

**GRAND JUNCTION  
CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP SUMMARY**

**MAY 17, 2004**

The City Council of the City of Grand Junction, Colorado met on Monday, May 17, 2004 at 7:00 p.m. in the City Hall Auditorium to discuss workshop items. Those present were Harry Butler, Cindy Enos-Martinez, Dennis Kirtland, Bill McCurry, Gregg Palmer and President of the Council Bruce Hill. Absent was Councilmember Jim Spehar.

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

1. **UPCOMING VACANCIES TO BOARDS & COMMISSIONS:** In anticipation of upcoming vacancies to the Riverfront Commission, City Council will discuss specific issues relating to this board. City Clerk Stephanie Tuin briefed the City Council on the Riverfront Commission regarding the upcoming vacancies, their projects and how interviews can take place, asking for some possible dates from Council.

**Action summary:** City Council identified June 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> as possible interview dates.

2. **CITY 2004 PROJECT/PROGRAM UPDATES FROM MANAGEMENT TEAM**
  - City Manager's Office – Assistant City Manager David Varley reviewed the logo implementation, noting capital letters will be used for the “g” and the “j” and implementation will be at minimal cost, using the logo only when items need replaced. Minimally, the City will need a new diskette and a new Graphics Standards Manual for an estimated cost of \$1,000 to \$1,800. A local printer could do the work for \$1,200 to \$1,300. He spoke about the cost and time frame for changing over to the new logo over time on various items such as stationery, business cards, vehicles, uniforms and street signs. It was estimated that it will cost \$8,000 for the decals for the existing vehicles, non-public safety, enough decals for about 568 pieces of equipment/vehicles. Council President Hill suggested that Staff be authorized to implement the logo within a set price limit.

On other subjects, Mr. Varley said the Affordable Housing Forum is being worked on and the Chamber of Commerce is bringing back their leadership class, which will be one 6 hour class per month for six months. The classes start in September. The City and County are allotted a two hour time slot in March, 2005 for a presentation.

Assistant City Manager Varley advised that Susan “Sam” Sumanski has been hired as the new Public Communications Coordinator. City Manager Kelly Arnold added that Cheryl Trent will start July 12<sup>th</sup> as the Assistant to the City Manager.

In conclusion, Council was reminded that the update to the next two year Strategic Plan is scheduled for June 2<sup>nd</sup>.

- City Attorney's Office – City Attorney John Shaver referred to a letter dated May 19, 2004, a letter to the external auditor that lists potential litigation issues, including pending cases, water court matters, development review issues and others. Mr. Shaver advised that the Precision Excavation case, i.e., the canal breach, is reaching conclusion and all claims have been resolved. Other standard day in and day out activities of the City Attorney's Office are that legal staff supports all departments, being very active with Community Development, Human Resources, and Public Works. In conjunction with the Police Department, a complete rewrite of the Police Department's directives manual has been completed. Mr. Shaver then referred to a draft of a booklet called Legal Precepts that includes frequently asked questions covering annexations, ADA, Campaign Issues, the City Charter, Conflicts of Interest, Home Rule, Open Meetings, Open Records Law, TABOR, and the Colorado Governmental Immunity Act. He encouraged Council to review the draft and offer feedback.

Regarding staffing, he is going to start with hiring a paralegal, and then recruit for the City Staff Attorney position. Jamie Kreiling has been appointed Assistant City Attorney. The department is looking at possibly hiring an intern, either paid or volunteer.

- Public Works – Public Works and Utilities Director Mark Relph ran through a list of issues: If Council approves there will be land exchanges along the Blue Heron trail, adjacent to the City Market and Innovative Textiles properties to allow for more logical lot lines in the area. The exchanges will be part of a development plan. The 29 Road project is moving ahead. This summer the 29 Road viaduct over the railroad tracks will begin. It is a \$16 million project being shared with the County; the City is taking the lead. Surveying will start in August or September, design will take place in December, and they will start the 1601 process early next year. They are trying to move up the time frame if possible. Mesa County is also looking to move up the bridge construction from Orchard Mesa too in order to be complete prior to 5<sup>th</sup> Street construction with Riverside Parkway. The 25 ½ Road project is being constructed, and should be mostly finished by fall. A temporary access was constructed along Pinyon Avenue and the department would like to make it permanent to 25 Road for \$217,000. Ute Water supports a permanent connection. It can be accomplished through a change order with the current contractor. Mr. Relph then updated Council on the success of the SSEP program and of the CSEP program. City Manager Arnold lauded the success of the CSEP program and compared it to the magnitude of the Riverside Parkway project. City Council will be given a complete update on the 1601 process for the Riverside Parkway on June 14<sup>th</sup>. He reviewed the Riverside Parkway project calendar and pointed out a very important design meeting in the next couple of weeks. At the June 15<sup>th</sup> Open House, there will be 3 alternatives presented and through process be narrowed down to one. An RFP draft will be issued the first of July, there will be a selection process, and formal action in December by the Transportation Commission. He announced construction will begin in one year.

Mr. Relph told the City Council the conclusion of the F ½ Road transportation study. They now know the connection will be at 25 Road. The purpose of the new road is for traffic resulting from the development of the 24 Road area plan.

Spring cleanup was another success this year. Tonnage was up 13% over last year, but still less than 2001 peak year. Tires collected were up 12%. Costs were up 16% but still within budget.

Council President Hill called a recess at 9:06 p.m. The meeting was back in session at 9:14 p.m.

