

GRAND JUNCTION CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP

September 5, 2001

The City Council of the City of Grand Junction, Colorado, met on Monday, September 5, 2001 at 6:12 p.m. in the City Auditorium to discuss workshop items. Those present were Harry Butler, Dennis Kirtland, Bill McCurry, Jim Spehar, Reford Theobald, Janet Terry and President of the Council Cindy Enos-Martinez.

Summaries and action on the following topics:

1. **GRAND MESA SLOPES UPDATE AND POLICY DISCUSSION:** Staff updated City Council on issues relative to the Grand Mesa Slopes. City Manager Kelly Arnold outlined the proposed discussion as being the history, the direction for the future including re-establishing the Grand Mesa Slopes process, short term policy direction relative to gas drilling operations and issues relative to the Sommerville Ranch. Public Works Director Mark Relph introduced the item and asked Utilities Manager Greg Trainor to start off. Utilities Manager Trainor gave a brief overview of the history, the process through the Grand Mesa Slopes for developing policy and the access issue relative to the gas wells as well as the conflict with the ranching and hunting operations at Sommerville Ranch.

Action Summary: Three decisions were discussed. 1) Access for drilling operations, 2) access for transport, which is totally different and 3) leasing the ground at Sommerville for oil and gas drilling. Council directed the City Manager to begin negotiations for an agreement for access for drilling, i.e., test drilling operations. The City Manager clarified that any agreement would probably be relative only to the one well, for test drilling and short term only. Re-establishing the Grand Mesa Slopes Policy Committee was also favored as long as Council's philosophy was shared with the policy committee first.