

GRAND JUNCTION CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP SUMMARY

April 7, 2014 – Noticed Agenda Attached

Meeting Convened: 6:06 p.m. in the City Auditorium

Meeting Adjourned: 8:58 p.m.

Councilmembers present: All except Councilmember Doody. Staff present: Englehart, Shaver, Moore, Cox, Thornton, Dorris, Portner, Moberg, and Tuin. Also present: Levi Lucero.

Agenda Topic 2. University Boulevard Discussion

Council President Susuras requested Levi Lucero, a member of the City of Grand Junction North Avenue Steering Committee and the North Avenue Owners Association (NAOA), be allowed to present first. Mr. Lucero shared his vision for the future of North Avenue, which focused on renaming North Avenue to University Boulevard.

Mr. Lucero distributed handouts, which included petitions and comments. He also shared another handout which was distributed to all owners along the corridor.

Mr. Lucero explained the steps followed thus far: 1) Involvement of CMU and Tim Foster and efforts to get permission from those affected. Mr. Lucero also talked to the State Highway Department, which was supportive. 2) Petitions circulated to citizens and business community members. With help from Kevin Bray and others, a renaming campaign was launched. Of the 710 petition responses, 209 were from the general public; 88 from private citizens; 202 from CMU students, faculty, and staff. Out of 607 businesses, 241 businesses responded; they received 135 from those on North Avenue; and 96 from businesses in the corridor. Responses showed 70% of the businesses were in favor of the change; 3 indicated they were against it.

Councilmember Traylor Smith asked for details about determining the actual number of those affected by the change, and Kathy Portner explained there are 424 unique addresses excluding mobile homes, etc. Mr. Lucero stated that the majority of those who declined the change were primarily large corporations and big box stores. Councilmembers Traylor Smith, Norris, and Chazen stated they would like to see more businesses and property owners in favor of the change because the change will not be cheap. Ms. Portner noted the cost to change street signs will be \$18,360 for materials only. Councilmember Boeschenstein endorsed the change and noted that for a one-year grace period the US Post Office will still deliver to the old address. Councilmember McArthur said he would prefer this to be decided via ballot.

Council President Susuras thanked Mr. Lucero for his work on this and called the next agenda item.

Agenda Topic 1. Orchard Mesa Neighborhood Plan Update

Deputy City Manager Tim Moore introduced this item, stating that this is a final opportunity to get answers and discuss the options in an informal setting; a public hearing is scheduled next month.

Planning and Development Supervisor Dave Thornton provided details about the joint planning effort with Mesa County, stating that both Planning Commissions have reviewed the proposal, which respects and supplements the City's Comprehensive Plan. He described the area and the process followed since the beginning of 2013: they utilized workshops, open houses, focus groups, briefings for elected officials, and other activities to obtain input. A total of 93 written comments were received; none were complaints, and the Plan was adjusted when possible and appropriate. Mr. Thornton then reviewed key goals/actions and answered questions about each of the 12 Plan topics outlined in the PowerPoint presentation: community image; future land use/zoning; rural resources; transportation; economic development; parks, recreation, open space and trails; stormwater; county fairgrounds; public utilities and services; housing trends; natural resources; and historic preservation. Stormwater issues and questions were addressed by Rick Dorris, City Development Engineer. Councilmember Boeschstein provided a few details about the Van Gundy property and Ms. Portner provided an update on the Artesia Motel.

With unanimous concurrence of the Councilmembers, Council President Susuras directed staff to schedule a first reading on April 16.

Agenda Topic 3. Board Reports

Councilmember Traylor Smith reported that the recent Housing Authority Board meeting was cancelled, but they are looking to develop senior housing near St. Mary's Hospital.

Councilmember Norris noted that the February Grand Valley Rural Transit planning meeting projections included a \$420,000 commitment for six years from the City. She does not agree with this; she would like the formulas to be revisited and the commitment period shortened. City Manager Englehart noted he recently received a new plan which reflects a \$30,000 savings per year for the City but the formula was unchanged; he will continue to work with other City Managers on a new intergovernmental agreement to decrease costs. Councilmember Norris recommended a two-year contract extension, and all Councilmembers unanimously agreed.

