

**GRAND JUNCTION  
CITY COUNCIL ADDITIONAL WORKSHOP  
SUMMARY**

**August 18, 2003**

The City Council of the City of Grand Junction, Colorado met on Monday, August 18, 2003 at 11:33 a.m. in the Administration Conference Room, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, City Hall to discuss workshop items. Those present were Harry Butler, Cindy Enos-Martinez, Bruce Hill, Dennis Kirtland, Bill McCurry, Gregg Palmer and President of the Council Jim Spehar.

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

1. **Cell Towers Update:** Community Development Director Bob Blanchard reviewed this item. He advised Council that there was one cell tower site missing from the map that was provided in his report, the tower located at 12<sup>th</sup> Street and Elm, by Mesa State College. He stated that the regulations to address telecommunication facilities were first adopted by the City by an emergency ordinance in 2000. The City addresses the same issues that other municipalities address with cell towers esthetics. They look better with fencing or landscaping around the perimeter. He mentioned two possible options. Option 1 – Develop a Wireless Master Plan. The consultant that gave a presentation on the state of the telecommunication industry in February 2002 recommended this option. This plan could be developed cooperatively with the County, Fruita and Palisade. Option 2 – Additional Development Standards. It would allow putting height restrictions, color restrictions and identifying City property where towers could be located. Mr. Blanchard stated that this option would give the City a chance for two year reviews to see if all the towers are still necessary and to monitor the height and locations of the towers. Councilmember Palmer stated that he would like to see the Code revised to include removal of towers that are no longer needed. President of the Council Spehar stated that the Code should demand stealth technology and should require co-location to reduce the number of tower sites. Councilmember Hill suggested looking at a Master Plan with the other local communities in the next few years. Dan Wilson, City Attorney suggested that the City set up some policy guidelines and have the applicant pay for a technology review. President of the Council Spehar asked Mr. Blanchard about the deadlines for his reports. Mr. Blanchard stated that he will have the community appearance report by the end of the year and the view corridor locations report by the first of next year.

**Action summary:** The Council accepted the information as reported and asked that Community Development do further research and bring it back to Council.

2. **Cable TV Franchise:** Dave Varley, Assistant City Manager, reported that the current cable TV franchise is regulated and provided in accordance with a revocable permit from 1966. The county entered into an agreement in 1999 with the local cable TV provider. It allows the use of one channel for broadcasting and has allowed the City to use this channel.

Paul Kugler, General Manager for Bresnan, was present.

Councilmember Hill asked what the annual amount of revenues to the City is for cable TV. Mr. Kugler stated they pay the City approximately \$80,000 per year. Councilmember Kirtland asked if a franchise agreement is the best way to go. City Attorney Dan Wilson said that the Federal Government says yes. President of the Council Spehar inquired as to the process for a franchise agreement. Mr. Wilson said he feels the metro Denver agreement would be a good model to use. The public would have to be solicited for input on what they like, dislike, want and do not want. Mr. Kugler suggested that the City just amend the current agreement since Bresnan is already accommodating the City. President of the Council Spehar asked Mr. Wilson if that could be done. Mr. Wilson stated that it could and it would be a simple process; however, the Federal Government would not stand behind it since it is a revocable permit and not a franchise agreement. President of the Council Spehar feels the City should move forward with a franchise agreement. Councilmember Enos-Martinez questioned if the City wants to look at working with the County on an agreement for the channel used for broadcasting. Councilmember Hill felt the relationship with the County is good and needs to be maintained. President of the Council Spehar asked Janet Rowland with Mesa County if the channel allocated to the County can be utilized for the public. Ms. Rowland said that it is for education and information only and not for the public to utilize. Councilmember Butler inquired about fiber optics. Mr. Wilson advised that Public Works is working on eliminating T1 lines now. Councilmember Palmer asked if there is a need for a separate channel for the City. President of the Council Spehar stated that it may need to be evaluated. Mr. Kugler handed out a new channel line up effective on September 3, 2003

**Action summary:** City Attorney Wilson will talk with the attorney for Bresnan Communications to discuss the franchise issue. Council asked City Staff to make a list of other technology that the City could use that Bresnan could offer. The Council will meet again on this subject on the second workshop in November, 2003.

The meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.