

**GRAND JUNCTION CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL SESSION MEETING**

February 25, 2010

The City Council of the City of Grand Junction convened into special session on the 25th day of February 2010 at 7:25 p.m. in the City Auditorium. The purpose of the meeting was to fill the vacant District B seat. The special session was noticed and convened following a public candidate's forum. Those present at the special session were Councilmembers Bonnie Beckstein, Teresa Coons, Tom Kenyon, Gregg Palmer, Bill Pitts, and Council President Bruce Hill. Also present were City Manager Laurie Kadrich, City Attorney John Shaver and City Clerk Stephanie Tuin.

Council President Hill called the meeting to order.

City Clerk Stephanie Tuin was directed by Council President Hill to pass out ballots upon which the Councilmembers would vote for their top two candidates.

Councilmember Kenyon said he appreciated and thanked all the candidates for their interest and participation noting that he thought they were all great.

Councilmember Coons concurred with Councilmember Kenyon and thanked those applying for their willingness to run for the vacated seat.

Councilmember Palmer said in the past City elections there were many times when a person ran unopposed thus not allowing for exchange of ideas.

The City Clerk collected the ballots and tallied the results. Council President Hill advised the top two candidates were Sam Susuras and Brad Higginbotham. The City Clerk distributed ballots for Councilmembers to select one of the two. The City Clerk tallied those votes. The result was a tie. There was a discussion on how to resolve the tie.

Councilmember Palmer suggested that a question be posed to Mr. Susuras and Mr. Higginbotham on their vision for the City.

Councilmember Beckstein suggested a question on their vision relative to the Comprehensive Plan.

Councilmember Coons suggested a question focused around how the City can work with other partners such as Mesa County.

Councilmember Pitts suggested a question on what the candidate would like to accomplish in the next fourteen months, the duration of this particular term.

The candidates were called forward in alphabetical order and asked to respond to any of the questions that had been suggested.

Brad Higginbotham said in the next twelve months Council should flush out the framework that the village center clustered residencies will be built upon. City Council can remove any questions or ambiguity about the Comprehensive Plan and create some predictability on how it will be accomplished. Council should come up with a plan to deal with the Fire and Police Departments and their work situations. Mr. Higginbotham thought creating a vision the citizens can buy into is also the way to go. He also noted that he would look into ways to help enterprises within the City (contracting out Parks maintenance and other services were examples given.)

Sam Susuras said five years from now will be very exciting. The Comprehensive Plan will be in place for five years as well as the new codes. He said that he was on the County Planning Commission and was part of adopting the Comprehensive Plan for the County. One way to work with the County is the conversion to natural gas for vehicles. The Clifton annexation is another way to cooperate with the County.

Council President Hill directed Stephanie Tuin, City Clerk, to pass out new ballots.

City Clerk Stephanie Tuin distributed ballots. She collected those, tallied the results and informed Council President Hill of the results. Council President Hill announced that Sam Susuras had received the most votes.¹

The City Clerk then administered the oath of office to newly elected District B Councilmember Sam Susuras.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:49 p.m.

Stephanie Tuin, MMC
City Clerk

¹ As a result of an inquiry from the Daily Sentinel, the City Attorney confirmed with City Councilmembers that Council President Hill and Councilmembers Beckstein, Coons and Kenyon voted for Sam Susuras and Councilmembers Palmer and Pitts voted for Brad Higginbotham. That tally was provided to the Daily Sentinel by the City Attorney. The City Clerk affirms that the vote was 4-2 and that the vote was recorded as described in these minutes.