

Grand Junction, Colorado

July 9, 1947

The City Council of the City of Grand Junction, Colorado, met in special session at 7:30 P.M. Councilmen present and answering at roll call were Harper, Hoisington, Boston, Harris, and President Carson. Councilman Martin was absent. Also present were City Manager Fritz, City Attorney Banks, City Clerk Tomlinson, and Chief of the Department of Public Works and Planning Bennett.

It was moved by Councilman Boston and seconded by Councilman Harris that the 24-hour formal notice of meeting be waived. Motion carried.

Mr. Milton M. Bagby was sworn into office as Councilman from District B.

Mr. Roy Williams of the Forest Service was present and stated that apparently there was some misunderstanding at the last meeting of the Council in connection with the survey to be made of the Kannah Creek watershed. On Friday evening, July 4, there had appeared in the Daily Sentinel a plan written by Mr. A. G. Martin as follows:

"On June 16, 1915, the city of Grand Junction entered into an agreement with the department of agriculture for the cooperative management of the Kannah Creek watershed. This agreement was signed by Charles E. Cherrington, mayor of Grand Junction, and C. V. Marvin for the secretary of agriculture and provided: 'For the grazing of cattle, horses and mules in an aggregate number not to exceed 2,500.'

"This number apparently was based on the best estimate available at that time for the safe carrying capacity of Kannah creek range.

"Had this agreement been carried out and the grazing restricted to 2,500 head of cattle the watershed probably would not have deteriorated to the deplorable condition we recently observed.

"However, on Feb. 26, 1921, 24 stockmen, users of the Kannah creek allotment, petitioned the City of Grand Junction and the supervisor of the Battlement National Forest (now Grand Mesa) to increase the stocking to at least 4,500 head.

"Apparently the forest service failed to advise the city council of the damages that would result to the city water supply. The council therefore agreed as follows: 'The city does hereby consent to approve the pasturage on said range of cattle, horses and mules in excess of 2,500 up to the reasonable grazing capacity of said range.'

"The recent trip made to the watershed by members of the city council clearly revealed that the forest service has permitted, during the past 25 years, considerably more livestock than the 'reasonable grazing capacity.'

"It was further revealed that little or no effort has been made to control the number of deer within the watershed and that considerable damage to the watershed has been done by the heavy deer concentration. Because of the excessive use by both cattle and deer the vegetative cover has been depleted and an alarming condition exists on our watershed.

"To improve the condition of the Kannah creek watershed in order that it will yield a maximum amount and a perpetual supply of good clean water, the city council of Grand Junction hereby recommends that the forest service take immediate action as follows:

"1. Close to all use by livestock the Coal Creek basin and all other critically depleted areas within the Kannah creek drainage lying below the rim of Grand Mesa.

"2. Rehabilitate, by reseeding of grasses, areas where excessive erosion is now taking place.

"3. Closer cooperation with the state game and fish department in order to secure removal of the excess deer population within the watershed area and provide more adequate winter range for the remaining herd.

"4. Make a detailed study of the beaver problem within the area in cooperation with the state game department and the city of Grand Junction to determine a management policy for beaver on the watershed.

"5. Conduct a complete survey of the resources of the Kannah creek watershed assisted by representatives from the city of Grand Junction, the livestock users and the state game and fish department. The objective of this analysis should be to provide for the integrated use of the various resources of the area so as to immediately improve and maintain favorable watershed conditions."

It was explained to Mr. Williams that at the meeting on July 2 Mr. Fritz was authorized to ask the Forest Service to go ahead with an impartial survey of this district. Councilman Harris suggested that the cattlemen should be represented when a request of this kind was made. After considerable discussion City Manager Fritz called Mr. Bruce Claybaugh as a representative of the Cattlemen's Association and he and Councilman Harris talked with Mr. Claybaugh. It was then moved by Councilman Harper and seconded by Councilman Hoisington that Mr. Fritz write a letter to Mr. Williams in accordance with the motion passed on July 2. Motion carried.

Mr. James Gormley requested that he be allowed to construct a 4 1/2 foot sidewalk on Elm Avenue near Houston, the sidewalk to be constructed on the curb with the back of the sidewalk on the property line. It was moved by Councilman Harris and seconded by Councilman Boston that the request be granted. Motion carried.

It was regularly moved, seconded and carried that the meeting adjourn.

/s/Helen C. Tomlinson
City Clerk