

# GRAND JUNCTION CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP

March 4, 2002

The City Council of the City of Grand Junction, Colorado, met on Monday, March 4, 2002 at 6:15 p.m. in the City Auditorium to discuss workshop items. Those present were Harry Butler, Dennis Kirtland, Bill McCurry, Jim Spehar, Janet Terry, Reford Theobold and President of the Council Cindy Enos-Martinez.

President of the Council Enos-Martinez had to leave at 7:05 p.m. President Pro Tem Terry presided over the meeting until 7:55 p.m. when she left. Councilmember Butler then presided over the meeting.

## Summaries and action on the following topics:

1. **CODE ENFORCEMENT:** Staff updated City Council on current code enforcement practices, philosophy, week-end enforcement, weed enforcement and options for change. Councilmember Kirtland suggested that employees be encouraged to report possible violations. Councilmembers expressed frustration in dealing with repeat offenders and asked that options be explored to reduce those violators. Public Works Manager Tim Moore presented weed control in the City's right-of-way. One method to be employed included the use of some new chemicals, called pre-emergents, that target certain undesirable weeds. A proper weed program could cost \$½ million per year. Bare bones program with the City maintaining land adjacent to agricultural lands, state highways and city-owned property for \$155,000/year. It is \$5,000 less to remove the responsibility for ag lands. If the city also maintained public row's by spraying the cost goes up to \$183,000. There may be a \$25,000 savings in Code Enforcement. The half-million dollar amount includes mowing.

**Action summary:** Council directed staff look at repeat offenders and Encouraging employees to report violations, Council directed staff to look at options for Saturday enforcement, especially summer and at Christmastime, Chief Morrison suggested that the Code be amended to better define the sidewalk area and there be some education, warning tickets prior to enforcement of parking in the right-of-way, using correctional inmates, juvenile offenders and Partners participants are to be explored. Council supported maintaining those areas the City is responsible for prior to any increase in weed enforcement at the \$180,000 level. Council approved going forward immediately with the spraying of the pre-emergent. City Manager Arnold suggested that the program will go forward and Council will get a quarterly report. Council agreed. Councilmember Theobold expressed that the current standard for weeds is not being met by those hired. Any formal action needed to be on the Wednesday agenda is authorized. Council agreed to consider an ordinance allowing weeds in row adjacent to agricultural areas to be cut back ten feet from pavement with height of 12 inches, or perhaps more. City Manager Arnold said he would explore other options and get back to Council.

2. **PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT REVIEW PROCESS CHANGES:**  
Community Development Director Bob Blanchard updated City Council on this proposal. He reviewed the current process and timelines. He noted some of the conflicts in the time frames. Director Blanchard then outlined his proposed changes, stating his goal is to implement the changes in May. He will be presenting the concept to the public sector on Wednesday.

**Action summary:** Council inquired if the developer takes a time period and the Code is amended, what rules does the developer have to adhere to. Mr. Blanchard expressed that he would process the application under the rules in existence when the application was filed but agreed that there should be some type of control over an indefinite time frame.

3. **GROWTH PLAN UPDATE:** Kathy Portner on behalf of the City Council Committee working on this project provided an update on this project that is part of the 2002 work plan. She gave the Council a review of the development of the initial Growth Plan. Council was asked for input on the plan to amend the Growth Plan.

**Action summary:** Council supported the work plan for the Growth Plan update.

8:20 **ADJOURN**

