

**GRAND JUNCTION  
CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP**

**February 19, 2003**

The City Council of the City of Grand Junction, Colorado met on Wednesday, February 19, 2003 at 6:38 p.m. in the City Hall Auditorium to discuss workshop items. Those present were Harry Butler, Dennis Kirtland, Bill McCurry, Reford Theobald and President of the Council Cindy Enos-Martinez. Absent was Councilmember Janet Terry. Councilmember Jim Spehar entered at 6:55 p.m.

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

1. **REVIEW SMOKING ORDINANCE:** The ordinance adopted in 1999 that addressed teenage smoking required an update on the fourth anniversary of the ordinance. Staff City Attorney Stephanie Rubenstein, Sergeant Paul Quimby and Karen Milbanks of the Mesa County Health Department provided an update. Also present were Dr. Mike Pramenko, President of the Tobacco Education Council, and Dr. Teresa Coons, St. Mary's Saccomanno Research Institute.

Dr. Pramenko said he was pleased with the progress made with the ordinance. The Tobacco Council is looking at state budget cuts which will affect education programs but these are proven to help decrease use of tobacco. Two visible results are reduced smoking near schools and that tobacco products are now behind the counters at stores. He said Dr. Teresa Coons has a report on measurable results but Dr. Pramenko noted it is not just the measurable things, it's the message.

Dr. Coons gave an overview of the report and stated that there have been no negative effects of the ordinance. There has been a decrease in tardies at the high schools. She was not able to gather statistics on the affect on teen smoking comparing inside city limits versus outside city limits but she has received positive feedback from school administrators.

Sergeant Quimby echoed what Dr. Coons said. The Police Dept. does not track warnings so the statistics presented are only a small percentage of those contacted. Minors in possession of tobacco are not proactively approached, but if they come across a situation where a ticket is warranted, it will be issued.

Staff City Attorney Rubenstein said a renewal of the ordinance would be brought before Council next year if the Staff is so directed.

**Action summary:** Council directed Staff to bring the renewal ordinance back before them immediately rather than waiting until next year.

2. **REVIEW OF SEWER BACK-UP POLICY:** Staff is proposing a change to the City's sewer back-up policy. City Manager Kelly Arnold advised that if there are no objections to this policy it will come before Council on their March 5<sup>th</sup> agenda. The development of the policy is the result of the way Grand Junction does business. It is very difficult and emotional to deal with a sewer back up. There will be an immediate response to those occurrences under this policy, plus there will be a single point of contact.

Public Works & Utilities Director Mark Relph reviewed the proposal. The current policy is \$150 maximum payout. The new proposal is for \$750 clean-up assistance and a maximum of \$2,500 damages payout (less the \$750 clean-up payout). The policy includes an education campaign for how to prevent and also handle such a situation.

Councilmember Spehar felt the new policy is reasonable and urged that it go forward. Councilmember Kirtland agreed but also wanted to make sure the fee is reevaluated on a regular basis to ensure it stays in line with what is reasonable. Councilmember Spehar added that the problem will be reduced substantially once the combined sewer elimination project is completed.

**Action summary:** Staff was directed to place the Resolution adopting the policy on the March 5<sup>th</sup> agenda.

**ADJOURNED at 7:12 p.m.**