business

- Development Review Timeline Concerns:
 - Staff explained improvements, including:
 - New sufficiency reviews for completeness
 - Internal coordination on application quality and workflow

5. Adjournment

There being no further business, the Workshop adjourned at 8:10 p.m.