

**GRAND JUNCTION
CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP
SUMMARY**

August 18, 2003

The City Council of the City of Grand Junction, Colorado met on Monday, August 18, 2003 at 7:01 p.m. in the City Hall Auditorium 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. **YOUTH COUNCIL:** Dave Varley, Assistant City Manager, advised Council that the Youth Council idea was introduced from the Strategic Plan and the students are here to discuss this with Council. Heather Aheuro and Brian Brady spoke to Council on behalf of a Youth Council. Their mission is to create structured opportunities for youth to be heard, valued and engaged in local government to change the community. Brian Brady said they looked at Greeley as a model for Youth Councils. Greeley's Youth Council is a commission and talks directly to Council and was created by an ordinance. He stated their vision, how they will get members, what function they will have and what support they will need from the City. Councilmember Kirtland asked how long Greeley has had a Youth Council. Mr. Brady stated that in 1989 or 1990 Greeley had just a Youth Advisory until 1994.

Action summary: President of the Council Spehar suggested they wait until they select a full council/commission and have all the members on board for input. He also suggested they work with Dave Varley, Assistant City Manager, and Kelly Arnold, City Manager, regarding secretarial staff and financial planning. He cautioned them to really think about having Council attend their meetings; perhaps Council would then have too much influence over their ideas.

2. **COLORADO HOUSING AND FINANCE AUTHORITY (CHFA):** Ron Lappi, Administrative Services and Finance Director, introduced Karen Harkin and Jaime Gomez with CHFA. The two reviewed how CHFA has helped Colorado families buy homes. They also addressed the option of using Private Activity Bond funds for manufacturing projects. Mr. Gomez explained that a municipality can bank its allocation, if requested, for up to 2 or 3 years. Mr. Lappi advised Council that this years allocation has already been used by Pyramid Printing.

Action summary: President of the Council Spehar thanked Ms. Harkin and Mr. Gomez for their presentation.

3. **STRATEGIC PLAN REPORT:** Kathy Portner, Planning Manager, on behalf of the Neighborhood Programs Committee, presented recommendations to achieve the Strategic Plan Solution for Vital Neighborhoods. Staff identified four neighborhoods, two of which will qualify for CDBG funds. They planned events for the neighborhoods like ice cream socials. Surveys were conducted. Needs were assessed in the various neighborhoods. The needs in Riverside/El Poso neighborhood: increased police patrol, a formal neighborhood association, the City's assistance in a State Historic Grant for the old riverside school, assistance to El Poso for clean-up of the entry from Hwy. 340 and housing upgrades. Orchard Mesa West: similar issues to Riverside/El Poso, assistance in forming a neighborhood association, code enforcement issues, housing assistance for housing upgrades, redevelopment of Hwy. 50 and assess the need for sidewalks. Sherwood Park neighborhood: assistance in forming a neighborhood association and new signage in their neighborhood to promote their identity. The Redlands/Broadway neighborhood: assistance in coordinating efforts to develop a park and assistance in reclaiming the Bluffs abandoned sewer plant located at the entrance to the Bluffs, they would like to make it safe. Ms. Portner stated that the general recommendation the Committee made is for a job description for a program coordinator. She said that \$84,000 could be used from the CDBG funding for neighborhoods and to be matched from the City's general fund to work on the two areas needing help. She also suggested that the City's tax revenues could be used to fund helping the neighborhood. Councilmember Palmer questioned the need for \$84,000 for each neighborhood when only two neighborhoods had big issues. President of the Council Spehar felt that the City should help out in funding for neighborhood associations and allocate some of the budget for neighborhood improvements. President of the Council Spehar advised that property tax is already allocated, but perhaps another source of funds can be looked at to use instead of property tax. Councilmember Hill suggested that the Sherwood neighborhood signage could be a good project for Youth Council to start on. Community Development Director Bob Blanchard suggested that input come from Community Development and that it be proposed to Council. He suggested anticipating problems in future for neighborhoods and budgeting for it.

Action summary: Council thanked the Neighborhood Programs Committee for their work on these neighborhood issues and felt that the City should proceed forward on working on the signage, sewer plant issue and neighborhood associations.

President of the Council Spehar announced a break at 8:44 p.m.

The meeting reconvened at 8:53 p.m.

4. **STRATEGIC PLAN REPORT:** Ivy Williams, Code Enforcement Supervisor, on behalf of the Code Enforcement Review Team presented findings of the review of enforcement methods. The team looked at the sections of the Zoning Code that identified the code enforcement problems. Signs: In need of language that legalizes portable signs on Main Street and other streets but not allowing them in medians, a review fee for temporary signage, allow the realtor's request for open house signs at designated hours, set specific dates for yard sale signs and who is required to remove them, removal of campaign signs and auto dealers flying balloons to advertising sales. Dead landscaping: additional staff needed to research revocable permits for landscaping of right-of-ways. Overnight camping: add a provision to the Code that would allow an extension to the two weeks allowed now for camping if it is for a hospice or other medical care situation. Smoking in public places: Code Enforcement will have the task to implement the new ordinance when put in place. Weeds: confusing for residents because it is an area split between Public Works for City property and Code Enforcement for private property, homeless people camp in weedy areas, facilitate neighborhood groups to clean up nuisances, and the City offer ideas and help replace the weeds with non-weed landscaping. Ms. Williams suggested going to neighborhood watch meetings with police and working with police to let them know of problem areas. She stated that Code Enforcement is short staffed and has requested an extra Code Enforcement Officer in the budget. Councilmember Butler suggested looking at getting an intern to help out. Bob Blanchard, Community Development Director, asked Council for direction on the sign issue.

Action summary: Council thanked the Code Enforcement Review Team for all their work and suggested that all of these matters be brought to Council during the Zoning Code update.

**CONVENE INTO SPECIAL SESSION
EXECUTIVE SESSION: FOR DISCUSSION OF PERSONNEL MATTERS
UNDER C.R.S. 24-6-402(4)(f)(I)**

It was moved by Councilmember Kirtland to go into executive session for discussion of personnel matters under C.R.S. 24-6-402(4)(f)(I) to discuss performance evaluations and not to return to workshop. Councilmember Palmer seconded the motion. The motion carried.

ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

The City Council moved to the Administration Conference Room to convene into executive session at 9:53 p.m. Council announced it would not be returning to open session.