

Grand Junction, Colorado

June 1st, 1931

The City Council of the City of Grand Junction, Colorado, met in special session at 7:30 o'clock P. M. Those present and answering at roll call were: Councilmen Bear, Glassford, Hall, Hirons, Holcombe, Roberts, Sievert. City Manager Soderstrum, City Attorney Adams, and City Clerk Tomlinson were present.

Electric Rates

The matter of rates for electrical service to be set forth in the proposed franchise ordinance previously submitted by the Public Service Co. of Colo. were brought up and discussed. No formal action was taken by the Council.

Boy's Administration

Councilman Hall moved and Councilman Hirons seconded the motion that the Council complement the Junior City Council for the constructive report made, and that it further be the sense of the Council that the "Boys' Week" program, as far as the City Administration is concerned, was highly successful, and that they be invited to make it an annual affair, and that the report be made a part of the City records. Motion carried.

BOYS WHO GOVERNED CITY
FOR ONE DAY SHOW KEEN
SENSE OF CIVIC AFFAIRS

Report Submitted by Seven High School Boys Who
Comprised Junior Council Set Forth Many
Needed Improvements Over City; Work of
Boys Praised by Regular City Officials

Following their recent adventure in city administration, when boys of the Grand Junction high school had control, for one day, of all departments of the city government, the Junior council which filled the shoes of the regular city council drew up a report of its activities and inspections of the day. The report was presented later to City Manager J.P. Soderstrum and the city council.

Both the city manager and city council commended highly the report submitted by the boys comprising the junior council, and were particularly impressed with the keen observations made by the seven members in their tour of inspection of public works. Each of the suggestions made in the report had apparently received careful thought from the boys, and all indicated, the present city officials agreed, that the future of government will be safe in such hands.

The complete report submitted by the junior council is as follows:
REPORT OF JUNIOR COUNCIL TO SENIOR COUNCIL

After an inspection tour of the city on May 21, conducted by city officials, the members of the Junior council noted the following conditions in the various department:

Police Department. The red light system of communicating with the night policeman is insufficient for a city of this size. A man should be on duty day and night at headquarters.

The bull pen in the city jail has no ventilation system.

It is the opinion of this council that the motorcycle police be severely censured for having a girl on the handlebar of the said motorcycle, apparently giving her a pleasure ride. This motorcycle is purchased for police duties only and not for pleasure trips.

Outside of these improvements the Junior council was very impressed by the systematic way the policing of the town was conducted, and was especially interested in the complete fingerprint department installed by Chief Decker, at his own expense. Such a department is unusual for a city of this size.

Fire Department. The personnel of this department and the manner in which they attend to duty and equipment is without reproach. Inspection of equipment, cleaning of same and inspection of public buildings is carried out on schedule and at regular intervals.

The following suggestions are to be made, however:

That the firemen be furnished with new helmets as old ones are out of date and unusable because of size. That an appropriation be made to equip this department with up-to-date ladder truck, as present ladders are only sufficient to take care of two-story buildings. The installation of this ladder truck would be quite high, but the better protection it would give to the higher buildings would justify it.

Parks and Public Grounds. Grand Junction is indeed fortunate in having such a fine park system. Every school in the city is within a block of a park or else has its own park. They all are in good condition.

We suggest that the Lincoln Park tennis courts be equipped with lights for play at nights, the ever increasing popularity of the game making some step necessary to accommodate enthusiasts. Also, that these approaches to the courts be kept in better condition.

Streets and Alleys. A subway should be built under the Main St. crossing on the railroad tracks. The slight rise on which the tracks are laid makes it ideal for such an improvement. Many lives have already been lost here due to collisions.

A signal similar to the one on South 7th should be installed at the South Fifth crossing on the railroad tracks.

Stop signs should be placed in the following places:

East side of N. 12th St. at Gunnison, and on south side of Gunnison at 12th, allowing through traffic on present state highway eliminating danger produced by the shrubbery on the corner of Lincoln Park. Two buttons should be installed on Rood Ave. at Fifth St., allowing through traffic on future state highway to south. This would also be a protection for students at Junior college and the boys at the Y.M.C.A. Buttons should be placed on White and Rood at 1st street for through traffic on state highway.

Personal and Public Health. This department is well cared for by Dr. Munro and Dr. Drew. The absence of any epidemic of contagious diseases speaks for itself.

The following should be attended to:

A three or four-room isolation ward could be built in rear of St. Mary's hospital for a small sum and could be cared for by the city cheaper than the present one. The hospital would furnish nurses for the experience they would gain and the hospital would furnish the meals.

There is at present a variable paradise for germs and filth at the sewer outlet close to the Fifth street bridge. The water of the river does not reach the outlets and so all sewage flows into a sort of swamp and remains there throughout the year. The pipes should be extended a few feet farther which is all that is necessary to eliminate this hazard to public health.

Oil should be sprayed on the swamps west of town to exterminate the millions of germ-carrying mosquitoes that breed there.

A thorough and careful investigation of the city dumping problem should be carried on immediately. This is one of the most difficult problems a city as to face, as the future growth and expansion of the city as well as the health phase must be considered.

Public drinking fountains should be made more sanitary. At present more dogs than citizens rink out of the fountains on Main Street. It is suggested that animal troughs be installed to bring this unsanitary condition to an end.

In submitting this report, we desire that it be understood that we are not criticising. These are merely suggestions that we, on our inspection tour, decided would improve our city.

Respectfully submitted,

Jack McDonald,

Ralph Irvine,

Keith Ela,

Hugh McDonald,

Harry Peck,

Herbert Jolley,

Gerald Kineman.

Martha Williams, Clerk.

Councilman Sievert moved and Councilman Bear seconded the motion that the meeting adjourn. Motion carried.

/s/ Helen C. Tomlinson
City Clerk