- Police – Chief Greg Morrison updated the Council on the neighborhood beat program and its success. It has helped identify patterns in crime that resulted in arrests. He has received tentative approval for a Citizen Corp grant which will be used to train officers to facilitate neighborhood meetings. Chief Morrison has been invited to present at the Innovations Conference in Reno on the neighborhood beat program. Regarding crime lab enhancements, he is still looking for a facility. They are still recruiting for new crime lab manager. They plan to modernize the crime lab.

Regarding the records management system, they tried to coordinate with the Sheriff's system but have determined it is not in the best interest to buy the same system as it is not compatible with the CADD system. Therefore they are going to upgrade the current system (six versions). The upgrade will include digital imaging. In an effort to disperse officers throughout the City, the department is adding additional field work stations where officers can do their report writing. With the new manual in place as mentioned by City Attorney Shaver, the department will be looking to get certified by state associations.

Transients and theft from autos are two big issues. Turnover in the Communications Center has been a concern so they are trying to improve the psychological screening to reduce turnover by better determining suitability. Chief Morrison advised that officers are reassigned neighborhoods every January, but they can request the same neighborhood again.

- Visitors and Convention Bureau – Executive Director Debbie Kovalik reviewed the kick-off for the Grand Junction Loves Company program. They have two more sessions scheduled. In addition there are two other promotions – “Spring Blossoms Wine Train”, which sold out in 8 days and “Spring Give us Your Best Shot” golf package, in order to promote tourism in the shoulder season. The golf promotion will run through August. The VCB board had a retreat on April 13<sup>th</sup> and formulated the following goals: continue to update technology, to develop partnerships in the community, and look for more promotion opportunities in the shoulder season. The VCB received the “Making a Difference” award from the Downtown Partnership Association.

- Parks and Recreation – Joe Stevens, Director of Parks & Recreation, directed Council's attention to the most recent activity guide and described their plan to have an Open House at Two Rivers on how the internet registration system works. May is one of their busiest months with both college and high school graduations. Also the State High School Regional Track Meet, Regional Girls Golf Tournament, and the opening of the pool and the start up of sport leagues and summer recreation programs. They are in the process of finalizing summer seasonal staff.

Regarding the Senior Recreation Center, the board has pledged \$40,000 for additional facilities and appreciated Council's visit. Capital improvements planned for 2004 are the irrigation replacement program, sound system upgrade for the stadiums, upgrades to various neighborhood parks, construction of Wingate Park and Canyon View East. There will be various pool maintenance items, and they are installing three more art pieces. The xeriscape model at Quizno's is near completion. They are ready to open the new green at Tiara Rado golf course. Other items include trail replacements, the display case at Two Rivers, the Master Plan for Lincoln Park, and working with Bluffs West HOA to convert the old sewer plant to park area. Mr. Stevens advised that the upcoming Dive 'n Jive event for middle schoolers has had overwhelming success. The department is putting out RFP's advertising for the restaurant operations at the golf courses, as they do every three years. Also agreements for the concessions at the various facilities. Lastly, the department is in the finals for the National Recreation Award.

- Community Development – Community Development Director, Bob Blanchard, referred to his work program for 2004. He reviewed Code Enforcement and their activity. Code Enforcement officers have been attending neighborhood meetings with the police department. Development review is very busy, he presented a graph that included the number of applications maintained by the department. Next Mr. Blanchard reviewed the proposed zoning and development code amendments. In the long range planning arena, and specifically for the Pear Park area, they are planning to have the Neighborhood Plan ready for adoption by the end of the year. On the Jarvis Property, a consultant was hired to develop a Master Plan (Winters and Company), in July the consultant will start the south Downtown/El Poso Plan to be finished next summer (2005). On the Historic Resources Survey, Phase 3, Reid Architects from Roaring Fork Valley is the consultant. The Riverside School Historic Assessment is going forward, the consultant is hired, has done two site visits, is working on the analysis, and will have a draft by end of July this year. They are proceeding with the Riverside School roof repair project; currently they are awaiting the contract, and preparing bid documents.

Lastly he addressed some proposed changes to the City Council staff reports and he invited discussion. His report included some ways to streamline the process and asked for the City Council to review and provide feedback.

- Administrative Services – Ron Lappi, Administrative Services and Finance Director, updated Council on activities in his department: the most recent sales tax report is that the last nine months has shown increased growth; the sales tax study report will be presented on June 2<sup>nd</sup>; he is working on a business plan for the parking system and the new proposed garage for downtown; Human Resources is completing the training curriculums for the various job positions in the City; Mr. Lappi is looking at payments in lieu of taxes or franchise fees for use of the city's right-of-way by utilities; reviewing budget impacts of the Strategic Plan; the outside auditors have finished; the City Clerk's office is finalizing the Code update to incorporate all the ordinances into the Code.
- Fire – Fire Chief Beaty thanked Council for their participation at the recruit graduation. Chief Beaty stated the new Fire Station is close to being done. The contractor is trimming out the roof of the existing building so it will look like it fits. The dedication ceremony is tentatively scheduled for June 12<sup>th</sup>. In the fire investigations section, one individual returned back to shift, leaving a big void. An internal candidate was selected and he was sent to POST Academy in Delta. Regarding the emergency services consulting study, Chief Beaty said he is not sure if it will address the goal in the Strategic Plan as the study recommends a county-wide ordinance. The County is moving ahead with it, asking for special appropriation, and is ready to recruit and hire a coordinator. On the training center, there is wide support both City and County. The County has asked the City to take lead. A location has not yet been determined. Property is still being sought. The department has been approached about getting a fire science program going at Mesa State, which would make Mesa State a partner in the training center.

**Action summary:** Staff was directed to place a formal item on the Wednesday, May 19<sup>th</sup> agenda, regarding implementation of the logo. Council President Hill suggested the department updates take place more often at lunch sessions.

**The meeting adjourned at 10:44 p.m.**