

GRAND JUNCTION
CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING

November 12, 2003

The City Council of the City of Grand Junction, Colorado met on Wednesday, November 12, 2003 at 5:03 p.m. in the City Hall Auditorium for a Special Council meeting. Those present were Harry Butler, Cindy Enos-Martinez, Bruce Hill, Dennis Kirtland, Bill McCurry, Gregg Palmer and President of the Council Jim Spehar. Also present were City Manager Kelly Arnold, City Attorney Dan Wilson and City Clerk Stephanie Tuin.

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY LAB CLOSURE

The DOE is considering closing the analytical lab at its Grand Junction Office. This laboratory is recognized as an important economic driver for the community. The Riverview Technology Corporation (RTC) is asking the City to request the DOE to explore opportunities for privatizing the lab to preserve the jobs and revenues for the community before making a decision to close the lab.

Bernie Buescher, president of the RTC, was present and reviewed this item with Council. He referred to the resolution and corrected the date in the resolution presented. He said the purpose of the resolution is to stave off the closure of the lab. RTC has been approached by Teledyne and is interested in taking over the facility and operations. THE DOE has been encouraged to consider the proposal from Teledyne. DOE has refused the offer in writing and released a news release announcing the closure in January, 2004. Mr. Buescher asked that Council participate in pressuring the DOE into considering the proposal from Teledyne and thereby saving the 17 or so jobs at the facility. One customer, Rocky Flats, is livid over the decision. He quoted another customer as saying such services are not available anywhere. This same decision was made a few years ago and the pressure brought to bear overturned that decision before.

Councilmember Palmer inquired about DOE's thoughts on privatizing three years ago. Mr. Buescher said they went through a process and determined that none of the proposals met their criteria.

Council President Spehar asked why the lab could not be relocated. Mr. Buescher said the equipment could be moved to another location but the DOE owns the equipment so they must be part of the negotiations. That is the problem; the DOE won't even discuss the matter. If DOE is not brought to the table, the lab would be demolished and the equipment would be abandoned. Keeping the lab at the current location would allow the lab to stay intact.

Keeping operations there under Teledyne might mean an increase in business over the next year. RTC is not supporting the Teledyne proposal specifically but rather negotiations with any such lab company.

Resolution No. 107-03 – A Resolution to Request the Department of Energy's Consideration of Privatization of the Grand Junction Office Laboratory

It was moved by Councilmember Palmer, seconded by Councilmember Hill and carried by roll call vote to adopt Resolution No. 107-03.

Council President Spehar explained that the closure would not only cause the loss of those jobs but the loss of those community members and their participation in community service and economics.

The meeting adjourned at 5:17 p.m.

Stephanie Tuin, MMC
City Clerk