

## GRAND JUNCTION CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP SUMMARY

JANUARY 3, 2005

The City Council of the City of Grand Junction, Colorado met on Monday, January 3, 2005 at 7:02 p.m. in the City Hall Auditorium to discuss workshop items. Those present were Councilmembers Harry Butler, Cindy Enos-Martinez, Dennis Kirtland, Bill McCurry, Gregg Palmer, Jim Spehar and President of the Council Bruce Hill.

### Summaries and action on the following topics:

- 1. CITY COUNCIL DISTRICT BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENTS:** City Council to review possible adjustments to the City Council voting district boundaries for the 2005 election cycle. City Manager Kelly Arnold introduced the topic. He displayed boundary maps that showed different possibilities for adjusting the district boundaries.

Council President Hill distributed a proposal for changing the districts in a way where there would only be four districts, two at-large and the Mayor to be elected by the electors. It is still a Council-Manager form of government. Fifty-one cities in Colorado have Mayors elected by the people. The Councilmembers representing a district would be elected by the district electors. He suggested that the shift would take until 2011 to make the transition.

Councilmember Enos-Martinez disagreed with elections by district as a Councilmember represents the entire City under the current structure.

Councilmember Palmer credited Council President Hill with the innovative thinking. However, he agreed with Councilmember Enos-Martinez that the district voting would divide the City rather than unify.

Councilmember Butler agreed with Councilmember Palmer. He felt it is important that Councilmembers be concerned about the whole City.

Councilmember Spehar agreed with Councilmember Enos-Martinez and with keeping the election at large. The district representatives would be concerned with just their district. There is already adequate leeway for a Mayor to have more of an impact than others.

Councilmember McCurry agreed.

Councilmember Kirtland agreed that it has been a long time since the structure has been looked at. He suggested shorter terms might

encourage more people to participate. Discussing a proposal might generate some interest. He suggested taking the proposal to the group of volunteer board members to get their response.

Councilmember Palmer extolled the reasons for Council service and encouraged the public to consider participation.

Council President Hill then asked the purpose of evening of the population when all seats are elected at-large. Councilmember Palmer said the balance should be a combination of population and geography.

Councilmember Spehar said the large disparity between district populations does limit the opportunity for running for a district seat. He reviewed the reasons for the last boundary shifts in 2000. He supported Scenario 1 as presented.

City Attorney Shaver said the City is not obligated to make the districts equal but rather roughly proportional. He thought the proposed adjustment would be a good idea.

Councilmember Palmer favored the adjustment but was concerned about the timing. Councilmember Spehar noted that the changes that are being proposed are really adding opportunity to run, not limiting anyone's ability to seek a Council seat.

In order to determine placement on the agenda, a straw vote was taken and a majority supported going forward.

**Action summary:** Council directed Staff to draft a resolution changing the boundaries as depicted in Scenario 1 and place such item first on individual consideration on the Wednesday agenda.

- 2. REPORT ON VISIT TO EL SALVADOR:** Jennifer Hensel from the Foundation for Cultural Exchange was present to report back to City Council on her group's trip to El Salvador. Ms. Hensel introduced Aaron Stites, a fellow Mesa State graduate.

Council President Hill asked for clarification on the organization and its non-profit status. Ms. Hensel explained that their umbrella organization is CSE – the Center for Solidarity and Exchange. The sister city request includes a desire that community members assist San Pedro Perulupan in community projects. The sister city designation is mostly a symbolic gesture.

Councilmember Spehar asked if it is a stamp of approval for when they pursue other support. Ms. Hensel responded affirmatively.

Councilmember Kirtland asked how many other cities are sister cities through this program. Ms. Hensel said she could get that information. The main focus of the organization is to bring students and members of the medical community to the area and also for the cultural exchange.

Councilmember Spehar said he did not see any downside to the request.

Councilmember Palmer agreed.

Aaron Stites said it is a great experience for all ages which is why they are pulling away from the College in order to include all ages.

City Manager Arnold suggested that is to be formalized in the way of a resolution. Council President Hill suggested there be a regular review period of the program incorporated in that document.

**Action summary:** Council directed that staff draft a resolution and bring it to them in two weeks.

The Council President called a recess at 8:39 p.m.

The meeting reconvened at 8:45 p.m.

- 3. SMOKING ORDINANCE UPDATE - ONE YEAR BEFORE FULL IMPLEMENTATION:** Staff presented outreach efforts to educate the public on the impacts of the smoking ordinance. Then legal staff discussed possible clarifying amendments to the ordinance. Ivy Williams, Code Enforcement Supervisor, introduced the topic. She explained the detailed ideas to work with affected businesses over the next year to bring them all into compliance and the work that has been done to inform the public. Ms. Williams and City Clerk Stephanie Tuin identified the businesses that are being targeted for the outreach efforts.

Councilmember Kirtland asked about smoking in outdoor areas. Ms. Williams said that smoking on outdoor patios is allowed, with the exception of under a roof overhang.

City Attorney Shaver then addressed the areas within the Smoking Code that needs correcting and sought direction on how the ordinance should be amended.

Council President Hill noted that the ordinance did not really accomplish the intention. The food/alcohol percentages were the key and did not end up in the final ordinance. Assistant City Attorney Jamie Kreiling added

that the certification of a freestanding bar versus attached bar is also subject to different interpretations.

Council summarized that it was their intent that if a separate area within an establishment that wants to sell food, the percentage of food being sold in the bar area is not a factor.

**Action summary:** Staff was directed to draft an ordinance to clarify the ordinance as described and bring it back to Council.

## **ADJOURN**

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.