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ROLL CALL

The City Council of the City of Grand Junction, Colorado reconvened at 7:30 p.m. October 23, 1974, in the Civic Auditorium at City Hall for the purpose of holding a public hearing upon proposed utility rate increases. Council members present for roll call were Harry Colescott, Silas Grantham, Jane Quimby, Elvin Tufly, Robert Van Houten, and President of the Council Lawrence Kozisek. Councilman Stanley Anderson was absent. Also present were City Attorney Ashby, City Manager Rose and City Clerk Lockhart.

HEARING

Utility rate increases

Councilman Van Houten summarized reasons why he felt utility rate increases are necessary. He cited the inflationary period in which the United States is caught whereby costs for services are rising dramatically. He stated that the utility service charges in Grand Junction are among the lowest in the state, and submitted that if the proposed 45% increase is implemented, Grand Junction would still remain among the lowest in the state. Councilman Van Houten noted the display ad in Monday's Daily Sentinel (October 21) published at the request of Mr. W. Pemberthy which implied that the Council would have passed an emergency ordinance on October 16. Councilman Van Houten stated there was no intent on the part of Council to take action and in fact could not do so until after a hearing.

Approximately 75 people were in the audience. The following people opposed the proposed increase:

Mr. R. W. Holmes, 1660 Dolores Street  
Mr. Jack Gidney, 1705 North 21st Street  
Mr. Bill Pemberthy, owner of a business inside the City limits  
Mr. Forrest Adair, 2017 Orchard Avenue

Councilman Anderson arrived at the meeting at this time.

Mr. Lyle Shriver, 200 Kennedy Avenue  
Mr. Larry Brown  
Mr. Charles Downing, member of the Central Grand Valley Sanitation District Board  
Mrs. Betty Hansen, 1560 Chipeta  
Mr. Irwin Meders, 1235 Colorado Avenue  
Mr. Fred Strohmeier, 505 North 17th Street

A letter from Mr. Harry Ashley, 557 North 24th Street

Mr. Van Garbin, 2124 North 21st Street  
Mr. Louis Robinson, Partee Heights  
Mr. Earl McFry, 902 Ouray, suggested Council consider rebuilt tractor for the landfill  
Mrs. Ola Robinson, 702 Bunker Drive, Partee Heights  
Mrs. Ida McLaughlin, 1424 Rood  
Mr. Fred Burmeister, 337 Independent Avenue  
Mrs. Bertha Ross, 2020 North 8th Street  
Mr. Howard Roland, East Main Street  
Mrs. Roselle Cobb, 1507 North 17th Street

Many of those who opposed the 45% increase in the utility rates suggested a one per cent sales tax increase. Others indicated they would need to do some serious thinking before they could endorse this method.

Councilman Anderson moved that the hearing be closed. In view of the audience opposition to the 45% increase immediately, Councilman Anderson suggested the City Manager prepare figures as to what the revenues would be from the increase as we have them now and compare them with an arbitrary level of increase of 25% on January 1 and the balance of the increase on September 1. Councilman Grantham said he would like to see the figures comparing Grand Junction's rates with those of other cities in Colorado. This information is to be ready by the next meeting of Council on November 6.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Councilman Grantham moved that the meeting be adjourned, which motion was seconded by Councilman Anderson and said motion carried.

Neva B. Lockhart

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City Clerk