

**GRAND JUNCTION CITY COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING**

**July 30, 2007**

The City Council of the City of Grand Junction convened into regular session on the 30<sup>th</sup> of July 2007, at 7:12 p.m. in the City Auditorium. Those present were Councilmembers Bonnie Beckstein, Bruce Hill, Doug Thomason, Linda Romer Todd, and President of the Council Jim Doody. Councilmembers Gregg Palmer and Teresa Coons were absent. Also present were City Manager Laurie Kadrich, City Attorney John Shaver, and City Clerk Stephanie Tuin.

Council President Doody called the meeting to order. Councilmember Thomason led in the pledge of allegiance.

**Council Recognitions**

President of the Council Doody recognized the upcoming United Way Pacesetter Breakfast on August 1, 2007, at 7:30 a.m. at Liff Auditorium. He also recognized the First Police Academy Graduation on July 24<sup>th</sup>, with thanks to Mesa County Sheriff's Office and Mesa State College.

**Appointments**

To Airport Authority

Councilmember Beckstein moved to re-appoint Roger Little to the Walker Field Airport Authority for a four year term expiring May 2011. Councilmember Hill seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Ratify Appointment to Mesa County Building Code Board of Appeals

Councilmember Todd moved to ratify the appointment of Steve Peterson to an alternate position on the Mesa County Building Code Board of Appeals for a term expiring July 2, 2010. Councilmember Thomason seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

**Citizen Comments**

There were none.

**PRESENTATIONS****1. Energy Conservation Efforts**

Alpine Bank's Green Team to share their efforts toward conservation. Then the City's energy conservation committee, GJ CORE (Conserving Our Resources Efficiently), will present ideas for conserving energy and other resources.

Kathy Portner, Neighborhood Services Manager and a part of GJ CORE, reviewed this item. She presented an overview of the Committee which includes employees from across City departments and then detailed the areas the committee has been reviewing.

The focus areas the Committee has reviewed are: mobility and fleet; building and facilities; recycling, reduction and reuse; water and wastewater resources energy conservation; and education; funding and outreach. She spoke of a number of ongoing and future projects. She referred to a resolution that the City Council is being asked to consider and then introduced Darren Starr who administers the City's recycling program.

Darren Starr, Solid Waste Manager, reviewed the history of the City's recycling program and pointed out co-owners Steve and Elaine Foss who run Curbside Recycling Indefinitely (CRI), who have been involved for recycling for the City of Grand Junction many years. They began with a pilot program in Spring Valley in 1990. This expanded into downtown and during the first three to four years began to collect data about the recycling program. It was about 1993 when the Council and City Staff did a volunteer program. Since then they have expanded the number of products they can pickup and recycle at the curb.

Mr. Starr stated that the City has about 2,500 residential recycling customers that participate in a monthly collection at a cost per customer of \$1.75. It was known that the recycling program would never pay for itself, but the service was valuable so they wanted customers to have the option to participate.

The City collects back about 35% of the cost in hard dollars from the collection of the customer's \$1.75 monthly fee and from the sale of the recyclables.

About 40% of the City's cost comes from cost avoidance. Avoiding cost is the cost comparison of a recyclable product versus it going to the landfill as regular garbage. The other 25% is subsidized by the Solid Waste Fund. Calculated out for 2007, the cost is about 73 cents per customer, with 75% of the rate paying for the recyclable program to be available to them. There are a little over 13,000 refuse customers and 2,500 of them recycle. CRI also has 150 of their own

commercial accounts. Mr. Starr also talked about some of the future plans for expanding the program.

Councilmember Todd asked if the cost savings identified by Mr. Starr include all the waste companies. Mr. Starr answered that the numbers just have to do with the City's recycling contract. However, it does bring up a point that other locations, such as Steamboat Springs, do not have a facility for recyclables so they bring recyclables to the Grand Junction facility, allowing the City to capitalize on revenue without the expense.

Councilmember Hill asked if there is equipment being manufactured to automate the process so that the City can engage the community to recycle more.

Mr. Starr answered yes. In communities where there is a single stream process it is easier for the homeowners. The larger cities use materials recovery facilities where they have the separator machines but it is very expensive. Expanding the program will require more infrastructure to handle the increase.

The State of Colorado has increased the amount of money being collected from the landfills and the money is going to be available in the form of grants and repayments to recycling communities. Staff is watching that and working with the County and other recyclers.

Council President Doody asked about the status of the ethanol fuel station. Ms. Portner from Neighborhood Services reported that the project is progressing. Council President Doody asked about how many flexible fuel vehicles are in the fleet. Ms. Portner advised there are 35 flexible fuel vehicles in the City's fleet.

