

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

**August 13, 2007**

The City Council of the City of Grand Junction convened into regular session on the 13<sup>th</sup> day of August 2007, at 7:03 p.m. in the City Auditorium. Those present were Councilmembers Bonnie Beckstein, Teresa Coons, Bruce Hill, Gregg Palmer, Linda Romer Todd, and Councilmember President Jim Doody. Councilmember Doug Thomason was absent. Also present were City Manager Laurie Kadrach, City Attorney John Shaver, and City Clerk Stephanie Tuin.

**Proclamations**

Proclaiming August 20 – 24, 2007 as “Catholic Outreach Awareness Week” in the City of Grand Junction

**Council Recognitions**

City Council recognized the Golden K Kiwanis Club for hosting the new City Manager Laurie Kadrach at their last meeting. They also recognized Suicide Prevention Foundation’s August 18<sup>th</sup> 1st Annual Fundraiser, and National Night Out last week.

**Appointments**

Ratify Appointments to the Urban Trails Committee

Councilmember Todd moved to re-appoint Joe Moreng and appoint Bill Grant to the Urban Trails Committee for three year terms expiring June 30, 2010, appoint Julie Sabin for a two year term expiring June 30, 2009, and appoint Mark Williams for a one year term expiring June 30, 2008. Councilmember Hill seconded the motion. Motion carried.

To the Riverfront Commission

Councilmember Beckstein moved to re-appoint Ken Henry and Dennis Pretti and appoint Katie Steele and Corrie Bonner to the Riverfront Commission for three year terms expiring July 2010. Councilmember Palmer seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Appoint a Downtown Development Authority Representative to the Historic Preservation Board

Councilmember Todd moved to appoint Patti Hoff to the Historic Preservation Board concurrent with her DDA term. Councilmember Hill seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**Citizen Comments**

Steve Stewart, 574 25 Road, and Rod England, P.O. Box 2033, Glade Park addressed the City Council on an event Tribute to 9-1-1. The two are members of Wounded Warriors which helps families in the interim before disability payments start. They want to bring a motivational speaker, Dana Bowman, a decorated special forces soldier who jumped for the Golden Knights when he lost both his legs in a parachuting accident. Not only is Mr. Bowman a motivational speaker, but he still jumps. The group has worked out a trade with Mr. Bowman so he will perform here in Grand Junction. The two proposed a partnership for this presentation in honor of 9-1-1 called "Lest We Forget". They asked the City to help out with the cost of holding the presentation at Two Rivers Convention Center.

City Manager Laurie Kadrach suggested that since they are in a situation where they cannot take action, she would have Deputy City Manager Trent Prall work with the members of the Wounded Warriors and try to bring something to the City Council by pre-meeting on Wednesday.

**PRESENTATIONS****1. I-70 Corridor Group/Rocky Mountain Rail Authority Update**

Dr. Flo Raitano, along with Harry Dale, Chair of Rocky Mountain Rail Authority, and Michael Penny, Chair of the I-70 Coalition, presented an update to City Council.

Dr. Flo Raitano, the director of the I-70 Coalition, introduced the topic. She explained what the I-70 Coalition is and who is involved from both counties and cities. There are private sector members also such as Intrawest and Vail Resorts. She then reviewed the history and the mission of the organization; they addressed the congestion of and the accessibility to I-70. They have developed a preferred alternative, a copy of which is being left with the City Manager. She explained why they are addressing this issue. The amount of revenue being lost because of the current I-70 situation is at \$839 million and growing.

She then explained the Coalition Alternative which includes other modes of transportation including aviation, transit, non-motorized and alternate routes. The macro planning elements include service to off-corridor communities, noting must be scenic and not just a way to move goods and services. The system must be multi-modal, must increase capacity, and should encompass a 50 year lifetime. Planning for multi-modal must be concurrent with solutions to address the problem areas first and should not preclude a better solution that may come to be. Any transit system must be appealing, include a rapid transit component, and the

system must move goods as well as people. Mitigation has to be immediate. Dr. Raitano then listed the Coalition's accomplishments. She detailed the pending projects and how they are approaching the solutions. Working with CDOT is a large piece of how they see their future role.

Michael Penny, Chair of the Coalition, added that the coalition came together around the PEIS (Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement) but what they have done is look at the corridor from border to border. The funding piece, the Blue Ribbon Panel, sees the I-70 Corridor Coalition as the biggest competitor for transportation funding. He urged the public-private partnership and Grand Junction's participation to help make it a stronger voice.

