

GRAND JUNCTION CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP SUMMARY

JANUARY 17, 2005

The City Council of the City of Grand Junction, Colorado met on Monday, January 17, 2005 at 7:00 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. **UPDATE ON WATER ISSUES:** The City's Water Attorney Jim Lochhead presented an annual report to City Council on water issues. City Attorney John Shaver introduced Mr. Lochhead. Mr. Lochhead suggested his update focus on interstate issues and his legal representation of the City and other jurisdictions.

Mr. Lochhead represents Grand Junction and 7 other jurisdictions which forms a coalition which has been involved in interstate water matters for about four years now. Included in those matters are several years' worth of discussions with California to reduce their usage of water from Colorado. Incorrect modeling predicting a surplus of water until 2016 is now being thrown out and new rules are being written given the current drought situation. Essentially, Lake Powell, with two or three more years of drought, would be below the minimum power pool. The sale of power is critical for Colorado water users. Power revenues fund many things in Colorado.

Additionally, discussions have involved the Secretary of the Interior who allocates shortages and determines how much water should be released from Lake Powell. Mr. Lochhead, on behalf of the coalition, has been involved in those discussions. The determination must take into consideration treaty issues too. The State of Colorado is starting historical research to form a position on this issue and there may be potential litigation. Such litigation is quite costly and continues for years. The coalition is also doing some hydrology modeling, which currently is premised on assumption of water on historical record, which has been the wettest era. Mr. Lochhead asked that an agreement of confidentiality be made to prevent sharing of information. Other states may enter into litigation; other political entities can be invited into the confidentiality agreement.

It is a cumbersome morass to deal with this, but Colorado may see 1041 legislation, which will allow local governments to address statewide issues and areas such as municipal water supply issues. It allows for a land use process which is important for local control of municipal water supplies.

Other than those issues, Mr. Lochhead has also been involved in continued discussions regarding the formation of a water district in the southern tier, which will impact water efficiency and also the juggernaut of power. In the legislature, a bill was introduced that would create a cabinet level of resources, but fiscally will need staffing.

Another issue is recreational use in channel diversions, which is being pursued by a number of municipalities throughout the State. These channel water rights are proposed for kayak parks and recreational use and allows political subdivisions to apply for permits. However, due to concerns of the water conservation board, there will be legislation that will gut that law, thus limiting the amount of water to be appropriated and subordinate any future and present uses.

Councilmember Spehar noted that depending on how in depth the newly formed western slope group goes into, the group may ask Mr. Lochhead to address them, particularly in the discussion on compacts slated for next month.

Mr. Lochhead was asked about the conversion of municipal rights to recreational use and Mr. Lochhead responded that is not allowed under current law.

Action Summary: Council President Hill thanked Mr. Lochhead for the work he does for Grand Junction.

2. **REVIEW YOUTH COUNCIL BYLAWS:** As discussed in the 2005 Strategic Plan, the City Council will review the CYC bylaws. Seth Hoffman, Management Intern, and Drew Creasman, CYC Chair, introduced the topic. The equal representation of school has been discussed on the Youth Council and particularly amongst the officers. City Council was asked for direction. Mr. Creasman acknowledged the concern but it was thought that the recruitment process is where that issue should come into play.

Council President Hill expressed that if there was balance in the membership, the balance of officers would weigh itself out and he asked about the balance as far as class rank. Mr. Creasman felt the recruitment advertisement was limited in areas where students attending School without Walls and R-5 might hear. One of the communication issues has been who is in charge of the recruitment process. He said he is willing to be involved in the interview process himself. He expressed concerns about putting restrictions regarding balanced representation in the bylaws.

Councilmember Spehar suggested rather CYC have diversity as a goal. He agreed that CYC should have the responsibility of recruitment, and recruitment should include home-schooled students. He recommended that of the four

officers, no more than two from one school as general enough. Making this a goal will help members focus on areas where there is not representation.

