

**Grand Junction City Council**  
**Minutes of the Regular Meeting**

**April 1, 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 1<sup>st</sup> day of April, at 5:30 p.m. Those present were Councilmembers Robert Ballard, Scott Beilfuss, Laurel Lutz, Jason Nguyen, Anna Stout, Ben Van Dyke, and Council President Cody Kennedy.

Also present were City Manager Mike Bennett, Interim City Attorney Jeremiah Boies, Environmental Compliance and Sustainability Manager Ashley Firl, Utilities Director Randi Kim, Chief Financial Officer Jay Valentine, City Clerk Selestina Sandoval, and Deputy City Clerk Krystle Koehler.

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

**Proclamations**

**Proclaiming April 2026 as National Donate Life Month in the City of Grand Junction**

Council President Kennedy read the proclamation, and Executive Director of the Chris Klug Foundation Jessi Rochel accepted it.

**Proclaiming April 2026 as Water Conservation Month in the City Grand Junction**

Councilmember Lutz read the proclamation, and Utilities Director Randi Kim accepted it.

**Appointments**

**To the Urban Trails Committee**

Councilmember Nguyen moved, and Councilmember Ballard seconded to reappoint Athena Fouts and to appoint Killian Bailey, Breanna Gonzalez, Imad Burleigh and David Thornton to the Urban Trails Committee for full terms expiring June 30, 2029. Motion carried by a unanimous voice vote.

**To the Downtown Development Authority Business Improvement District**

Councilmember Stout moved, and Councilmember Van Dyke seconded to reappoint Karli Hyland and to appoint Jeremy Arthur to the Downtown Development

Authority/Downtown Grand Junction Business Improvement District for full terms expiring June 30, 2030. Motion carried by a unanimous voice vote.

### **To the Zoning Board of Appeals**

Councilmember Ballard moved, and Councilmember Lutz seconded to appoint the Planning Commission Chair, the 1<sup>st</sup> Alternate Planning Commissioner and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Alternate Planning Commissioner to the Zoning Board of Appeals. Motion carried by a unanimous voice vote.

### **Public Comments**

Public comments were heard from Thomas Copp, Shilo Mcgruff, Cindy Ficklin, Hogan Peterson, Ken Adamson, Ed Kowalski, Ruth Kinnett, Lisa Fry, Molly Heckman, Diane Schwenke, Theresa Cambron, Raquel Sienna, Courtney Webb, Paul Reinwick, Dennis Simpson and Rowdy Allen.

### **City Manager Report**

City Manager Mike Bennett reported that the City is encouraging residents to apply for the new Judicial Performance Committee. He also noted that the Mayor, Mayor Pro Tem, and department directors participated in events with the Grand Junction Chamber of Commerce. Additionally, a Community Conversation was held at Perdita's Coffee. He concluded by reporting on a citywide presentation focused on core values, fundamentals, and best practices, and by highlighting that the Downtown Colorado, Inc. conference was being held in Grand Junction.

### **Boards and Commission Liaison Reports**

Councilmember Beilfuss gave an update regarding the Homeless Coalition, Riverside Technology Corp. and the Business Incubator Center.

Councilmember Ballard reported on the Forestry Board.

Councilmember Van Dyke reported on the (DDA) Downtown Development Authority mobility hub, and April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2026, is the Grand Valley River Cleanup from Palisade to Fruita.

Councilmember Lutz gave an update on the Commission on Arts and Culture which will be selecting art for the new Community Recreation Center and reported on the Grand Junction Housing Authority.

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

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

### **1. Approval of Minutes**

- a. Minutes of the March 18, 2026 Regular Meeting

### **2. Agreements**

- a. Agreement for Palisade Pool Operations

### **3. Procurements**

- a. Authorize the Contract to Provide and Install Furniture at the Community Recreation Center (CRC)

### **4. Resolutions**

- a. A Resolution Authorizing an Application Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) Community Impact Program for Riverfront Trail Completion
- b. A Resolution to Adopt Wildfire Resiliency Code Fees
- c. A Resolution Supporting a Grant Application to the Statewide Internet Portal Authority (SIPA) for Procurement, Project Management, and Permitting Software Systems – **MOVED TO THE REGULAR AGENDA**
- d. A Resolution Approving the Settlement of New National Opioids Six Remnant Defendants Lawsuit and Authorizing the City Manager to Sign Settlement Agreement

Councilmember Nguyen moved, and Councilmember Ballard seconded to adopt Consent Agenda Item #1-4, excluding item 4.c. Motion carried by a unanimous voice vote.

## **REGULAR AGENDA**

### **4.c. A Resolution Supporting the Grant Application to the Statewide Internet Portal Authority (SIPA) for Procurement, Project Management, and Permitting Software Systems**

Staff sought City Council support to pursue grant funding through the Statewide Internet Portal Authority (SIPA) to assist with the acquisition and implementation of software solutions for procurement & contracting, project management, and right-of-way permitting. These tools would improve efficiency, transparency, and coordination across

departments while leveraging recent investments in enterprise systems, keeping in alignment with the City's Core Values of Continuous Improvement, Collaborative Partnerships, and Exemplary Service to our community.

