

**GRAND JUNCTION CITY COUNCIL
WORKSHOP SUMMARY
January 16, 2006**

The City Council of the City of Grand Junction, Colorado met on Monday, January 16, 2006 at 7:01 p.m. in the City Hall Auditorium to discuss workshop items. Those present were Councilmembers Bonnie Beckstein, Teresa Coons, Jim Doody, Gregg Palmer, Jim Spehar, Doug Thomason and President of the Council Bruce Hill.

Summaries and action on the following topics:

1. **APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS & COMMISSIONS:** City Clerk Stephanie Tuin updated the City Council on the upcoming vacancy on the Commission on Arts and Culture and distributed the applications received. She asked the Council to schedule interviews for Tuesday, January 24th.

Action summary: The City Council agreed to schedule interviews for January 24th with Councilmembers Spehar, Doody and Beckstein volunteering for the interviews.

2. **CDBG Update:** Staff presented an update on the Community Development Block Grant Program, Active Projects, the 2006 five-year Consolidated Plan process, the five-year Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Study, and asked Council to consider a request to amend the 2005 Action Plan to include specific funding for the programs. Assistant to City Manager Sheryl Trent explained the general terms and time period for the CDBG program. Principal Planner David Thornton then addressed the Council and said currently the City is in the 2005 program year which started in September 2005. He discussed the first project, Habitat for Humanity for the Camelot Subdivision, where the funds have been carried forward. Mr. Thornton said there is also an older project, Duck Pond Park, where there are funds from the 2004 program and a program change is being requested. The 2001 Consolidated Five Year Plan will be completed this August. Mr. Thornton said the 2006 Five Year Plan will look at housing needs, homeless needs, special needs, youth needs, and economic needs. He said the Human Services providers play a major role in identifying these needs. The 2006 Plan will be more specific on performance measurements.

Council President Pro Tem Palmer asked that Council be provided information as to whether the City is making progress in meeting the needs of the community. Mr. Thornton said the schedule for the new Plan is an open house on March 16th and they will hold committee meetings, then public hearings in May and June. The study for the Plan, as required

by HUD every five years, is underway and will be available in draft form on January 31st.

Assistant to City Manager Sheryl Trent explained that there is some funding left over from the neighborhood program and said staff is requesting amendments to the Plan for the Senior Recreation Center project and the Next Step Project. Ms. Trent said Staff is proposing a public hearing on these changes for the February 1, 2006 Council meeting.

The Senior Recreation Center project will include updating the kitchen and some remodeling to allow for other activities. The Senior Recreation Center is planning on putting \$40,000 of their money into the project.

The Next Step Housing project came out of the Housing Partnership and has proposed to provide funds to place those in need of housing on a temporary basis. Since the funding will be spent for personnel costs to administer the program, the funds that can be allocated are limited to \$26,850.

Lastly, as an update on the Duck Pond Park, funding was intended to be spent on a bridge and trail, and then combine it with a restroom project. Due to construction crunch, Staff wants to combine that project with a restroom project for Sherwood Park later this year.

Assistant to City Manager Sheryl Trent concluded by listing the requests.

Action summary: The City Council gave direction to staff to schedule the public hearing on the amendments for February 1, 2006 in order to consider the reallocation of the remaining CDBG funds (\$52,350) with \$26,850 to the Next Step Housing program and \$26,500 to the Senior Recreation Center construction project.

3. **BIRD FLU UPDATE:** Dr. Aduddell, Director of the Mesa County Health Department, presented the update. Dr. Aduddell described the differences between seasonal influenza, Avian influenza and pandemic influenza. There are three types: A, B and C. Type A infects birds and other animals and causes the pandemics. He discussed how the vaccines are developed and distributed and said influenza peaks in February. The vaccine is 70% to 90% effective for those under age 65. It is only 30% to 40% effective for frail elderly patients. He said there has been a 50% death rate among humans infected with the Avian Flu and it spreads via migratory birds. He reviewed the history of the 1918 pandemic with the Spanish Flu. Dr. Aduddell said the plans for a pandemic are being made on the federal, state, and local levels. He said the federal government is also working on a vaccine and said Mesa County is a hub preparation

area for 16 counties. Mesa County is experienced with vaccination programs and is prepared for mass vaccination. Dr. Aduddell said there is a checklist for families to create an emergency supply kit. The Center for Disease Control website has some guidelines for individual preparedness. Dr. Aduddell concluded by saying that it is just a matter of time that the Avian Flu will come to the United States and the State of Colorado. He said there will not be federal resources; it is up to the communities to plan.

Councilmember Spehar asked Dr. Aduddell what the plan is for Mesa County. Dr. Aduddell said a statewide summit is planned and there will be regional summits and said more time needs to be spent discussing readiness. Councilmember Coons asked if the training for bioterrorism can be applied. Dr. Aduddell said in some respects, but it needs to be taken to the next level. Council President Hill expressed concern that the spread will occur much more rapidly than the event in 1918 due to mass transportation. Dr. Aduddell agreed.

Action summary: The City Council thanked Dr. Aduddell for his update.

Council President Hill called a recess at 8:55 p.m.

The meeting reconvened at 9:04 p.m.

4. **WHITEWATER RIGHT-OF-WAY REQUEST:** The City Council received a request to sell right-of-way to a developer in the Whitewater area to allow for development. City Attorney John Shaver reviewed the request. The City has received similar requests in the past and said the request is from Freestyle, Inc. The purpose of the discussion is to see if Council wants Staff to proceed in negotiations with the developer.

Councilmember Thomason inquired if considering this request will set precedence. City Attorney Shaver said it does not. Council President Hill noted that the Council has also declined on such requests. Council President Pro Tem Palmer inquired how much property the City owns in the vicinity. City Attorney Shaver said he does not know the exact location of this request but the City has a number of acres in the Whitewater area. Councilmember Coons inquired if there is any reason why the Council should not at least consider the request. City Attorney Shaver said he was not aware of any. Utilities Manager Greg Trainor has had some initial discussions with the requestor and noted a few items to be considered.

Action summary: The City Council directed Staff to initiate negotiations for the sale of the right-of-way.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 9:12 p.m.