There was a brief discussion among Councilmembers as to the importance of this goal; some thought it was important to have balanced school representation so as not to diminish the purpose, while others thought the students that expressed an interest in participating should have the opportunity, regardless of their school.

Council President Hill then initiated a discussion on qualifications, whether it should be defined or not, should the students be city residents or not. Most of the Council wanted it to be as inclusive as possible, with the only qualification being that the students have some connection with the City (live there, go to school at a city school, live in the 201, etc.). Council desired a broad representation leaving the election of the officers up to the CYC. If an imbalance occurs, measures can be taken to correct it the next year. It was suggested that the goals discussed be included as recitals or a preamble to the CYC bylaws. Mr. Creasman advised that the CYC has four already stated goals and can add those and this one to the bylaws.

The matter of member conduct was raised. Mr. Creasman advised that each member must take an oath of office and that is how the CYC decided to handle that matter. Regarding unexcused absences, Councilmember Spehar suggested that sanctions be automatic rather than discretionary.

CYC was commended for all their hard work.

Management Intern Seth Hoffman asked for clarification on member qualifications. Currently the student must go to school or live within the 201 boundary. Council indicated that they would like to loosen that restriction, perhaps as long as the student goes to school within School District 51. Another guide was to use attendance areas. CYC was directed to place such language in their goals contained in the preamble of the bylaws and then let the City Council review them.

Council President Hill then asked all CYC members present to come up to the front and introduce themselves.

Action Summary: City Council gave guidance to CYC in regards to being mindful of the balance between school and ages, making sure the recruitment process covers all students and that qualifications for participation be as inclusive as possible to allow every student wanting to participate, that has a nexus with the City, the opportunity. The City Council also praised the Youth Council for all their hard work, as laying the foundation for the Council is some of the hardest work.

The Council President call a recess at 8:54 p.m.

The meeting reconvened at 9:02 p.m.

- 3. EMS TRANSPORTING DECISION MAKING PROCESS:** Fire Chief Rick Beaty led a discussion of how to proceed with the selection of an ambulance provider(s) to serve the Grand Junction Ambulance Service Area. The County has been having discussions on the provision of emergency medical services county-wide. The Commissioners have subsequently adopted a resolution as authorized by the State Statutes to regulate emergency medical services. The level of service met the standards within the City limits, due to the City's ambulance ordinance. What brought this issue forward is the informality of the system county-wide. Interagency agreements have been verbal and informal. The problem is that the area has grown, there are now more providers, there are many more EMS officers, so the County felt it is time to make the system and the regulations more formal. Another issue was there has been more than one medical advisor and therefore different protocols can come into play. A large diverse group worked on the EMS resolution; it's not perfect but is better than what was in place. The County adopted the EMS resolution effective January 1, 2005 and many implementation plans will take place throughout the year. The document took into account the elements needed for the entire system including areas that are outside existing jurisdictions to ensure all areas are covered. The County was covered but the County's concern was that there were a number of areas that were beyond the limits of any existing jurisdictions, so entities would go outside their jurisdictions in order to provide coverage. The resolution identifies ambulance service areas to formalize that coverage.

Councilmember Palmer inquired if by outside jurisdiction it means outside their tax base to which Chief Beaty responded affirmatively.

Chief Beaty stated that one major decision for the City is that the City may recommend one or more providers to serve the Grand Junction Ambulance Service Area. The County will ultimately make the decision but this is the opportunity for the City to have some input into that decision. The deadline for the City's recommendation is May 31, 2005, but the City may be able to get the deadline extended to November 30th.

The City Council then discussed the need for an extension and whether such a delay in the decision would adversely impact service. Chief Beaty assured the Council that service would continue under the current service plan and the City's current ambulance ordinance, so service would not be affected. Chief Beaty recommended that the City Council process for making a recommendation be a public process.

