

Grand Junction, Colorado

October 9, 1963

ROLL CALL

The City Council of the City of Grand Junction, Colorado, met in special session at 7:30 p.m. October 9, 1963. Councilmen present and answering roll call were Ray A. Meacham, Arthur Hadden, Chas. H. Love, Harry O. Colescott, Warren D. Lowe, Herbert M. Wright and President C. E. McCormick. Also present were City Manager Lacy, City Attorney Ashby and City Clerk Tomlinson. This meeting was called in conformance with Section 2 of Chapter III of the 1953 Compiled Ordinances of the City of Grand Junction. It was called for the purpose of considering the 1964 proposed budget.

1964 BUDGET - Discussed

City Manager Lacy explained that the 1964 budget was built on a four mill increase instead of a 7.8 mill increase which is what would have been required if the requests for capital improvements would have been accepted. The preliminary budget was drawn cutting out some \$124,000 of salaries and other operating expenses and some \$105,000 in capital improvements in divisions supported by the General Fund. The proposed budget total is \$2,526,000 which is an increase of \$181,000 over the previous year. The bulk of the increase is in water, sanitation and other funds not supported by property tax. Only \$26,000 of the \$181,000 is in the General Fund. The biggest reason that the accumulative balance is so much less this year than last is because of accrual for the new Fire Station. This also is caused from holding the line on the budget in past years until accumulative balances have all been used.

City Manager Lacy then proceeded to go through the budget calling attention to changes which had been made in each department, and especially to proposals for capital improvements in all departments, including the Airport.

He stated that sewer rentals would have to be raised twenty-five cents (25¢) per residential unit.

Messrs. O. K. Clifton, Ben Carnes, Bob Faith and other real estate dealers were present and again requested the Council to hold the line on the mill levy. It has been talked that the School District contemplates a three or four mill levy increase; Mesa County about three mills, which will make a total of approximately 16 mills or a 15% increase in taxes next year.

These men asked the Council to consider every other method of raising money; charging administrative costs to departments that are self-supporting instead of increasing the mill levy. They also suggested that the City initiate a 1% sales tax either by Council passing an ordinance or by a vote of the people.

It was explained that City Manager Lacy is now preparing a financial study which will not be completed for several weeks and until this is completed, it will not be possible to tell how much money the City needs to raise in the next few years. Also, just how much can be cut from the mill levy.

Pres. McCormick stated that this was an inopportune time to approach the Council when for the second time in many years the assessed valuation was lowered.

Councilman Lowe stated that he felt there would be an approximate 11 mill raise in taxes regardless of whether the Council goes down or not.

Members of the Council were not in favor of reducing the levy until some other means of raising money has been definitely decided upon.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Councilman Wright and seconded by Councilman Lowe that the meeting adjourn. Motion carried. (7 AYES)

/s/ Helen C. Tomlinson
City Clerk