

GRAND JUNCTION CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP

November 4, 2002

The City Council of the City of Grand Junction, Colorado, met on Monday, November 4, 2002 at 7:03 p.m. in the City Hall Auditorium to discuss workshop items. Those present were Harry Butler, Dennis Kirtland, Bill McCurry, Janet Terry, Reford Theobald and President of the Council Cindy Enos-Martinez. Councilmember Jim Spehar was absent.

Summaries and action on the following topics:

1. **TRAFFIC CALMING:** Council reviewed three applications for traffic calming in different neighborhoods. Transportation Engineer Jody Kliska introduced the three projects that were in process last year when the Council decided to adopt a formal policy. The requests are for temporary installations for a two to six month period and then they will be evaluated.

1) Chipeta Avenue – 13th to 14th Street. Ms. Kliska advocated a mini roundabout. Craig Roberts, 1320 Chipeta Avenue, described the neighborhood and the circumstances. About 70% of the neighborhood is in favor of traffic calming. Besides the traffic calming measure, he requested a reduced speed limit for not only his neighborhood but city-wide. Council voiced concerns about the number of requests becoming out-of-hand. Councilmember Theobald questioned the review of other solutions to the situation, including posting speed limit signs. Ms. Kliska advised that rarely will the posting of speed limits mitigate the problem, people generally drive the speed they feel comfortable going. After further discussion, Council supported this particular request due to the location of the school and also the cut-through traffic and authorized a temporary installation for a maximum of six months.

2) 5th Street from Grand Avenue to Belford Avenue. Ms. Kliska reviewed the concerns of the 5th Street residents in the general vicinity of Hawthorne Park. The street actually acts as a barrier from the east side of the street to the park. The far left lane is used mostly for weaving and passing. Therefore, the request is to re-allocate the pavement to reduce the number of lanes for a two month trial period. Most of the roadway will be under construction next summer due to the combined sewer elimination project.

Allison Flynn and Shannon Fulton addressed Council as representatives of the 5th Street neighborhood. They stated there are a lot of kids in the neighborhood and people travel at a high rate of speed going up 5th Street. They noted that there are new, young families moving in as evidenced by the renewal of the older homes. One problem is the wide road which is like a speedway, making it difficult for children and disabled adults to cross safely to visit neighbors or the park.

Council supported the temporary measure of narrowing the road corridor be instituted and also the speed limit be reduced to 30 mph.

3) Standing Rock Drive (Canyon View Subdivision). Ms. Kliska reviewed this request. The other streets entering the subdivision have speed bumps and the residents on this street have requested the same. The street department can install asphalt bumps that can be removed later if need be. Whether there is asphalt available this time of year is questionable.

Scott Hendricks, 2184 Standing Rock Drive, stated many residents are using Standing Rock to exit since the other two streets have speed bumps. They are averaging 633 cars per day down Standing Rock. Mr. Hendricks said 90% of the residents on Standing Rock support the request. After six months, a survey of the neighborhood will be conducted using postcards to determine the long-term desirability.

Council supported the installation and directed it to be reviewed in six months. If the postcard survey comes back positive, there will not be any need to come back however, Public Works and Utilities Director Relph said he would report back on all three measures.

Action summary: Council supported all three temporary installations and asked Staff to bring back options on reducing speed limits city-wide. City Manager Arnold said Staff will come back on options to reduce the speed limit to 25 mph.

2. **DISCUSSION OF DOWNTOWN MAIN STREET APPLICATION:** The DDA and the DTA are proposing the inclusion of downtown Grand Junction into the Main Street Program. Karen Hildebrandt, President of the DTA, addressed the City Council on what the Main Street Program is all about. Monies for marketing is in short supply. In the last six weeks the DTA has raised \$20,000. They are asking Council for \$75,000 to help fund the program in 2003, a letter of support signed by the Mayor and a letter confirming the hiring of the Main Street Program Coordinator. She then deferred to Harold Stalf, DDA Executive Director for an overview of the program.

Mr. Stalf explained the approach as comprehensive toward downtown revitalization. It is a three-year program and will not extend past three years unless long-term funding is successful. He then reviewed the proposed budget for the program. Council asked where the funding source would be. City Manager Arnold said both the parking fund and the general fund were discussed. Councilmember Terry stated that she supports the use of the parking fund.

Doug Simons, Chair of DDA, stated that organization is in full support of the DTA in their endeavor to put in place this program. However, they

would like to maintain the integrity of the parking fund as much as possible.

Councilmember Theobold asked about long-term funding. Mr. Simons said part of the process will be planning for the creation of a Business Improvement District, as well as extending the TIF.

City Manager Arnold advised that first Council must decide if they support the program and at what level. Once that is determined there are options for the funding.

Councilmember Butler asked how many DTA members favor the proposal. Ms. Hildebrandt said all members downtown support the program, only two members did not support it financially. Councilmember Theobold asked of the downtown tenants what percentage are members of the DTA. Ms. Hildebrandt said due to database problems she cannot answer that accurately but approximately 40%. Ms. Hildebrandt said she has 68 pledges. DTA member Ron Maupin said the DTA has about 190 individual members plus others (around 250 total).

Doug Simons explained that the pledges are three-year pledges, and the County will also be approached for funding. He also noted that if the Council were to determine that the parking fund is the appropriate place for the funding to come from, the DDA would be in agreement.

Council asked when does the DTA need an answer. Ms. Hildebrandt said immediately, the application has already been sent in. Councilmember Kirtland asked what the DTA will receive in return for their pledge of membership. Mr. Stalf explained the downtown is wonderful but is lacking promotion.

Councilmember Terry stated that she supports the use of the parking fund and no other fund because then other areas would rightfully want similar support. Mr. Theobold did not disagree but thought that other areas that might need revitalization should rightfully be considered for such support. Ms. Terry said she would support the same for capital improvements but using general fund money for marketing would require the formulation of a policy. Councilmember Kirtland cautioned Council against going against their multi-year funding policy but he does support going forward right away.

Action summary: Council authorized placing an item on Wednesday's Consent Calendar to approve the commitment and funding.

ADJOURNED at 9:44 p.m.