

GRAND JUNCTION CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP SUMMARY

December 2, 2013 – Noticed Agenda Attached

Meeting Convened: 3:00 p.m. in the Administration Conference Room

Meeting Adjourned: 5:50 p.m.

Council Members present: All members present except Councilmember Bennett Boeschenstein.
Staff present: Municipal Judge Care' McInnis, Rainguet, and Tuin.

Agenda Topic 1. Meet with Municipal Judge

The City Council met with Municipal Judge Care' McInnis. Judge McInnis explained the purpose of the meeting was for her annual evaluation and an opportunity to familiarize the Council, especially the new members, with what she does. She noted that typically the Council does not hear much about her and Municipal Court because it functions well. She noted that many times her court is a citizen's first contact with the City and she ensures everyone is treated with respect. She listed the types of cases she sees as theft, bar fights, indecent exposure, juvenile cases, traffic infractions, and Code violations. Her authority includes fines up to \$1,000 and up to one year in jail (except for juveniles). There are trials but she tries to keep those to a minimum.

Other than Municipal Court, she runs a Teen Court and Warrant Sweep Night. She explained Teen Court and Warrant Sweep Night to the City Council. Her staff includes a full time Court Administrator and a half-time clerk. The prosecutor is DeLayne Merritt from the City Attorney's Office.

Judge McInnis expressed a concern with the workload of the administrative staff and said a position of a probation officer would be beneficial. The person in that position could follow up with those convicted to ensure they are meeting their obligations under the court orders. Presently those convicted are on unsupervised probation.

Judge McInnis advised that the Court had 4,600 cases last year which was down from 7,000 the previous year. The decrease is due to the decrease in patrol officers at the Police Department. Municipal Court had 328 trials and one jury trial. She provided statistics that demonstrated the success rate of the Court.

Judge McInnis noted the legislature recently increased the amount of maximum fines for the cases that come through Municipal Court; however, the City's Charter caps the fines at \$1,000. She encouraged the City Council to pursue increasing the City's cap. She explained how the fines and fees are set by her court order.

Cases involving the homeless were discussed. Judge McInnis explained how she, along with the HOT Team, has had some successes with that population.

Councilmember Chazen advised he visited a court session and it was a model of efficiency.

In conclusion, Judge McInnis did not request an increase in pay but asked for twenty more hours of paid time off (PTO) and to be allowed one additional hour for Teen Court.

Council President Susuras said the City Council will take her requests under consideration.

Councilmember Norris asked that the Judge send an email to the City Council with the Municipal and Teen Court schedules.

Judge McInnis thanked the City Council and left the meeting.

Staff present: Englehart, Shaver, Moore, Rainguet, and Tuin.

The City Council reviewed the discussion they had with the Judge with the City Attorney. Different options were discussed as well as how to handle increased work load when traffic violations increase and the jail overcrowding issue. Regarding the Judge's requests, it was suggested that the City Manager and the City Attorney meet with Human Resources Director Claudia Hazelhurst to discuss.

Agenda Topic 2: 2014 Work Plan

City Manager Englehart distributed the proposed 2014 work plan. He said that he is aware that the Grand Valley Transit Manager Todd Hollenbeck will be approaching the City Council about future funding of the bus program.

City Manager Englehart said he will make sure that all members of Council are afforded the same opportunities for tours of City facilities and things such as ride-alongs. He suggested that some of the workshop sessions can be held at other City facilities thus incorporating a workshop with a tour.

He intends to begin developing priorities for the upcoming years of 2015 and 2016. Things to be discussed are the business personal property tax and the City's economic development strategy. He asked Deputy City Manager Tim Moore to provide an overview of that strategy being developed.

Deputy City Manager Moore said his team is developing a list of industry categories to pursue and ways the "Space Maker" idea can work. Part of a business retention policy will include a tax policy discussion. The Economic Development and Sustainability group intends to have a draft plan by the first of the year.

Regarding the Industrial Development Inc. (IDI) properties, Mr. Moore is meeting with them on the three conceptual plans his group put together to have shovel-ready sites for development.