Harry Dale, Clear Creek Commissioner and Chair of the Rocky Mountain Rail Authority, who would like to see the I-70 corridor be designated as the 11<sup>th</sup> high speed transit corridor. It is a multi-jurisdictional quasi-governmental entity that can qualify for the funds. They began by looking at a feasibility study to establish a rail system in this corridor. He detailed the questions posed by the feasibility study. He identified the members of the Authority. He then listed the members of the Steering Committee who will be leading the feasibility study and stated that they are in need of a western slope member. No financial commitment is required to join now. In 2008, the minimum commitment will be \$500.

Councilmember Coons, as a Colorado Association of Ski Towns (CAST) member, said she has heard of these efforts and knew the need for Grand Junction and Mesa County's participation. This affects economic development as new industry needs to have transportation options. She encouraged Grand Junction's participation.

Councilmember Todd stated she was involved in the development of T-Rex and agreed with a multi-modal alternative. She supports Grand Junction's involvement.

Mr. Penny said the Coalition has been successful in working with the new State Administration, including Transportation Director Russell George and the Governor. He said Grand Junction is welcome to be involved and they are all involved with each other's groups.

Councilmember Hill pointed out that though the road to Denver is much improved, it could be better. He supports Grand Junction's involvement.

Councilmember Palmer asked if there is a financial contribution needed to join the Rocky Mountain Rail Authority. Mr. Dale said there is not in 2007 but in 2008, a minimum of \$500 will be requested.

Councilmember Beckstein said she supports Grand Junction's participation.

Councilmember Coons asked if Grand Junction can join both organizations. Dr. Raitano said there is a two-tiered membership, with a calculated amount of around \$1,500. All have full voting privileges. Tier-two members have fewer voting members.

City Attorney John Shaver advised that the Rocky Mountain Rail Authority does require a resolution to join. If the I-70 Coalition requires a resolution, one can be drafted for Wednesday. Dr. Raitano advised a formal resolution is not needed; a letter of intent would suffice.

Resolution No. 118-07 – A Resolution Approving City Participation and Membership to the Rocky Mountain Rail Authority (RMRA) and Authorizing the City Manager to Sign an Intergovernmental Agreement

Councilmember Hill moved to adopt Resolution No. 118-07. Councilmember Palmer seconded the motion. Motion carried by roll call vote. (The Council representative was not named and will be determined at a later date.)

Councilmember Hill moved to direct the City Manager and the City Attorney to draft a letter of intent for the City to join the I-70 coalition. Councilmember Beckstein seconded. Motion carried.

Council President Doody called a recess at 8:18 p.m.

The meeting reconvened at 8:25 p.m.

## **CONSENT CALENDAR**

Councilmember Palmer read the items on the Consent Calendar. Councilmember Hill moved to approve the Consent Calendar. It was seconded by Councilmember Todd and carried by roll call vote to approve the Consent Items #2 through #9.

### **2. Minutes of Previous Meetings**

*Action: Approve the Minutes of the July 30, 2007 Regular Meeting, the Minutes of the August 1, 2007 Special Session and the Minutes of the August 1, 2007 Regular Meeting*

3. **Purchase of the Property at 544 Pitkin Avenue**

Negotiations by City staff with the owners of 544 Pitkin Avenue have been completed and a contract to purchase the property for \$269,900.00 has been signed by both parties.

Resolution No. 119-07 – A Resolution Ratifying the Purchase Contract for the Property Located at 544 Pitkin Avenue, Grand Junction, Colorado

*Action: Adopt Resolution No. 119-07*

4. **Grand Mesa Reservoir No. 1 Dam Renovation Project**

Award a construction contract for phase 1 of the renovation of Grand Mesa Reservoir No.1. This reservoir was recently purchased by the City and the renovation will allow full storage capacity.

*Action: Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Contract for the Grand Mesa Reservoir No. 1 – Dam Renovation Project with Hudspeth and Associates, Inc. in the Amount of \$321,416.80*

5. **Persigo Wastewater Treatment Plant Rehabilitation Change Order**

Approve Change Order No. 2 to add additional work to the construction contract for rehabilitation of the Raw Sewage Wet Well at the Persigo Wastewater Treatment Plant.

*Action: Authorize the City Manager to Approve the Change Order No. 2 with Guildner Pipeline Maintenance, Inc. in the Amount of \$81,725.00 for a Net Construction Contract of \$395,180.75 after Change Order No. 2*

6. **Police Department Transcription Services**

Transcription services would benefit the Grand Junction Police Department by reducing the time officers currently spend on administrative report writing and better utilizing available telecommunication technology. This will be a new service for Police that will save officer time and may improve accuracy and efficiency.