That concluded the City's presentation. The Alpine Bank Green Team was asked to make their presentation.

Norm Franke, 2324 Falcon Point Court, representing Alpine Bank said they are here to present the experience that Alpine Bank has had with their Green Team initiative. They have installed a geothermal heating in one building. They installed all energy efficient bulbs in Alpine Bank downtown. They have 35 locations in ten counties. Mr. Franke expressed a desire for Alpine Bank to partner with the City, the County, and other organizations to make a difference in conserving resources.

Mr. Franke introduced Sonya Foster, 357 29 Road, Corporate Marketing Representative for Alpine Bank and she detailed the Green Team's efforts including their partnerships, the leaders, their guiding documents, their policy, their purchasing policy, how they prioritized the ideas that came forward, and their action plans addressing those priorities. They also make loans geared

towards making conservation efforts, providing reduced rates for those types of projects.

Norm Franke wrapped up the presentation by inviting any partnership efforts and highlighting the ISO certification efforts the bank has done. (ISO certification is an international "Good Housekeeping" certification for environmental management in business.)

The City Council commended Mr. Franke for being a corporate leader in conservation efforts.

Resolution No. 112-07 – A Resolution Supporting the Efforts of GJ Core (Conserving Our Resources Efficiently) to Promote Conservation and Reuse of Our Resources

Councilmember Thomason moved to adopt Resolution No. 112-07. Councilmember Beckstein seconded the motion. The motion carried by roll call vote.

Councilmember Hill thanked the CORE group and recognized that many of these efforts have been ongoing by the employees.

## 2. **Ambulance Transport Update**

The Fire Department to update City Council on the first 12 months of ambulance transport service for the Grand Junction Ambulance Service Area (ASA) and discuss future development of this service.

Ken Watkins, Fire Chief, reviewed this item. He thanked the Council for the opportunity to update them and celebrate their successes. Chief Watkins reviewed the history of the Department moving into the ambulance transport business.

Although they have resolved some of their space, personnel and equipment issues, some stations are still experiencing some of those issues. He provided the staffing, equipment, and other resources statistics. He compared numbers of calls to the prior year and noted that Grand Junction runs a huge number of calls. He came from a city of 110,000 population that ran about 8,300 calls per year, whereas Grand Junction has had over 11,000 calls in the last twelve months.

The inclusion of non-emergency transport is a new function for municipal ambulance providers, a result of the changing health care systems. Other duties include out-of-town transports and stand-bys. Numbers for all but non-emergent

transports exceeded projections. Response time met or exceeded the eight minute response time for all emergency calls, with the average being 5.1 minutes.

The financial goal is to stay an enterprise fund and for the service to pay for itself. Thus far they have exceeded the projection for revenues. They have actually spent less than projected. All in all, they have met all the expectations laid out by the City Council and have provided a high level of care. He commended the Staff, their dedication and commitment to the program.

Chief Watkins foresaw only improvements and increased teamwork. Having both fire and EMS functions will help with recruitments. He thinks response time can be improved in some areas and how that integrates with the community. Another area for improvement is the reimbursement rate. Chief Watkins expressed his belief in this system that provides both fire and EMS services. He praised the City Council's decision.

Councilmember Hill said he is pleasantly surprised that the economics are better than anticipated. He asked if the reimbursement rate, inclusive of the receivables, is the net. Chief Watkins said it is all inclusive. It is a general percentage based on the total amount invoiced and brought in. There has been a long lag time for many of the invoices due to the collection process, but there is a steady increase of monies coming in from items previously billed.

Councilmember Hill noted that the EMS study group is considering a rate increase. Chief Watkins concurred that is in discussions County-wide. Councilmember Hill encouraged an equaling out of the system so that the rates aren't going up to pay for those that can't.

Councilmember Todd asked how often the City is transporting out-of-town. Chief Watkins said they did 67 in the last twelve month period, mostly to Denver, but they have also transported to Salt Lake City and Albuquerque.

That concluded the presentation.

Council President Doody called a recess at 8:32 p.m.

The meeting reconvened at 8:44 p.m.

### **CONSENT CALENDAR**

Councilmember Hill read the items on the Consent Calendar and then moved to approve the Consent Calendar. It was seconded by Councilmember Beckstein and carried by roll call vote to approve the Consent Items #3 through #6.

3. **Minutes of Previous Meetings**

*Action: Approve the Summary of the July 16, 2007 Workshop and the Minutes of the July 18, 2007 Regular Meeting*

4. **Vacation of Utility Easement – Mesa State College, Located at 1100 North Avenue** [File #VE-2005-206]

Vacation of a 20' utility easement that is no longer needed. The utilities that were located in this easement have been relocated, inspected and accepted by the City of Grand Junction.

