

GRAND JUNCTION CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP SUMMARY
August 20, 2014 – Noticed Agenda Attached

Meeting Convened: 5:02 p.m. in the City Auditorium

Meeting Adjourned: 6:26 p.m.

Council Members present: All except Susuras. Staff present: Englehart, Shaver, Moore, Romero, Evans, Kovalik, Watkins, Camper, and Tuin.

Agenda Topic 1. Department Report – Fire

Fire Chief Watkins summarized the Fire Departments 2014 Highlights. Under Fire Administration for the Fire Authority Process – they formed a Policy Steering Committee, they built relationships and partnerships between the City, Clifton Fire District, and Grand Junction Rural Fire District, and there is a Feasibility Study in progress. Under Ambulance Billing – they reduced the billing cycle from 75 days to 15 to 21 days thanks to a Finance Department review. Also they formalized the Fire Prevention Bureau by hiring a Fire Marshall, filling two vacant Fire Prevention Officer positions, and developed a Fire Investigation Task Force Intergovernmental Agreement which has been signed by the valley's police and fire agencies.

There was some discussion concerning the investigations of the fire at White Hall as well as the multiple garage fires that occurred somewhere around 2008.

Fire Chief Watkins reviewed highlights from Fire Administration and Operations which occurred in 2014 which included: a Service Delivery Task Force, Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Shift Coordinator Pilot program, new public information and education program, a celebration of 125 years of service with support from City Council and the community, service and technology improvements, apparatus and equipment replacement, emergency management, a control system for the EMS supply inventory, and National Fire Academy Week was hosted at Two Rivers Convention Center. There were also many hours of training for fire, EMS, technical rescue, hazmat, bomb, etc. personnel.

Fire Chief Watkins said that a change in culture within the department has been taking place over the last two years. Working with the Leadership Team they have been focusing on their mission and values, accountability and behaviors, communication, becoming a team, mentoring and education, and leadership rotation. They are embracing EMS because 75% of their calls are EMS. They are adopting a "Synergy" Staffing Model which the employees came up with to try to get the right people into the right roles that they really enjoy. There was discussion regarding the "Synergy" Staffing Model and how that will transition more positions into the emergency medical arena and away from firefighting.

Fire Chief Watkins reviewed some of the items they are looking at for the next 5 years beginning with looking at whether or not to go to a 3rd party billing agency in 2015, continue evaluating the Fire Department organizational structure, peak volume ambulances in service 12 hours a day, dispatching via Automatic Vehicle Locator (AVL), replacing hydraulic stretchers on all ambulances, design and construction of relocated Fire Station #4, and more development of the public safety training center through a Mesa County Federal Mineral Lease (FML) grant.

Fire Chief Watkins advised that their five priorities in the next five years are: a Fire/EMS Authority, Insurance Service Office (ISO) evaluation/ Centre for Public Service Innovation (CPSI) Fire Service Accreditation, address service gaps in the north and Pear Park areas, completion of the public safety training center, and looking at having a dedicated public safety revenue stream.

Agenda Topic 2. Board Reports

This topic was postponed.

Agenda Topic 3. Other Business

There was none.

With no other business, the meeting adjourned.

**GRAND JUNCTION CITY COUNCIL
WORKSHOP**

**MONDAY, AUGUST 20, 2014, 5:00 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. Department Report – Fire**
- 2. Board Reports**
- 3. Other Business**