*Action: Authorize the Purchasing Division to Award Police Transcription Services to Huntington Court Reporters & Transcription, Inc. of Pasadena, CA*

7. **Purchase Telephone Computers for the Communications Center Remodel Project**

This request is for a sole source purchase of seven additional Plant Vesta telephone computers to be used in the Grand Junction Regional Communication Center.

*Action: Authorize the City Purchasing Division to Purchase Seven Telephone Computers from Plant Vesta in the Amount of \$211,678*

8. **Purchase Radio Computers and Upgrades for the Communications Center Remodel Project**

This request is for a sole source purchase of additional Motorola radio computers and upgrade of the existing radio computers to be used in the Grand Junction Regional Communication Center.

*Action: Authorize the City Purchasing Division to Purchase Seven Additional Radio Computers and Upgrade Nine Existing Radio Computers from Motorola in the Amount of \$367,793*

9. **Purchase New Dispatch Consoles for the Communications Center Remodel Project**

This request is for a sole source purchase of three new dispatch consoles from Watson Furniture Group, to be used in the Grand Junction Regional Communication Center.

*Action: Authorize the City Purchasing Division to Purchase Dispatch Consoles from Watson Furniture Group in the Amount of \$40,220.58*

### **ITEMS NEEDING INDIVIDUAL CONSIDERATION**

#### **Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant for Police Communication Projects**

Since 1998 the Department of Justice has granted our community with funding on an annual basis. This funding has been shared on a 50/50 basis with the Mesa County Sheriff's office. The current grant is the result of combining both the LLEBG and Byrne Memorial Grant programs. The monies represent direct funding from the Bureau of Justice Assistance and award is based upon population and crime statistics. This year's grant application identifies both GJPD and MCSO intending to use these funds toward interoperability projects including 900MHz, 800MHz and CopLink.

Troy Smith, Deputy Police Chief, Services, reviewed this item. He offered an opportunity for public comments on the grant.

Council President Doody asked if CopLink is a possible project. Deputy Chief Smith said yes, the grant application is written very broadly to include that and a number of other communication projects.

Councilmember Palmer lauded the cooperation between the two law enforcement agencies in the area.

Council President Doody asked for public comments at 8:32 p.m. There were none.

Councilmember Todd moved to accept the Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant in the amount of \$53,480 to be split with Mesa County Sheriff's Office. Councilmember Coons seconded the motion. Motion carried.

### **Two Lane 5<sup>th</sup> Street from Ute Avenue to Grand Avenue**

Council approval to re-stripe 5<sup>th</sup> Street from Ute Avenue to Grand Avenue to two-lanes and modify some parking from parallel to angle spaces to increase the number of spaces by 19.

Tim Moore, Public Works and Planning Director, reviewed this item. He provided some background to the request. One item that has been brought forward was acquiring additional parking on 5<sup>th</sup> Street by creating a two-lane street. Other long range planning issues include the improvements along Colorado Avenue and the redesign for Main Street. Mr. Moore thought now might be a good time to address these items and some of the safety issues. The street is already two-lanes north of Grand Avenue. It is only three lanes between Ute Avenue and Grand Avenue.

Once 29 Road and the Riverside Parkway are complete, they anticipate reduced traffic in the downtown area. Accidents have increased in that corridor. Sideswipes and increased speeds are a few examples of the issues.

Councilmember Todd said she drove the corridor and at first objected but once she drove it she saw the benefit.

Councilmember Palmer said there was no additional traffic congestion when the north of Grand Avenue was two laned, and he does see the advantage now.

Councilmember Hill noted that when there is on-street parking and two-lanes, the tendency for drivers is to slow down. He is glad this will be done in conjunction with chip

seal so it can be plainly striped. Also the benefit is the traffic is slowed while going through downtown plus the benefit of additional parking.

Councilmember Coons agreed and lauded increased safety and parking.

Councilmember Palmer agreed.

Councilmember Palmer moved to approve the change to 5<sup>th</sup> Street to two lanes in concert with the re-construction of Colorado Avenue early next year. Councilmember Hill seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**Non-Scheduled Citizens & Visitors**

There were none.

**Other Business**

There was none.

**Executive Session**

Councilmember Beckstein moved to go into executive session for the purpose of determining positions relative to matters that may be subject to negotiations, developing strategy for negotiators and/or instructing negotiators relative to the City Manager's contract pursuant to Section 402 4 E of Colorado's Open Meetings Act and we will not be returning to open session. Councilmember Hill seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Council President Doody advised that City Council will convene in Executive Session in the Administration Conference Room and will not be returning to open session.

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 8:46 p.m.

Stephanie Tuin, MMC  
City Clerk