

## **GRAND JUNCTION CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP SUMMARY APRIL 13, 2026**

**Meeting Convened:** 5:30 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 Robert Ballard (virtual), Scott Beilfuss, Laurel Lutz, Jason Nguyen, Anna Stout, Ben Van Dyke, and Mayor Cody Kennedy.

**Staff present:** City Manager Mike Bennett, Interim City Attorney Jeremiah Boies, Deputy City Manager Kimberly Bullen, Chief Financial Officer Jay Valentine, Community Development Director Tamra Allen, Principal Planner Daniella Acosta Stine, Transportation and Engineering Director Trent Prall, Deputy City Clerk Krystle Koehler, and City Clerk Selestina Sandoval.

### **1. Discussion Topics**

#### **a. Discussion Of Resolution 13-26, A Resolution Approving the Inclusion of Adjacent City-Owned Open Space Within the Camelback Gardens Planned Development and Outline Development Plan**

At the February 4, 2026, City Council Meeting Resolution 13-26 was approved. The Resolution approved the incorporation of approximately 15 acres of city-owned land to be incorporated into the proposed Camelback Gardens Planned Development and Outline Development Plan. At the March 18th meeting, the City Council tabled the consideration of the Camelback Gardens PD and ODP, until such time as the Council could further discuss Resolution 13-26.

##### Overview:

- Staff provided the background on the adopted Resolution No. 13-26 allowing adjacent city-owned open space to be counted toward development density within the Camelback Gardens Planned Development.
- The discussion was intentionally limited in scope due to the potential for a future quasi-judicial hearing.
- Council acknowledged the unique nature of the area, including mixed jurisdiction history (city/county) and varied development densities.
- Staff will place this item on an upcoming council agenda for formal reconsideration where public comment will be accepted.

#### **b. Air Race X Event**

The City of Grand Junction has been approached by Air Race X, an international racing series, to be a host city for an Air Race X event in 2027.

##### Overview:

- Proposal to host Air Race X, a relaunch of the former Red Bull Air Race series.

- Event includes:
  - Live timed air races at the airport (smaller footprint than air shows)
  - Digital/augmented components
  - Business/tech conference elements attracting executives and sponsors
- Positioned as a high-profile, F1-style global event with tourism and branding potential.
- Potential economic benefits:
  - Increased tourism and visibility
  - Attraction of corporate and aviation-related investment
  - Long-term event recruitment opportunities
- Financial request:
  - ~\$20,000 upfront commitment to secure event
  - Up to \$1.2 million City investment
  - City retains revenue up to ~\$1.5 million, then transitions to revenue-sharing
- Revenue sources include sponsorships, ticketing, and partnerships.
- Council concerns:
  - Upfront public investment and financial risk
  - Uncertainty due to relaunch status (limited U.S. data)
  - Potential additional City costs (public safety, operations, logistics)
  - Risk of event disruption (e.g., weather)
- Additional considerations:
  - Strong support from airport and local partners
  - Potential for multi-year hosting opportunity
  - Compressed timeline for decision-making
- Council gave direction for staff to vet the event and bring back within 30 days

**c. Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Sign a Letter of Support Establishing a Regional Transportation Management Organization/Association (TMO/A) within the Mesa County Regional Transportation Planning Office to Reduce Ramp Trips on the Proposed New I-70 Interchange at 29 Road**

Colorado Department of Transportation approval of the I-70/29 Road interchange requires the City and County to commit to Transportation Demand Management (TDM) strategies that complement planned infrastructure improvements, including bicycle and pedestrian facilities and a park-and-ride component. A central component of this effort is the potential creation of a Transportation Management Organization/Association (TMO/A) within the Regional Transportation Planning Office (RTPO). The TMO/A would coordinate trip-reduction initiatives such as employer partnerships, ridesharing, school pool programs, micro transit, and community outreach. The proposed letter confirms the City and County's support of the establishment of a TMO/A should the interchange advance to construction.

Overview:

Staff presented strategies tied to Transportation Demand Management (TDM) for the proposed I-70 interchange.

- Key strategies discussed:
  - Formation of a regional TMO/TMA (likely through the RTPPO rather than a new entity)
  - Rideshare and carpool programs
  - Park-and-ride facilities and bike/pedestrian infrastructure (already included in design)
  - School-related transportation programs
- Goal: Reduce traffic on interchange ramps (~230 trips/hour target) through alternative transportation strategies.
- Mesa County has expressed support for the proposed strategies.
- Council discussed implementation approach and emphasized efficiency.

#### **d. Boards & Commissions Assignments/Mayor/Mayor Pro Tem**

Annually, the City Council reviews and determines who will represent the City Council on various boards, committees, commissions, authorities, and organizations, as well as who will serve as President of the City Council (Mayor) and President Pro Tem (Mayor Pro Tem). This is for discussion of the City Council prior to any possible formal action in a regular meeting in May.

#### Overview:

- Council discussed:
  - Timing and structure of upcoming appointments
  - Maintaining the standard election/appointment cycle, with a short-term adjustment to align terms in 2027
- Emphasis on:
  - Clear public communication about term adjustments
  - Ensuring coverage for board liaisons during transition periods
- Final assignments to be formalized at the 2<sup>nd</sup> council meeting in May.

### **2. Council Communication**

#### Items Discussed:

- An invitation was extended for Councilmembers to attend the Homeless Coalition meetings.
- A request was made to revisit the Whitman Park topic.

### **3. Next Workshop Topics**

#### Planned items include:

- Community Survey
- Camping Ordinance
- Redevelopment area incentives (expiration and continuation)
- Multimodal transportation concepts (7th & 9th Streets)

- Orchard Mesa Pool

#### **4. Other Business**

- The interview committee for the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board shared their choices for the board.
- The City Manager gave Council a heads up on the potential ban on the sale of fireworks.

#### **5. Adjournment**

There being no further business, the workshop was adjourned at 8:33 p.m.