

Grand Junction, Colorado

September 6, 1961

**ROLL CALL**

The City Council of the City of Grand Junction, Colorado, met in regular session at 7:30 o'clock p. m., September 6, 1961. Councilmen present and answering roll call were Meacham, Hadden, Love, Colescott and President McCormick. Councilmen Lowe and Wright were absent. Also present were City Manager Lacy, City Attorney Ashby and City Clerk Tomlinson.

**INVOCATION**

The invocation was given by Rev. Bernard Gillick, Pastor, St. Joseph's Catholic Church.

**MINUTES**

It was moved by Councilman Hadden and seconded by Councilman Meacham that the minutes of the regular meeting held August 16th be approved as written. Motion carried. (5 Councilmen voted AYE)

**LIQUOR LICENSE** Wm. J. & Betty E. Burke dba North Ave. Liquors - granted

This was the date set for hearing on the application for a retail liquor store license by William J. and Betty E. Burke dba North Avenue Liquors, 801 North Avenue. There were no comments from the audience concerning this application and President McCormick closed the hearing. It was moved by Councilman Meacham and seconded by Councilman Hadden that the application be approved and license granted when the state license has been received. Motion carried. (5 Councilmen voted AYE)

**CAT CONTROL DISCUSSED**

City Manager Lacy reported that he had contacted everyone possible in connection with the cat problem, and that he had received many letters from different Humane Societies, pet magazines, and citizens both local and out-of-town concerning the handling of this problem.

Mr. Ronald Lambert, American Humane Society, had come over from Denver to appear before the Council to assist them in any way he possibly could. City Manager Lacy stated that there were model ordinances that could be enacted concerning the spaying and controlling of cats but there were still four unanswered questions:

1. How to differentiate the cats; whether they were alley cats or someone's pets.
2. How to catch the cats.
3. How to identify the owner.
4. How to identify cats that had been inoculated for rabies.

He cited one instance - an ordinance in Paonia, Colorado, where a house to house canvass had been made and all female dogs and cats were required to be spayed.

Mr. Lambert spoke before the Council and stated that the City Manager had done an excellent job in obtaining information on this subject, and in his estimation, ordinances have not been effective because it is practically impossible to enforce them insofar as cats are concerned. He thought that it was a matter of education. He said there was no practical way to catch cats and ownership of cats is very difficult to establish. He expressed the opinion that cat care should include the element of having neutered animals, both dogs and cats, and in order to provide such a program, the cooperation of the veterinarians would be necessary in order to have clinics and cheaper prices; possibly rabies clinics should be held too so that inoculations could be given at a decreased price. Cat traps could be used to catch the animals alive and they could be held for a reasonable time and then humanely destroyed.

City Manager Lacy suggested two possibilities; first, that the City could make a contribution through a humane society for dumb animal care; second, it could enact an ordinance providing for the catching of the cats by the people in the City and they would sign a paper stating that the cat was a stray animal and after a certain period, the City could put it to sleep. Rights of property owners in connection with trespassing animals was discussed.

It was the consensus of everyone concerned that restrictions are not enforceable. City Manager Lacy stated that it would cost \$5,600 a year at a minimum for even a part-time cat catcher to handle cats in the same manner that dogs are handled. He felt it would be cheaper to contribute an equal amount with Mesa County and have a cat control program set up on a County-wide basis.

Mr. Everett Marsden of the Mesa County Health Department was present and stated that his department was really worried about the rabies situation; that they have found five rabid animals in this area recently.

Councilman Colescott stated that people who own cats are worried about this situation and are not in favor of allowing all stray cats to run at large. Mr. Lambert stated that he would send the names of the manufacturers of cat traps. City Manager Lacy was instructed to continue working on this problem.

**WATER BILL ADJUSTMENTS** Mesa Co. Canning Corp. Req. - Tabled

A letter was read from the Mesa County Canning Corporation stating that a meeting of the stockholders of the corporation, it was decided to liquidate and pro rate the cash on hand to the general creditors. The portion that they can pay is 9.4% which would pay \$68.41 on a water bill of \$729.72. City Attorney Ashby suggested that the Council wait to see what settlement might be made from the recent fire which destroyed the canning corporation's property.