Resolution No. 113-07 – A Resolution Vacating a 20' Utility Easement within Lot 1, Block 1 of the Elam Subdivision, Located on the Mesa State College Campus, 1100 North Avenue

*Action: Adopt Resolution No. 113-07*

5. **Contract Amendment #1 Signal System Communications**

This amendment will fund the connection of two additional signals on 12<sup>th</sup> Street at Grand Avenue and 12<sup>th</sup> Street and one CCTV camera to the traffic signal communications system. The current contract connects five signals on North Avenue from 1<sup>st</sup> to 12 Street with CCTV cameras at 1<sup>st</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>. The signal at 12<sup>th</sup> and Gunnison and the Parks Administration building to the network will also be connected to the fiber optic network.

*Action: Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Construction Contract Amendment #1 to the Signal System Communications Phase 1D Project with Dillie and Kuhn, Inc. in the Amount of \$61,603.25*

6. **CDBG Contract with Grand Valley Catholic Outreach** [File #CDBG-2006-03]

The Subrecipient Contract formalizes the City's award of \$100,000 to Grand Valley Catholic Outreach as allocated from the City's 2006 CDBG Program for development of low and moderate income housing as previously approved by Council.

*Action: Authorize the City Manager to Sign the Subrecipient Contact with Grand Valley Catholic Outreach for the City's 2006 Program Year, Community Development Block Grant Program*

**ITEMS NEEDING INDIVIDUAL CONSIDERATION****Council Assignments for 2007-2008**

Council President Doody explained that the City Council discussed the various board assignments. A few changes are being made to the previous year's assignments. He said Councilmember Todd will serve on AGNC in his stead, and Councilmember Beckstein will serve on the Downtown Development Authority this year.

Councilmember Todd expressed her appreciation for the opportunity to serve on both the AGNC and the Colorado Water Congress.

Resolution No. 114 -07 – A Resolution Appointing and Assigning City Councilmembers to Represent the City on Various Boards and Organizations

Councilmember Todd moved to adopt Resolution No. 114-07. Councilmember Beckstein seconded the motion. Motion carried by roll call vote.

**Watershed Plan-Town of Palisade/City of Grand Junction**

On June 18, 2007 the Genesis Watershed Plan public comments and focus group discussions were presented to City Council for review. Since that time the Genesis Watershed Plan stakeholders have met and incorporated the majority of the public comments into the finalized Watershed Plan. Presented was a redline version of the Watershed Plan that shows what comments were incorporated.

Terry Franklin, Water Services Manager, reviewed this item. There were some additional questions on the Plan, and there will be a document to answer those questions posted on the Genesis Watershed Plan's web site. All the comments made by the stakeholders were incorporated into the Plan.

Councilmember Hill asked if only Genesis will have leases. Mr. Franklin said that Aspen Drilling does own a few smaller leases on the Mesa.

Councilmember Beckstein asked if the watershed regulations will apply to any company that drills in the watershed area. Mr. Franklin said that it does, the Genesis Plan will be used as a model for other leases but applies to these specific properties on top of the Grand Mesa.

Council President Doody asked the City Attorney for clarification. City Attorney Shaver advised that the community based planning effort was a result of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) declaring a hiatus for the Genesis leases and is not directly functioning as part of the watershed regulations. What the Staff is proposing is that

Council adopt the Plan and it would be a stand alone Plan for the process that began a year ago. In the resolution that is written for the next item, there is reference to the Plan to include all the documents and maintain consistency.

Councilmember Thomason moved to adopt the Genesis Watershed Plan. Councilmember Beckstein seconded the motion. Motion carried.

### **Watershed Regulations**

Ordinance No. 3961, establishing requirements for permits for certain activities in the Grand Junction watersheds, was adopted September 6, 2006. Regulations implementing the ordinance have been prepared by Utility Department staff, in conjunction with various affected interest groups.

Terry Franklin, Water Services Manager, reviewed this item. He advised that the new version added some additional terms and definitions from the previous review. There were no substantial changes.

Resolution No. 115-07 – A Resolution Adopting the Watershed Protection Regulations

Councilmember Beckstein moved to adopt Resolution No. 115-07. Councilmember Thomason seconded the motion. Motion carried by roll call vote.

### **Non-Scheduled Citizens & Visitors**

There were none.

### **Other Business**

There was none.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 8:59 p.m.

Stephanie Tuin, MMC  
City Clerk