Councilmember Chazen expressed a concern about targeting specific industries as that might be too limiting. Councilmember Norris suggested a pursuit of the big retailers in order to strengthen the regional draw component of the City. Councilmember McArthur thought a focus on development of industries using local raw materials would be an option. Mr. Moore

said the focus has been on natural gas, the agricultural industry, the health care industry, technology and science, and security.

Councilmember Doody suggested a future discussion on intergovernmental relations and providing the Council with background on all the various agreements. It was suggested that the City host the next City/County joint meeting and include a discussion on the contracts with the County.

Councilmember Chazen complimented the Work Plan and noted how much was on the Plan. The City Manager said the Work Plan provides the framework and the work will be spread out over the City Departments.

Agenda Topic 3. Board Reports

Councilmember Chazen said he went to Associated Governments of Northwest Colorado (AGNC) meeting where the Governor was in attendance. He said Revenue Supervisor Elizabeth Tice-Janda discovered where there is \$3.8 million in a mineral lease fund that was to be distributed to the affected jurisdictions but did not get appropriated. AGNC is urging the Governor to get it authorized to be distributed and to make the distribution automatic in the future.

Councilmember McArthur said he attended a Grand Valley Transit Board meeting and they pulled off a professional services contract but it will be brought back to the Board. He also has a 521 Drainage Authority Meeting scheduled for the following Wednesday. The storm water permit issue is still not resolved as the Bureau of Reclamation wants the City to get a permit for each discharge point. Deputy City Manager Moore advised that the Colorado Storm Water Council is challenging that requirement.

Councilmember McArthur said he went to a presentation in Denver on Senior Housing that was not what he expected but he did relate that the City of Loveland has senior housing with different levels of care. That may be something that becomes more of an issue as many middle class seniors have lost their resources with the economic downturn.

Housing was discussed briefly with suggestions on the Housing Authority subsidizing more privately owned rentals since there are more available in the market.

Council President Susuras said the Airport Board has formed a small committee to work with the investigator hired by the Airport Board. Currently, he has no more information on the investigation.

Agenda Topic 4. Other Business

City Manager Englehart and City Attorney Shaver provided the following updates:

- Sales tax came in above the prior year but use tax was down; however it was down less than projected.
- The City did not make the cut for the Great Outdoors Colorado Grant for Las Colonias so they will apply again in another cycle. Mr. Englehart said Staff will look at any shortfalls in the application.
- They met with the Director of the Department of Local Affairs Reeves Brown and he seemed excited about the Avalon Theatre project. He is familiar with the building and Staff emphasized safety concerns being mitigated in the grant application.
- Home Loan may cover the gap in funding due from the Avalon Theatre Foundation (ATF) and then will collect the donations from ATF as they come in.
- Staff is working on a new report regarding the Persigo trunk line extension policy. Mr. Englehart added that the intent of the policy amendment is to facilitate development.
- Staff received a call from a citizen asking that the Council consider exempting sales tax on vending machine sales. Councilmember Traylor Smith suggested that Council be able to look at all the State exemptions.

Council President Susuras stated there are two more items to discuss: The City Attorney's salary and the requests from Judge McInnis.

Human Resources Director Hazelhurst stayed and City Manager Englehart, City Attorney Shaver, Deputy City Manager Moore, and Communications Manager Rainguet left the meeting.

The Council discussed salary for the City Attorney. They also discussed the need for a plan from Mr. Shaver for additional staffing. The Council agreed unanimously to increase the City Attorney's salary to \$154,000.

The City Council discussed the requests from Judge McInnis. The Council unanimously agreed to grant the Judge an additional twenty hours paid time off (PTO). Human Resources Director Hazelhurst clarified that there will be no PTO carryover. The City Council unanimously agreed to allow the additional hour for Teen Court as requested by the Judge.

The City Council then called the City Attorney into the meeting and advised him of the new salary proposed and thanked him for all of his good work. Mr. Shaver was also reminded to evaluate his Department's workload.

That concluded the meeting.

**GRAND JUNCTION CITY COUNCIL
WORKSHOP**

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2013, 3:00 P.M.
ADMINISTRATION CONFERENCE ROOM
2ND FLOOR, CITY HALL
250 N. 5TH STREET**

To become the most livable community west of the Rockies by 2025

- 1. Meet with Municipal Judge**
- 2. 2014 Work Plan**
- 3. Board Reports**
- 4. Other Business**