

**GRAND JUNCTION CITY COUNCIL
WORKSHOP SUMMARY
December 4, 2006**

The City Council of the City of Grand Junction, Colorado met on Monday, December 4th, 2006 at 7:03 p.m. in the City Hall Auditorium to discuss workshop items. Those present were Councilmembers Teresa Coons, Jim Spehar, Gregg Palmer, Doug Thomason, and Council President Jim Doody. Absent were Councilmembers Bonnie Beckstein and Bruce Hill.

Summaries and action on the following topics:

1. **GRAND JUNCTION'S 125TH ANNIVERSARY:** Communications and Community Relations Coordinator Sam Ranguet updated the City Council on the upcoming celebration. She acknowledged the committee members that were present as well as the owners of Event Masters. She detailed the planned events running from June 29th and ending on July 4th. She then requested seed money from the City and a pledge to take care of any final expenditures. Ms. Ranguet said the committee intends to find sponsors and sell merchandise to off set the rest of the expenditures as well as with donations and in-kind services.

Action Summary: The City Council agreed that seed money in the amount of \$25,000 was a worthwhile expenditure and directed Staff to make it so.

2. **AIR QUALITY CONTROL REGARDING OIL AND GAS DEVELOPMENT:** Bill Grant, President of Western Colorado Congress (WCC), addressed the City Council regarding the Colorado Air Quality Control Commission's proposed rule change to control emissions in the oil and gas fields. Mr. Grant said the WCC endorses that effort however, the Colorado Air Quality Control Commission is proposing setting two different standards; a higher standard for the Denver metro area and a lesser standard on the western slope and in some of the outlying areas. He said the WCC feels that is a short-sighted approach and the same higher standard should be imposed statewide. He listed a number of other communities that have rallied around WCC's proposal and said air quality affects children, the elderly and others with respiratory problems. Mr. Grant said the air here should be better than the air in the larger city areas. He said if the air quality decreases, the EPA may step in and require automobile inspections and other restrictions.

Mark Schofield, also with Western Colorado Congress (WCC), presented a number of statistics and facts on the possible emissions that are released from oil and gas activities that are harmful to humans, animals and vegetation. He then listed the number of active wells over the last few years and the number that are anticipated in the near future. Mr. Schofield identified the areas in the western slope where the number of gas leases is increasing. He compared the two proposals for air quality standards of the Denver metro area versus the western slope. He asked the City Council to support the proposal to increase the controls on condensate tanks, noting that although there is a cost to the industry it is a smart investment. However, the industry seems to prefer using those resources for more drilling and gas development even though condensate

emissions are marketable. Mr. Schofield concluded by identifying the local governments that have endorsed the WCC's proposal. He said the hearings on this matter have been postponed until December 17th and the City's endorsement would go a long way to encourage the adoption of the higher standard.

Charlie Kerr, board member of WCC and also sits on Mesa County Air Quality board, said the reason for the higher standard in the Denver metro area is due to the fact that Denver already has high pollution. The western slope does not currently have ozone measurement devices. He said it could take up to five years to document an ozone problem once monitors are installed and data is collected here on the western slope.

Council President Doody noted that Mesa and Garfield Counties were not on the list of supporters. Mr. Schofield concurred noting that both counties declined to support WCC's recommendation but instead endorsed the State's recommendation.

Action Summary: The City Council felt that monitors are needed here on the western slope so that data can start to be collected, pointing out it would be shortsighted to wait until it is a problem and then try to address the issue. Council agreed with one standard statewide and directed Staff to place the proposed resolution on Wednesday's meeting for adoption, with the addition of language noting the need for monitoring equipment. Eileen List, Environmental Regulations Compliance Coordinator, advised that Perry Buda of the Health Department is very supportive of installing monitoring equipment here and in the lower valley areas to get data for those areas before they are impacted.

- ENERGY CONSERVATION EFFORTS:** David Varley, City Manager presented an update on Grand Junction's energy conservation efforts, acknowledging all of the work Management Intern Angela Harness did on the report. He said a study was performed by a firm on the City looking at options for efforts that would conserve energy. A number of the recommendations have been implemented prior to the retirement of Fleet and Facilities Superintendent Chuck Leyden. Mr. Varley said the purchase of vehicles with the ability of using E-85 fuel has been ongoing but there is currently no E-85 available. He said there is a proposal for installing a tank in Grand Junction, either through a grant awarded to Mountain Village or a shared funding option with Mesa County. He said biodiesel is another option but the reports are mixed on the use so the City will hold back until the technology has improved. Mr. Varley said the type of vehicles being purchased for the fleet is constantly being reviewed by the fleet committee. Mr. Varley said other conservation efforts include management practices at the water treatment plant, the installation of the hydro-electric plant at Kannah Creek, a geo-thermal heating and ac system at the water plant, and then a number of water conservation efforts at the parks and cemeteries. The City started a drought response education program called DRIP and participates in winter water trades in the Whitewater Creek. He said at the sewer plant, there is a biosolid composting project and a program to reuse the methane produced. Mr. Varley said a study is being undertaken to see if more of that methane can be used either for vehicle fuel or produce electricity for running other motors. He

said the City has a recycling program and there are discussions about moving the recycling center to a better location and to make the recycling program free to customers. Mr. Varley said the City is also replacing the bulbs in traffic signals to LEDs that are more efficient. There is a Clean Cities Coalition of which the City is a part of and there is currently an application being considered which will fund alternative fuel supplies. Mr. Varley said the City Energy Conservation Team has just been formed and that team will assess and monitor the progress of the proposed initiatives and current conservation practices as well as introduce new practices and explore new conservation opportunities. Mr. Varley had a number of items for Council's consideration in the area of energy conservation. It was noted that a number of good things have been done but they have been somewhat scattered. Mr. Varley said the City needs to accumulate baseline data and then establish some goals; also setting payback standards. It is prudent to make conservation standards as part of the design standards for new buildings for the City and incentivize it for others that are building buildings. It was pointed out that the City has undertaken a number of efforts and that is commendable.

Action Summary: City Council appreciated the update and encouraged more efforts.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 9:49 p.m.