It was moved by Councilman Colescott and seconded by Councilman Hadden that this matter be tabled until the next regular meeting of the Council. Motion carried. (5 Councilmen voted AYE)

**WATER BILL ADJUSTMENTS** GRANTED

The following requests for water bill adjustments were made:

James R. Caltharp, 2015 No. 8th St.	\$ 5.10 to \$ 2.70
Nellie Jones, 106 Rood	\$38.44 to \$22.71
Nellie Jones, 218 No. 1st St.	\$33.41 to \$15.23

These requests for adjustments were due to breaks in service lines and adjustments recommended by the Public Utilities Department. It was moved by Councilman Meacham and seconded by Councilman Colescott that bills be adjusted as requested. Roll was called on the motion with all members of the Council present voting AYE. The President declared the motion carried. (5 Councilmen voted AYE)

**WATER - ALLOW UTILITIES DEPT. TO MAKE ADJUSTMENTS IN BILLS UNDER \$20**

City Manager Lacy requested that he and the Public Utilities Department be given permission to take care of any water bill adjustment under \$20; anything over \$20 would still come to the Council. City Attorney Ashby stated he could see no reason why

this would not be satisfactory. Councilman Colescott recommended that a record of these adjustments be kept and given to the Council, and also that they be shown in the Minutes.

It was moved by Councilman Colescott and seconded by Councilman Meacham that the City Manager and Public Utilities Department be authorized to make adjustments in water bills under \$20; that those over \$20 be given Council approval. Motion carried. (5 Councilmen voted AYE)

**COUNCILMAN LOWE**

arrived at the meeting at this time.

**ANNEXATION** County Shops area deemed eligible for Annexation

The Planning Commission recommended to the Council that the County shops area was eligible for annexation. Mr. Warner had made the following report to the Planning Commission: "This is rather an unusual annexation -- it wouldn't make any money for the City, neither would it cost much. The total assessed value of the fourteen houses, one small church and the land is only \$5,600. Over a three-year period the expenses would be \$5,670, and the returns, \$3,150; on a ten-year basis, the costs would be \$15,000 against a \$9,700 return. However, Mr. Warner stated that he had not taken into consideration the possibility of the houses being taken out during that time and the area developed industrially. 'Ratio-wise, it is much better than some of the other annexations', he said. Very little service would be required, most of the water line is already in and there would only be about 150 ft. to be added. The people would pay for the installation of the sewer lines and would be very willing to do this as one of their main reasons for wishing annexation is to obtain sewer facilities. Existing sewer lines reach up to the edge of the annexation."

It was moved by Councilman Meacham and seconded by Councilman Love that the area be deemed eligible and that the property owners be granted permission to circulate petitions for the annexation. Motion carried. (6 Councilmen voted AYE)

**ORD. 1138 PASSED** Reduction in rates for Refuse Collection

The Proof of Publication to the following entitled proposed ordinance was presented and read: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTIONS 5, 6 AND 7 OF CHAPTER 26, 1953 COMPILED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF GRAND JUNCTION, COLORADO; THE SAME BEING THE MUNICIPAL REFUSE COLLECTION SERVICE ORDINANCE OF THE CITY; SUCH AMENDMENTS RELATING TO PRECOLLECTION AND COLLECTION PRACTICES AND THE FEES TO BE CHARGED THEREFOR. It was moved by Councilman Hadden and

seconded by Councilman Meacham that the Proof of Publication be accepted and filed. Motion carried. (6 Councilmen voted AYE)

It was moved by Councilman Meacham and seconded by Councilman Colescott that the ordinance be called up for final passage. Motion carried. (6 Councilmen voted AYE)

The ordinance was then read and upon motion of Councilman Lowe and seconded by Councilman Colescott was passed, adopted, numbered 1138 and ordered published. Roll was called on the motion with all members of the Council present voting AYE. The President declared the motion carried. (6 Councilmen voted AYE)

**ORD. 1139 PASSED**

The Proof of Publication to the following entitled proposed ordinance was presented and read: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTIONS 3, 4, AND 5 OF CHAPTER 13 OF THE 1953 COMPILED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF GRAND JUNCTION, COLORADO, THE SAME CONCERNING THE PUBLIC LIBRARY; SUCH AMENDMENTS CHANGING THE NUMBER AND CONSTITUTION OF THE LIBRARY BOARD, ALTERING THE PROCEDURE FOR THE FILLING OF VACANCIES THEREON, AND CHANGING THE MANNER OF APPOINTMENT OF THE LIBRARIAN.

