

**GRAND JUNCTION
CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP SUMMARY**

AUGUST 2, 2004

The City Council of the City of Grand Junction, Colorado met on Monday, August 2, 2004 at 7:00 p.m. in the City Hall Auditorium to discuss workshop items. Those present were Harry Butler, Dennis Kirtland, Bill McCurry, Gregg Palmer, Jim Spehar and President of the Council Bruce Hill. Absent was Councilmember Cindy Enos-Martinez.

Summaries and action on the following topics:

1. **LIBRARY BOARD PRESENTATION & DISCUSSION:** Sally Matchett and Jim Widdows from the Library Board of Directors were present to ask the City Council for support of their ballot issue to be on the November ballot. After the last defeat, the board went back and tried to find out why the voters did not approve the last measure. They looked at everything again – location, size and remodeling. Their inquiries determined that this is the right location but heard from the community that the cost was too high. On the advice of City Council and Mesa County, the Board hired Chuck Rose, former Mesa County Facilities Manager, to work with them in order to pursue a design/build concept. They now have a package that will form a consensus in the community identifying the library as an important downtown building. The ballot question will be for \$10.5 million. Citizens also wanted to know why they weren't hearing from City and County government. Therefore, they are asking for support both as a Council and individuals.

Councilmember Kirtland asked how the reduced price will affect the mill levy being requested. Mr. Widdows said it will be a lower amount than the previous request. There will be two questions, one for the building (capital construction) and one for operating funds. Ms. Matchett advised that they are looking to partner with schools in the building of new schools in order to locate new branches in any new school facilities. They will be concentrating on getting adequate square footage in the new main library rather than addressing the furnishings. Councilmember Kirtland noted that perhaps they should speak at the next municipalities meeting scheduled in DeBeque. Mr. Widdows said Chuck Rose, having just recently retired from the County, is donating his time for the design phase.

Council President Hill stated there was support in the City proper. From the City's perspective, and his individually, he is glad the location will be downtown and the infrastructure to get people around is being built. Mr. Widdows added that although they did not decide to locate at the college, some bridges were built for cooperation in discussing possibilities.

Councilmember Spehar agreed that it is foolish to put more money into the existing building. He said it is appropriate to build a new facility and for the Council to support it.

Council President Hill said no formal action can take place tonight. Ms. Matchett left it to the Council to determine when and how that will be taken.

Action summary: City Council appreciated the information and will decide at a later time the extent and method of their support for the ballot issue.

2. **STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE:** Assistant City Manager David Varley had materials to be used for the neighborhood meetings and the schedule. He described how the handouts will look and asked for Council's direction on finalizing the preparation for the neighborhood meetings.

Councilmember Palmer asked if the purpose is to develop new strategies or to review what is in place. Mr. Varley replied the neighborhood meetings are not designed to start from scratch on the Strategic Plan but rather to reaffirm and if they hear that something is missing, add it.

Councilmember Palmer inquired how the City is getting the word out. Mr. Varley responded there will be ads in the newspaper, press releases and it will be in the City newsletter.

Concerned about the change in the locations/dates, Council President Hill suggested that Staff man the sites on the first schedule and hand out the new schedule. Mr. Varley agreed. He noted that Staff will set up chairs at the meetings but there will be no public address system this year as it was not needed. Councilmember Butler suggested putting announcements on KJCT's Community Calendar. Mr. Varley agreed and added also on Channel 12 and utility bill stuffers.

Action summary: The City Council was satisfied with the plan for the Strategic Plan Update neighborhood meetings.

The meeting adjourned at 8:02 p.m.