

Grand Junction City Council
Minutes of the Regular Meeting
January 7, 2026

Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance, Moment of Silence

The City Council of the City of Grand Junction convened into regular session on the 7th day of January, at 5:32 p.m. Those present were Councilmembers Robert Ballard, Scott Beifuss, Jason Nguyen, Anna Stout, Ben Van Dyke, and Mayor Pro Tem Laurel Lutz. Council President Cody Kennedy was present virtually.

Also present were City Manager Mike Bennett (virtually), Deputy City Manager Kimberly Bullen, Assistant City Attorney Jeremiah Boies, Chief Financial Officer Jay Valentine, Human Resources Director Shelley Caskey, Engineering and Transportation Director Trent Prall, Housing Supervisor Ashley Chambers, Housing Specialist Sherry Price, Principal Planner Daniella Acosta Stine, Community Development Director Tamra Allen, Public Safety Director Matt Smith, City Clerk Selestina Sandoval, and Deputy City Clerk Misty Williams.

Mayor Pro Tem Lutz called the meeting to order and led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by a moment of silence.

Proclamations

Proclaiming the City of Grand Junction as an Inclusive City

Councilmember Stout read the proclamation. Amanda Salinas, Director of Programs for Center for Independence, accepted the proclamation.

Proclaiming January 19, 2026, as Martin Luther King Jr. Day in the City of Grand Junction

Councilmember Beifuss read the proclamation. Elijah Williams accepted the proclamation.

Public Comments

Public comments were heard from Phillip Masters and Dennis Simpson.

City Manager Report

City Manager Mike Bennett gave a report on the selection of the new fire chief, Peter Skeris.

Boards and Commission Liaison Reports

Councilmember Beilfuss reported on Historical Preservation Group, the Lincoln Park Barn, HomewardBound, the Martin Luther King Jr. Day celebration, and the Lati-cube tour.

Councilmember Stout reported on the Colorado Municipal League (CML) executive board.

Council President Kennedy reported on the upcoming State of the Museums of Western Colorado meeting.

Mayor Pro Tem Lutz reported on the Commission on Arts and Culture.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approval of Minutes

- a. Summary of December 15, 2025, Workshop
- b. Minutes of December 17, 2025, Regular Meeting

2. Set Public Hearings

- a. Legislative
 - i. Introduction of an Ordinance Authorizing the Scheduled Increase in Employer Contributions to Police & Fire 401(a) Plans and Setting a Public Hearing for January 21, 2026
 - ii. Introduction of an Ordinance Amending Sections of the Zoning and Development Code (Title 21 of the Grand Junction Municipal Code) Regarding Application Outreach Meetings and Accessible Parking and Setting a Public Hearing for January 21, 2026
 - iii. Introduction of an Ordinance Amending Sections of the Zoning and Development Code (Title 21 of the Grand Junction Municipal Code) Regarding Pre-Application Meetings and General Meetings and Setting a Public Hearing for January 21, 2026
 - iv. Introduction of an Ordinance Setting the Interim City Attorney Salary and Setting a Public Hearing for January 21, 2026

- b. Quasi-judicial
 - i. Introduction of an Ordinance Zoning the Fox Grove Annexation to Residential Medium 8 (RM-8), 4.88 acres located at 3071 E ½ Road, and Setting a Public Hearing for January 21, 2026

3. Agreements

- a. 2025 CDBG Subrecipient Agreement between the Grand Valley Catholic Outreach and the City of Grand Junction

4. Procurements

- a. Authorize Contract Amendment with FCI Constructors on the Community Recreation Center for Patterson Road Intersection Improvements at Matchett Parkway
- b. Authorize Construction Contract for D 1/2 Road Improvements

5. Resolutions

- a. A Resolution Finding the 2020 One Grand Junction Comprehensive Plan, Together with the 2026 Grand Junction Municipal 3 Mile Plan Map, Serves as the City's Three-Mile Plan and its Annual Update
- b. A Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Make Grant Awards and Execute Funding Agreements with Grand Valley Catholic Outreach, the Joseph Center, and Hilltop Health Services Corporation for Providing Comprehensive Solutions for Individuals Experiencing Homelessness
- c. A Resolution Appointing Jeremiah Boies as Interim City Attorney for the City of Grand Junction, Colorado
- d. A Resolution Acknowledging the Defense of Officers Tafoya, Dressel, and Moesser in Civil Action No. 1:25-cv-02779-STV

Councilmember Nguyen moved, and Councilmember Stout seconded to adopt Consent Agenda Item #1-5. Motion carried by a unanimous voice vote.

REGULAR AGENDA

**6.a.i. 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 (Continued from December 3, 2025)

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.

Principal Planner Daniella Acosta Stine gave a presentation on the amendment to Title 21 of the Grand Junction Municipal Code and was available to answer questions from Council.

Comments were heard from Councilmembers Beilfuss, Nguyen, Stout, and Interim City Attorney Boies.

The public hearing opened at 6:04 p.m.

No comments were heard.

The public hearing closed at 6:04 p.m.

There were no further comments heard from Council.

Councilmember Ballard moved, and Councilmember Van Dyke seconded to adopt 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 on final passage and ordered final publication in pamphlet form. The motion carried 7-0 by a unanimous roll call vote.

6.b.i. An Ordinance to Vacate 0.89 Acres of Public Right-of-way Located Northeast of 30 Road and E Road and South of the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad

The Applicant, 42 E Road Storage LLC, requested the vacation of approximately 0.89 acres of public right-of-way established by Roadbook Petition. The proposed vacation is in anticipation of future commercial development for the proposed retail flex space and mini storage to be located at 3004 E Road. The request to vacate is consistent with the City's Comprehensive Plan and Circulation Plan.

Principal Planner Daniella Acosta Stine gave a presentation on the right-of-way vacation and was available to answer questions from Council.

There were no comments heard from Council.

The public hearing opened at 6:12 p.m.

No comments were heard.

The public hearing closed at 6:12 p.m.

Councilmember Nguyen moved, and Councilmember Van Dyke seconded to adopt Ordinance No. 5296, an ordinance vacating 0.89 acres of public right-of-way located northeast of 30 Road and E Road and south of the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad on final passage and ordered final publication in pamphlet form. The motion carried 7-0 by a unanimous roll call vote.

7. Non-Scheduled Comments

A comment was heard from Ed Kowalski.

8. Other Business

- a. Interview Teams for Horizon Drive Business Improvement District and Urban Trails Committee

Councilmembers Beilfuss and Nguyen volunteered to be on the interview teams for both the Horizon Drive Business Improvement District, as well as the Urban Trails Committee.

9. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:16 p.m.

Selestina Sandoval, MMC

City Clerk

