

**GRAND JUNCTION CITY COUNCIL
WORKSHOP SUMMARY
October 17, 2005**

The City Council of the City of Grand Junction, Colorado met on Monday, October 17, 2005 at 7:00 p.m. in the City Hall Auditorium to discuss workshop items. Those present were Councilmembers Bonnie Beckstein, Teresa Coons, Jim Doody, Gregg Palmer, Doug Thomason and President of the Council Bruce Hill. Councilmember Jim Spehar entered at 7:06 p.m.

Summaries and action on the following topics:

1. **APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS & COMMISSIONS:** City Clerk Stephanie Tuin reviewed the status of soliciting applications for the Housing Authority, the Commission on Arts and Culture, the Planning Commission/Zoning Board of Appeals, the Historic Preservation Board and the Visitor and Convention Bureau Board of Directors. She also presented the various issues and projects each board is involved with.

Action summary: City Clerk Stephanie Tuin was advised to send letters to all GJ101 graduates for soliciting applications. She will provide Commission on Arts and Culture applications to Council on Wednesday, October 19, 2005, prior to the Council meeting and will email possible dates for interviews.

2. **PRESENTATION OF THE DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY BUDGET:** Ron Lappi, Administrative Services and Finance Director, introduced Harold Stalf, DDA Director, and indicated there were several DDA board members in attendance. Mr. Stalf noted that the TIF can only be used for capital expenditures and is therefore restrictive and said the other piece is the operating budget. The TIF is bonded out for three years and will be used for the parking structure and the 7th Street improvements. He said the real estate acquisition and housing projects are to enhance the quality of downtown.

Councilmember Coons asked about the decrease in rental income. Mr. Stalf said the properties acquired for the parking garage will be demolished for the garage so there will be no rental income. Councilmember Coons inquired about the decrease in utility expense. Mr. Stalf indicated the decrease was for the same reason, those buildings will be demolished.

Council President Hill applauded Mr. Stalf and the board for a balanced budget. He felt it would be good for Council to be re-educated on the TIF and future projections. Mr. Stalf said they are required to bond TIF funds and they are in the middle of the three year cycle. He said they anticipate

paying off the bonds next year and issuing the next cycle of bonds but they may need a bridge loan between the bond issues for projects. Mr. Staf said they have a positive group that looks at downtown with a lot of enthusiasm.

Action summary: Council accepted the proposed budget.

3. **COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE:** Communications and Community Relations Coordinator Sam Rainquet addressed City Council on communication matters. She reviewed what has taken place over the last year, what she is currently working on, and what is coming up in the future. Ms. Rainquet described her position as the Communications and Community Relations Coordinator. She described part of her position as communications which involves the responsibility of dealing with the media, written publications, and web based publications; anything that will communicate the City's story to the citizens. She said the second part of her position is being the Community Relations Coordinator which is to foster goodwill in the community and develop relationships between the City and the citizens. Ms. Rainquet said, besides her regular daily duties, she plans weekly events with some unanticipated "drop everything" events. She described several web pages that she created and said that she works closely with several other departments to communicate with the public. She said there are other projects she is currently working on that are coming up which are the City Calendar, which will have a historic theme again this year, a project with a Mass Communications class at Mesa State, the Employee Awards Banquet video, and the City's 125th anniversary celebration in 2007, along with a number of other things.

Action summary: Councilmember Palmer gave kudos to Ms. Rainquet and said she is doing a fabulous job. Councilmember Coons said this is the best web site she has seen. Ms. Rainquet said that is the Webmaster's doing, who does a really good job. Council President Hill said the monthly PIO reports are a good tool to use and said that he understands the fixit form is off to a good start. Ms. Rainquet said yes, that has been very successful.

Council President Hill called a recess at 8:12 p.m.

The meeting was back in session at 8:25 p.m.

4. **POLICE DEPARTMENT UPDATE:** Chief Morrison and Command Staff updated City Council on the employee work group process. Chief Morrison said he received a request from Council for an update a couple of weeks ago. He and the Command Staff are present to give that update. He reviewed recent history and some of the issues the Police Department has faced including the receipt of a letter alleging 40 instances of

misconduct. Those allegations were investigated by a retired FBI agent the City hired. Conclusions were drawn and then a new Strategic Plan goal was developed to change the culture and to change to community policing. Chief Morrison noted it is hard to effect change, particularly in the culture as well as implementing new and modern policing strategies. The neighborhood officer program has pleased the neighborhoods and increased customer service. Since his employ, he has rewritten the Police Department manual, which received accolades from the Association of Chiefs of Police, and is now used as a model. Also in the last four years, crime is down.

In order to create an environment where employees could feel safe expressing their opinions, starting in April 2005, eight employee work teams were created with a member of the Command Staff as the facilitator.

Each facilitator described the subject matter of his or her focus group, relayed some of the comments made by the participants and listed and described the work group recommendations. One group focusing on Organizational Trust had more work to do and was waiting to see the results of the other groups before going forward.

Council President Hill called a recess at 9:59 p.m.

The meeting reconvened at 10:10 p.m.

Presentations by the facilitators continued.

Police Chief Morrison concluded the discussion by saying the Police Department has an incredibly talented Command Staff and he thanked all employees who participated in the employee work group process. He then announced that he will be retiring and will be resigning as opportunities have come forward for him to do some international consulting. He thanked employees, colleagues and the City Council.

Action summary: The City Council thanked Chief Morrison for his service and acknowledged the difficulty to air the Police Department issues in public. They wished the Chief all the best in his new endeavor. The City Council also acknowledged all the employees that participated in the work group process and thanked them for all their hard work.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 11:22 p.m.