Chief Financial Officer Jay Valentine gave a brief presentation and was available to answer questions from council.

Comments were heard from Councilmember Beilfuss.

Councilmember Van Dyke moved, and Councilmember Stout seconded to adopt Resolution No.31-26, a resolution approving City Manager to submit a grant application to Colorado's Statewide Internet Portal Authority for purchase and implementation of improved procurement, project management, and permitting software systems. Motion carried by a unanimous voice vote.

Council took a short break at 6:39 p.m.

Council resumed at 6:49 p.m.

**5.a.i. An Ordinance Amending the Water and Sewers Code Section 13.40  
Graywater Control Program**

The City adopted a Graywater Control Program by ordinance in 2022 to comply with the State of Colorado's Regulation 86 – Graywater Control Regulation (5 CCR 1002-86). Staff recommended amending the ordinance to incorporate recent updates to Regulation 86, to maintain consistency with state requirements, and preserve alignment with the structure of the Grand Junction Municipal Code.

Environmental Compliance and Sustainability Manager Ashley Firl gave a presentation and was available to answer questions from council.

Comments were heard from Councilmember Beilfuss.

The public hearing opened at 6:57 p.m.

No comments were heard.

The public hearing closed at 6:57 p.m.

There were no further comments heard from Council.

Councilmember Nguyen moved, and Councilmember Van Dyke seconded to adopt Ordinance No. 5316, an ordinance amending Section 13.40 of the Grand Junction Municipal Code (GJMC) regarding the Graywater Control Program, on final passage

and ordered final publication in pamphlet form. Motion carried by a unanimous roll call vote.

**5.a.ii. An Ordinance for Downtown Development Authority ("DDA")  
Supplemental Appropriation**

The budget is adopted by City Council through an appropriation ordinance to authorize spending at a fund level based on the line-item budget. Supplemental appropriations are also adopted by ordinance and are required when the adopted budget is increased to re-appropriate funds for capital projects or significant operating programs that began in one year and need to be carried forward to the current year to complete.

Supplemental appropriations are also required to approve new projects or expenditures. The DDA Board authorizes the district budget through resolution and the City Council authorizes spending through ordinance. This supplemental appropriation is to authorize the carryforward of the fourth payment to Conjunction Junction, LLC ("Developer") and the carryforward of grant funding for the Terminal project, as well as new spending of a grant awarded to the DDA on behalf of the GJ Union Depot, and funding for the acquisition of a parking lot in support of the Terminal project.

Chief Financial Officer Jay Valentine gave a presentation and was available to answer questions from council.

There were no comments heard from Council.

The public hearing opened at 7:02 p.m.

No comments were heard.

The public hearing closed at 7:02 p.m.

Councilmember Stout moved, and Councilmember Lutz seconded to adopt Ordinance No. 5317, an ordinance making supplemental appropriations to the 2026 Budget of the Downtown Development Authority for the year beginning January 1, 2026, and ending December 31, 2026, on final passage and ordered final publication in pamphlet form. Motion carried by a unanimous roll call vote.

**6.a. A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Grand Junction,  
Colorado, Excusing Councilmember Ballard From Certain Absences  
During Military Deployment and Authorizing Remote Participation**

Councilmember Ballard recused himself and left the auditorium at 7:06 p.m.

At the City Council's regular meeting on January 21, 2026, Councilmember Ballard advised Council that he will be deployed in connection with his duties as a member of

the Army National Guard. This resolution is submitted for Council's consideration pursuant to Section 37 of the Grand Junction Charter to excuse Councilmember Ballard's absences and to authorize his remote participation in Council meetings during such deployment. Council discussed this item at the March 30, 2026 workshop, with direction to bring this resolution back to the April 1, 2026 Regular Meeting.

City Manager Mike Bennett and Interim City Attorney Jeremiah Boies gave a brief presentation and were available to answer questions from council.

Comments were heard from Councilmember Stout, Lutz, Beilfuss, Nguyen and Council President Kennedy.

Councilmember Van Dyke moved, and Councilmember Lutz seconded to adopt a Resolution of the City Council of the City of Grand Junction, Colorado, excusing Councilmember Ballard from certain absences during military deployment and authorizing remote participation. Motion carried 6-0 by a unanimous roll call vote.

Councilmember Ballard returned to the auditorium at 7:22 p.m.

#### **7. Non-Scheduled Comments**

Comments were heard from Ken Adamson and Thomas Copp.

#### **8. Other Business**

City Manager Bennett gave an update on the City Attorney selection process and the need for a committee of two Councilmembers to choose a recruitment firm after an RFP process.

Council requested an update of the follow up with Mesa County Valley School District 51 regarding Orchard Mesa Pool.

#### **9. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

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Selestina Sandoval, MMC

City Clerk

