

**GRAND JUNCTION
CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP
SUMMARY**

August 4, 2003

The City Council of the City of Grand Junction, Colorado met on Monday, August 4, 2003 at 7:00 p.m. in the City Hall Auditorium to discuss workshop items. Those present were Cindy Enos-Martinez, Bruce Hill, Dennis Kirtland, Bill McCurry, Gregg Palmer and President of the Council Pro Tem Harry Butler. President of the Council Jim Spehar was absent.

Summaries and action on the following topics:

1. **STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE:** City Manager Kelly Arnold reviewed the update, highlighting the action steps that have been completed. He said that Tuesday's National Night Out will complete Action Step 5.B. with community policing. Step 7.B., review of watershed protection ordinance, has been completed with Council deciding not to go forward. In Open and Beautiful Spaces, Step 18.C. and D., Ciavonne & Associates is working on gateway and entrance design guidelines. Action Step 22.A., the review with others, will cause the deadline to be moved out to December. Regarding Step 23.A., neighborhood parks, the budget to develop Wingate Park is in 2004 and they are developing proposals for Horizon Park out on G Road. Step 24.B., the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board met and wants the Tier One priorities to go forward. Step 25.B., working with school board, the time frame needs to be changed to December, 2003 due to the change in administration in the school district. Under Responsible Young Citizens, no action steps were completed but the student representative has advised that the students are heading off to Greeley to see the Student Council in that city and will hopefully be ready to report back in early September. For the Shelter and Housing solution, there was lots of information included in the update and it will be discussed in detail on August 25th at the luncheon with the Housing Authority. Lastly, under Vital Neighborhoods, the work team is working on the final draft, which will be presented at the August 18th workshop.

Councilmember Kirtland noted that under Efficient Transportation, the hiring of the consultant for the 1601 process should be included.

It was noted that there will be a meeting at 2:00 p.m. on Monday, August 11th, in Chamber of Commerce's conference room to discuss the Political Action Committee regarding the Riverside Parkway Bond issue.

Action summary: The update was accepted by the City Council.

2. **FIFTH STREET TRAFFIC CALMING:** Public Works Director Mark Relph introduced the topic. According to the ten-step process for installing traffic calming, the process for Fifth Street is at Step #9. Mr. Relph then had Transportation Engineer Jody Kliska report back the results of the Fifth Street trial lane reduction. This has been a two-year project, which started prior to the current policy. It meets the traffic calming criteria. Ms. Kliska said the City is looking at a lane reduction from Grand Ave. to North Ave., and allowing parking on left side, next to Hawthorne Park. The temporary lane reduction did help reduce speed. A lane reduction will not reduce the level of service, as they do not anticipate an increase in traffic on this street. The change will take two days of work and the roadway can be restriped when the street is chip sealed in 2004.

Councilmember Palmer was concerned about allowing parking with the possibility of kids running out into the street from the park between parked cars. Ms. Kliska compared the design to Fourth Street and related statistics of those types of accidents as being low.

Councilmember Palmer inquired about any affect on emergency vehicle traffic. Ms. Kliska said that is always a possibility but they haven't had that problem on Fourth Street. She noted that the lane reduction changes the visual and the perception. Drivers use the third lane for passing and speeding.

Councilmember Hill questioned the bike route for Fifth Street due to the speed and the humps. Ms. Kliska advised that the Urban Trails Committee has recommended Fifth Street as a bike route due to the lack of crossing opportunities at North Avenue. Mr. Relph noted the City could mill out the humps when they chip seal in 2004.

Other comments on the proposal included the use of bulb-outs, reduced levels of service, possibility of rear end accidents and enforcement.

Transportation Engineer Kliska related that the proposal will benefit the neighborhood and will have a neutral affect on the community.

Shannon Fulton, 634 N. Fifth Street, and Allie Flynn, 463 Gunnison Ave, made a presentation about the traffic patterns and the speed of traffic on the roadway. North of Grand Ave, only 6,400 cars out of the 17,000 coming up Fifth Street from Highway 50 continue past Grand Ave. The trial lane reduction showed an immediate improvement. The women said 70% of the neighborhood supports the lane reduction and they believe it is the cheapest alternative.

Councilmember Palmer questioned the neighborhood support. Based on the comments included in the packet, it seemed more like 50-50. Ms. Kliska explained that the balloting showed 70% support, not everyone made comments.

Action summary: Public Works and Utilities Director Relph advised they will do the grinding and striping this year and next year the milling, chip seal and restripe will be done. Councilmembers Hill, Kirtland, McCurry supported the effort in this residential neighborhood. Councilmembers Palmer and Enos-Martinez and President Pro Tem Butler supported it because the change could be undone if need be in the future. Councilmember Palmer asked that the Police Department continue to keep statistics on this road.

City Manager Arnold said the crews will grind and stripe it in the next 30 days. Mr. Relph said he will report back to Council after a period of time.

The meeting recessed at 8:47 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 8:54 p.m.

3. **DROUGHT RESPONSE PLAN/ WATER CONSERVATION**

MEASURES: Public Works Director Mark Relph opened the discussion by listing the topics and introducing Water Treatment Supervisor Terry Franklin. Mr. Relph first asked Council about their reaction to the proposed Memorandum of Understanding with Ute Water, Clifton Water and the Town of Palisade to implement a unified drought response plan. The understanding generally states the intent is a cooperative effort during drought conditions. The drought response plan includes two stages; criteria are included for the two stages. Secondly, staff is asking for a reaction to the proposed water conservation measures. One of the big measures is education. A second measure is the rate structure being structured to encourage water conservation, it could be revenue neutral, and those that use more water would have stepped up rates.

Councilmember Palmer asked if there are statistics to support that the rate structuring does promote conservation. Councilmember Kirtland noted that the rate structuring would make one aware. Councilmember Enos-Martinez agreed noting that it is a constant reminder and education so when there is a drought situation, people are a little more prepared. Mr. Relph agreed that the rate structure and education combination is a good approach. Water Treatment Supervisor Terry Franklin advised that because of irrigation (60% of City water customers do get irrigation) City water per capita is lower than Ute water usage and the average is lower than the statewide average. When asked, he replied that the biggest users are outdoor water users and air conditioning for the bigger customers. Mr. Franklin described other measures that promote conservation such as landscape rebates and rain sensors.

City Manager Kelly Arnold noted the City made a big effort last year to conserve water at City facilities and they intend to implement more measures in the future.

Councilmember Kirtland opposed the implementation of watering days but supported rate structuring.

Councilmember Hill asked how the MOUs will work, what will trigger implementation and what group decides. Mr. Franklin said it would depend on the severity. Year 2002 was the worst-case scenario. The water supervisors will look at the situation when the system gets low and all will be involved. It will depend on the time of year. Mr. Relph noted that the level of cooperation and discussion that happens is the main benefit of the MOUs.

Action summary: Mr. Relph said if Council is comfortable with the proposal, he will bring it to Council at a formal meeting. The other entities are reviewing the MOUs. So far, Clifton and Palisade like it, Ute Water is asking that it be simplified.

Mr. Relph commended Mr. Franklin's efforts to utilize the water available in the most efficient way. He identified some of the ways Mr. Franklin has improved the system such as enlarging the catchment area. Mr. Franklin said he would like increase the capacity of Juniata Reservoir and look at a lower catchment area to retain more supply.

City Manager Arnold suggested Council look at the specific rate-structuring proposal during budget review.

The meeting adjourned at 9:50 p.m.