

**GRAND JUNCTION CITY COUNCIL  
WORKSHOP SUMMARY AND SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES**

**FEBRUARY 28, 2005**

The City Council of the City of Grand Junction, Colorado met on Monday, February 28, 2005 at 7:01 p.m. in the City Hall Auditorium to discuss workshop items. Those present were Councilmembers Harry Butler, Cindy Enos-Martinez, Bill McCurry, Gregg Palmer, Jim Spehar and President of the Council Bruce Hill. Absent was Councilmember Dennis Kirtland.

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

**DEPARTMENT PRESENTATION: CODE ENFORCEMENT:** Community Development Director Bob Blanchard introduced the subject. He described the functions and duties of the Code Enforcement Division. He noted it is complaint driven but the division takes a proactive role in developing relationships with neighborhood groups and organizations. A couple of years ago a review was made for the division operations, which will be presented later. The level of weed control has been a matter of discussion.

Code Enforcement Supervisor Ivy Williams then identified the enforcement officers and other staff as denoted in the organizational chart. She reviewed division activities since 2001. Ms. Williams pointed out that many times the officers identify things that are going to become a problem and discuss the items with the property owners. She stated that Code Enforcement also does site inspections for all sign and fence permit applications. Ms. Williams said that weeds are going to be addressed separately as they are handled by another crew. The Review Team in 2003 made some recommendations for changes in the language regarding procedures. She then identified each of those. First, the sign code language has been rewritten and will be presented in the Code update in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2005. Ms. Williams said that it is difficult to address temporary signs, such as open house signs, because it is difficult to distinguish them from other temporary signs. They will continue to enforce the temporary sign restrictions and respond to complaints. There are no changes to that section proposed at this time. Secondly, the maintenance of landscaping and rights-of-way. A review of the projects between Code Enforcement and Community Development usually brings it to the City's attention. Thirdly, implementation of the smoking ordinance and compliance. The City has done a number of things to get the word out including holding a forum on February 4<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Williams said that the City has already completed 150 inspections which opened up 94 cases for follow-up from establishments that are not yet in compliance, which could continue until January, 2006. Ms. Williams said that some establishments plan to make physical changes to allow continued smoking and that the City is working with bingo parlors on their arrangement. She said signage was required in the old ordinance but the City is being more proactive

now. Ms. Williams said that the Review Team had some recommendations for changes to the enforcement procedures that includes being harder on repeat offenders. Ms. Williams said the City has been working proactively with signs, which has made violations go down. She then addressed the weed program. The Review Team recommended that Public Works maintain City-owned properties, which will still need more discussion. Ms. Williams said there are still some issues on the public walking paths, bike paths, and trails. She said that Parks does some of the maintenance. Ms. Williams said that the primary problem is with maintaining wide detached sidewalks along subdivisions that are outside the City limits but the rights-of-way are within the City.

Councilmember Butler asked if Partners is used to assist in weed control. Ms. Williams advised that they give out Partners as a contact for private parties needing assistance for weed cutting. Code Enforcement felt it would not be advisable to have Partners on private property without the owner's consent.

Ms. Williams concluded by reviewing the goals for 2005. She explained the graffiti program.

Council President Hill asked if the citizens have an easy access to contact the division. Ms. Williams said that perhaps a handful will have difficulty but they will get a lot of direct contact. She said that citizens can also email their complaints.

Councilmember Spehar commented that when he was showing the City to a JUCO team, they were very impressed with the appearance of the community, which is partly due to Code Enforcement.

**Action Summary:** The Council expressed appreciation for the update.

**Convene into Special Session at 8:15 p.m.**

Councilmember Butler moved to go into Executive Session to discuss personnel matters under Section 402 (4)(f)(I) of the Open Meetings Law relative to City Council employees, noting they will not be returning to open session. Councilmember Enos-Martinez seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**ADJOURN**

The meeting adjourned into Executive Session at 8:16 p.m.

Stephanie Tuin, MMC  
City Clerk