

ORDINANCE NO. 5293

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE GRAND JUNCTION MUNICIPAL CODE REGARDING TERM LIMITS OF MEMBERS OF THE GRAND JUNCTION PLANNING COMMISSION AND TO RATIFY THE APPOINTMENT OF KEITH EHLERS TO THE PLANNING COMMISSION

RECITALS:

By and with this Ordinance the City Council amends the Grand Junction Municipal Code (GJMC or Code) concerning terms limits of planning commissioners.

Title 21 of the GJMC (21.02.010(b)(3)) provides that members of the Planning Commission shall serve terms of four years. Members are limited to two consecutive terms. There is no provision in the Code defining when a former member may, if at all, be eligible for reappointment. Recently the City Council reappointed Mr. Ehlers to the Planning Commission. This Ordinance serves to ratify that appointment, and to amend the Code for prospective application to make clear that after two consecutive terms a planning commissioner is not eligible for reappointment unless he/she is off the Commission for at least one year.

The Colorado Constitution limits the number of consecutive terms that may be served by certain elected and non-elected members of governing bodies and boards. The term of service for planning commissioners is determined by local law; however, it has been the City's practice to consider former members to be eligible to return to service only when the member, having served two consecutive terms, is off the Commission for at least four years. The appointment of Mr. Ehlers deviated from that past practice; however, because the City Council may lawfully lengthen, shorten, or eliminate terms limits for members of the Planning Commission, that appointment highlighted the need to clarify and amend the Code as provided herein.

While the City Attorney has advised the City Council that as written the Code proscribes any member that has served two consecutive terms from being reappointed to the Planning Commission, the City Council has determined that such was not its intent and consistent with its authority to lengthen, shorten, or eliminate terms limits for members of the Planning Commission that the Code be amended to allow former members interested in returning to service on the Commission to be eligible for reappointment. Mr. Ehlers is such a person; he served on the Planning Commission, the City's Development Code Committee, and is presently serving on the Housing Affordability Task Force. Due to his extensive experience and because the City erred in reappointing him, the City Council finds and determines that notwithstanding his having served two consecutive terms on the Planning Commission he is eligible to serve again and affirms and ratifies his appointment.

At the December 3, 2025, meeting the City Council considered this Ordinance and determined that amendment of the Code is necessary to affirm and ratify the appointment and to modify the Code as follows.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GRAND JUNCTION, COLORADO:

The foregoing Recitals are incorporated and adopted, and in accordance with and pursuant to this Ordinance the Grand Junction City Council amends Title 21.02.010(b)(3) of the Grand Junction Municipal Code as follows (deletions struck through; additions underlined):

21.02.010(b)(3) Term. Members shall serve terms of four years. Members are limited to two consecutive terms. A Member serving two consecutive terms will be eligible for reappointment so long as at least one year has passed since the conclusion of the member's prior term. If reappointed, a member is limited to two consecutive terms.

The City Council hereby finds that this amendment of the Code and ratification of the appointment of Mr. Ehlers to the Planning Commission are necessary and further the interests of public health, safety and welfare by effectuating the Council's publicly stated purposes and policies.

INTRODUCED on first reading on the 3rd day of December 2025 and ordered published in pamphlet form.

ADOPTED on second reading this 7th day of January 2026.



Cody Kennedy
President of the City Council

ATTEST:



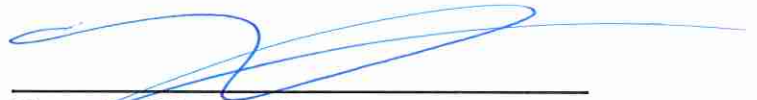
Selestina Sandoval
City Clerk



I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT the foregoing Ordinance, being Ordinance No. 5293 was introduced by the City Council of the City of Grand Junction, Colorado at a regular meeting of said body held on the 3rd of December, 2025, and the same was published in The Daily Sentinel, a newspaper published and in general circulation in said City, in pamphlet form, at least ten days before its final passage.

I FURTHER CERTIFY THAT a Public Hearing was held on the day of the 7th of January 2026, at which Ordinance No. 5293 was read, considered, adopted, and ordered published in pamphlet form by the Grand Junction City Council.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the official seal of said City this 12th day of January 2026.



Deputy City Clerk

Published: December 6, 2025
Published: January 10, 2026
Effective: February 9, 2026