It was moved by Councilman Meacham and seconded by Councilman Lowe that the Proof of Publication be accepted and filed. Motion carried. (6 Councilmen voted AYE)

It was moved by Councilman Colescott and seconded by Councilman Hadden that the ordinance be called up for final passage. Motion carried. (6 Councilmen voted AYE)

The ordinance was then read and upon motion of Councilman Meacham and seconded by Councilman Lowe was passed, adopted, numbered 1139 and ordered published. Roll was called on the motion with all members of the Council present voting AYE. The President declared the motion carried. (6 Councilmen voted AYE)

**AUDIT** Appoint John McNulty to make Audit for 1961

The matter of appointing an auditor to audit the 1961 books was brought up and discussed. It has been deemed advisable for the past several year, especially since the reorganization and change in budgeting and form of bookkeeping system, that the same auditor be retained. It was moved by Councilman Meacham and seconded by Councilman Lowe that John McNulty be appointed as City Auditor to make the audit for the fiscal year of 1961. Motion carried. (6 Councilmen voted AYE)

**AUDIT** Policy on hiring auditors

Later in the meeting, Councilman Meacham suggested that as an auditor becomes more familiar with City work, he becomes more valuable, but it is not the intention of the City Council to use the services of the same firm indefinitely. He suggested that a three-year contract be entered into with the auditing firm, but at the end of two years, anyone who was interested, could be notified and submit their requests to be awarded a contract for the audit. In this way, an auditor would be appointed a year in advance. City Attorney Ashby stated that he felt, in this instance, a contract of this nature could bind future City Councils. It was suggested that this be the policy in the future.

**INDIAN WASH** CM to act as Official coordinator

City Manager Lacy reported on the developments in connection with the Indian Wash. Sometime ago the City Council had been requested that the City Manager act as official coordinator between the Grand Valley Irrigation Company, the Drainage District and Mesa County to get the ditch cleaned. This has been done and the channel has been cleaned between North Avenue and Grand Avenue. The Drainage District and Grand Valley Irrigation District actually did the work, with the City furnishing some engineering services and the County extra trucks, and was truly a cooperative project.

The preliminary report on the \$300,000 flood control dam at the head waters of the ditch is now ready. This is a federal project, and it is requested that the local sponsoring agency, primarily Mesa County, coordinate and sponsor the improving of the channel downstream. It is requested that one of the agencies admit to the responsibility and act as the coordinator. The Mesa County Commissioners think that the City should continue in the role of coordinator. They have stated that they would help with the administrative costs on a fifty-fifty basis. City Manager Lacy stated that the amount of money involved would not be more than \$1,000 per year at the present time, the County paying \$500 and the City \$500, but he suggested that this agreement with the County should be in writing. There would be some secretarial work involved and some time spent by the Public Works Director and the City Manager. Both the Grand Valley Irrigation Company and the Drainage District have stated that they will continue helping with the project. The Council agreed that this would be a continuing problem and as more territory is annexed to the City, would be more of a City responsibility.

It was moved by Councilman Lowe and seconded by Councilman Hadden that the City through its City Manager be the coordinating agency contingent upon a written agreement with Mesa County as to

payment of one-half of the fees. Motion carried. (6 Councilmen voted AYE)

### **BUDGET** 1962

City Manager Lacy reported that he would like to issue an official invitation for the public to make comments and suggestions for the 1962 budget at the next Council meeting to be held on Sept. 20th. He briefly outlined a few of the high spots in the contemplated budget stating it appeared that there might be about a two million dollar increase in the assessed valuation but on the other hand there would be four more firemen needed and that tenure increases in salaries as set up in the 1961 pay scale would amount to an increase of about \$9,000; contemplated fringe benefits of paying twenty-five per cent of Blue Cross and one-half of group life insurance would amount to about \$10,000. There should be a change in the Regional Planning set-up so that the City's part should be reduced by approximately \$8,000.

He reported that the City Employees Committee, who are reviewing the new Personnel Rules and Regulations now, would not ask for a general raise this year. Under capital improvements, he stated that there would be a Section a. and b. in the Budget. Section a would provide for the Downtown Development Plan which would cost approximately \$111,000 in General funds and \$60,000 in utility money and the b. section would include capital improvements that would be done in case petitions were not filed for the Downtown Development program by December 31st.

Councilman Colescott asked about the expense of operating the Control Tower and the revenue anticipated from rentals. City Manager Lacy stated that this should continue to practically balance itself off and might make a small profit. City Manager Lacy then urged the public to attend the meeting on September 20th and if they have any comments or suggestions in connection with the 1962 budget to make them known at that time.

### **AMA CONFERENCE**

President McCormick reported on his trip to Seattle to attend the A.M.A. Convention. He said his trip was a very interesting one, and he found a division of thinking between eastern and western cities in connection with the use of federal funds and grants for capital improvement projects. The western cities feel that federal money is an expensive way of financing their work. He said there were several very good talks and were about 1,500 delegates in attendance.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

It was moved by Councilman Meacham and seconded by Councilman Hadden that the meeting adjourn. Motion carried.

/s/Helen C. Tomlinson  
City Clerk