Chief Beaty reviewed the history of service in the valley leading up to the current system, which is a two-tiered system. The City Fire Department is the first

responder and a paramedic is on every call. Then the private ambulance company arrives and provides advance life support and trauma care. The City's paramedic can then ride with the ambulance to continue providing care assistance, which happens 30% of the time.

Chief Beaty detailed the entire process and all the elements involved in patient field care. There are many, many other models but he presented three; a fire department-based EMS system, a public/private partnership (what is in place now), or a private provider based (Fire Dept. would decrease their role).

Chief Beaty then deferred to the City Attorney to address the flexibility that City Council has under the resolution. In conclusion, Chief Beaty recommended that an RFP be put together, that assistance be solicited for development of the RFP, that the process be as public as possible, thus keeping everyone informed, and to also do an interim contract with American Medical Response (the current contract ambulance service) until the final selection has been made. He noted that the City may be a bidder on the RFP, so if the City is not involved in the process, it would be better.

City Manager Arnold stated he wants to engage a consultant immediately to help draft the RFP. From there they will go forward, the Fire Dept. will step back, and after evaluation and interview, the decision will be in October. If November is not sufficient time then an additional extension would be requested. City Attorney Shaver added that the interim contract will then still apply.

Councilmember Palmer asked if the City has the authority to enter into an interim contract. City Attorney Shaver said there is some question, but the ordinance is still in place, so the City still does have some authority. Therefore, the contract would suffice to the extended date.

Councilmember Kirtland inquired why the City doesn't just let the County pick the provider, noting that any conflict with the RFP process goes away if the County takes over. Sentiments were expressed that the City should be involved. Councilmember Kirtland then urged more collaboration, having the County participate in the process.

Action Summary: Staff was directed to request an extension until November 30th, hire an outside consultant to develop the RFP/RFQ and to involve the major players from the start.

4. **CITY COUNCIL TEAM ASSIGNMENTS FOR STRATEGIC PLAN:** City Council Members will make assignments to the five teams identified to work on sections of the Strategic Plan. Assistant City Manager David Varley led off the discussion.

Council President Hill noted that the Gateway Committee will be in addition to these five as their work is still ongoing.

City Manager Arnold recommended that Team #1 include a Planning Commissioner. Team #3 could also use a Parks Advisory Board member.

Action summary: Councilmembers volunteered for the following:

Team #1 works on:

OBJECTIVES:

2A Evaluate zoning and infrastructure as tools to encourage development along major corridors.

2B Explore citizen-based planning.

⊙ City Staff: Community Development, City Manager's Office & City Attorney's Office

→ ⊙ City Council Member(s): **Palmer, Enos-Martinez and Spehar**

Team #2 works on:

6-Goal: Develop a strategy to gain Colorado Department of Transportation support for better local utilization of I-70 as a transportation corridor.

9-Goal: Explore a wide range of funding options (including bonds) to accelerate road construction.

⊙ City Staff: City Manager's Office & Public Works

→ ⊙ City Council Member(s): **Kirtland and Hill**

⊙ **Planning Commissioner**

Team #3 works on:

15-Goal: Re-evaluate the Parks Master Plan.

⊙ City Staff: Parks & Recreation

→ ⊙ City Council Member(s): **Butler, Enos-Martinez and McCurry**

⊙ **Parks & Recreation Advisory Board member**

Team #4 works on:

17-Goal: Evaluate and redefine the problem and level of effort required to manage weeds

⊙ City Staff: Community Development & Public Works

→ ⊙ City Council Member(s): **Palmer and McCurry**

Team #5 works on:

SOLUTION: SHELTER AND HOUSING THAT ARE ADEQUATE

All City residents will have adequate shelter, whether their need is for permanent or temporary housing.

⊙ City Staff: City Manager's Office

→ ⊙ City Council Member(s): **Butler, Spehar and Kirtland**

The meeting adjourned at 10:15 p.m.