Councilmember Boeschstein reported that the Riverfront Commission is meeting with a group of locally elected officials from Arizona who want to see the Riverfront project. The Land Trust is still working on fundraising for the Bookends Project. The Incubator Maker Space is operating. The Historic Preservation Board is getting ready for Historic Preservation Month, with a walking tour planned for 7th Street and downtown. A statewide meeting of the State Historical Society is being planned here in the City and they have asked for some financial support. Councilmember Boeschstein said he will get more details and bring it back to Council.

Council President Susuras mentioned a report about the Airport Board. The Grand Junction Economic Partnership has a spring conference planned. The Parks Improvement Advisory Board (PIAB) gave the County \$48,000 for seating at the Fairground BMX track, one of the best tracks in the state.

Councilmember McArthur said the Grand Valley Drainage District (GVDD) and 5-2-1 Drainage Authority will meet on April 24 to discuss fees on non-irrigation water. He noted that his research has shown that the majority of GVDD's funding comes from taxes on properties that are the ones they say they should not be serving (non-irrigation/non-agricultural drainage). The GVDD attorney has suggested those properties be assessed additional fees. City Attorney Shaver stated he told GVDD's attorney the City will not collect such fees and will defend against the threatened lawsuit. Councilmember McArthur questioned the long-range plan for the 5-2-1 District, suggesting they either take the lead on addressing drainage, stick to just stormwater permits and inspections, or possibly merge with GVDD to provide financing and reduce costs overall.

Councilmember Chazen noted none of his committees have met since his last report. However, he has spoken with Todd Pace, who is researching noise and pollution abatement on Patterson Road. Mr. Pace wants to decrease the speed limit, synchronize the lights, ban large trucks, and change the road surface; to finance this project, he proposes the hiring of additional law enforcement officers to write tickets. He wants an audience with City Council, but Councilmember Chazen will work with City Attorney Shaver on a strategy for this. Mr. Shaver noted there may be interstate commerce issues to consider.

Agenda Topic 4. Other Business

Councilmember Norris said she was uncomfortable with the agitated person at the last Council meeting; she would like to have a plan to deal with disruptive attendees. Council President Susuras noted he had seen the man at several previous Council meetings, and he was not concerned, but agreed that in the future he could call a recess to allow concerned people to leave the auditorium. City Manager Englehart stated he would like to have a Police Officer at all Council meetings; this is being looked at now.

Councilmember McArthur discussed a citizen's concern about Lincoln Park fencing. A citizen contacted him about the fencing by the tennis courts because he wants to be able to walk his dog there. Deputy City Manager Moore confirmed that this citizen wants to address City Council about the matter. City Attorney Shaver said he has spoken with this gentleman about his misplaced concern that City parks will be considered medians and closed for public assembly, and offered to speak with him further.

Councilmember Boeschstein inquired about input received on the Economic Development Plan; Deputy City Manager Moore said they are getting close, and a meeting with the Downtown Development Authority is planned. Councilmember Norris noted she would like to hear from other partners as well, and Councilmember Chazen stated he would like to meet as soon as possible. City Manager Englehart agreed on the need to get a consensus, and recommended further discussion at the April 14th Workshop.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

**GRAND JUNCTION CITY COUNCIL
WORKSHOP**

**MONDAY, APRIL 7, 2014, 6:00 P.M.
CITY AUDITORIUM
250 N. 5TH STREET**

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

- 1. Orchard Mesa Neighborhood Plan Update:** This is the third of three informal updates by Staff to bring to City Council the current planning effort the City has completed with Mesa County for the Orchard Mesa area. Adoption of the Orchard Mesa Neighborhood Plan as recommended by the Grand Junction Planning Commission and the Mesa County Planning Commission has been scheduled for First Reading at the April 16, 2014 City Council meeting.

[Attach W-1](#)

2. University Boulevard Discussion

3. Board Reports

4. Other Business