

**GRAND JUNCTION  
CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP**

**November 18, 2002**

The City Council of the City of Grand Junction, Colorado, met on Monday, November 18, 2002 at 7:05 p.m. in the City Hall Auditorium to discuss workshop items. Those present were Harry Butler, Dennis Kirtland, Jim Spehar, Janet Terry, Reford Theobald and President of the Council Cindy Enos-Martinez. Councilmember Bill McCurry was absent.

**Summaries and action on the following topics:**

1. **2003 BUDGET REVIEW:** City Manager Kelly Arnold and Ron Lappi, Administrative Services and Finance Director, presented the proposed 2003 Budget.

City Manager Arnold reviewed the budget highlights:

Employee evaluations were discussed and the City Manager updated Council on the new policy regarding annual evaluations being required.

Employee benefits were discussed with Councilmember Terry expressing that dental insurance is a luxury and they may consider discontinuing it due to affordability.

TABOR limits were discussed briefly with more detail to be presented later. They also discussed the current funding needed for the Old Hire Fire Pension Plan. Last year the plan was fully funded which eliminated the State's obligation to contribute any longer. This year due to the stock market downturn, the fund is no longer fully funded but the State is no longer required to participate.

The hiring of firefighters and some staffing adjustments in the police department were detailed.

Ron Lappi, Administrative Services Director, reviewed some details of the budget including the steady growth and the projected sales tax growth.

The Council took a brief refreshment break at 8:35 p.m. Council was back in session at 8:46 p.m.

Harold Stalf, DDA Director, reviewed DDA's budget. It is expected to be a little over \$6,000 in the red this year due to unemployment insurance. DDA Chair Doug Simons also addressed Council with encouraging words about the future of the downtown.

Ron Lappi, Administrative Services Director, continued the budget presentation by reviewing the individual funds and the capital investment program.

City Manager Arnold then reviewed the outstanding issues for the budget. Staff had identified five items which required more input from City Council. The items were 1) Funding for continued development of Canyon View Park, 2) A new sign for Two Rivers, 3) Participation in a joint study with the County for emergency services, 4) Traffic improvements at 12<sup>th</sup> and Patterson and 5) Outside funding requests. (The Mayor excused herself at 9:30 p.m.)

The first major issue was the amount of funding to continue development of Canyon View Park. Three options were presented with monies being transferred from other projects and programs. The City Council has a scheduled meeting with the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board for Thursday so they asked for detailed explanation of the options but refrained from making any decision until after the meeting with the P & R Advisory Board.

The next issue is the electronically lit sign for Two Rivers at Main Street and 1<sup>st</sup> Street. There were no objections to the inclusion of the sign in the budget.

The third issue is fire services study in partnership with the County and others. The Council was in favor of participating in the group study.

The fourth issue is the traffic improvements at 12<sup>th</sup> and Patterson. Councilmember Terry inquired of Public Works what improvements they would recommend and the cost for those. Mr. Relph stated that the intersection currently warrants the need for the double left now however due to the split in the volume going each way at peak hours allows management of the traffic that practically decreases the warrant at present. The need will probably be there is 8 to 10 years. Another option is to apply for hazard elimination funds and be able to construct the improvements in 2006. But, it is not top priority. Highway 50 and B ½ Road in Orchard Mesa is a higher priority. Council encouraged Mr. Relph to take full advantage of hazard elimination grants.

Lastly, the Council addressed requests from outside agencies. The first request from Partners, Council asked for more information. Councilmember Theobald addressed the request from the Botanical Society but was not certain about the amount. He suggested \$25,000. Councilmember Terry agreed as did the rest of Council present. The remaining requests were denied. The wording of the letter to the library was determined.

**Action summary:** Council directed staff to go forward with the proposed budget with the changes and direction given during the discussion

**ADJOURNED** at 11:14 p.m.