

**GRAND JUNCTION CITY COUNCIL
WORKSHOP SUMMARY
March 5, 2007**

The City Council of the City of Grand Junction, Colorado met on Monday, March 5, 2007 at 7:03 p.m. in the City Hall Auditorium to discuss workshop items. Those present were Councilmembers Bonnie Beckstein Teresa Coons, Bruce Hill, Gregg Palmer, Doug Thomason, and Council President Jim Doody. Absent was Councilmember Jim Spehar.

Summaries and action on the following topics:

1. **DISCUSSION OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PLAN PROCESS:** Palisade Mayor Doug Edwards addressed the City Council on this issue. He advised that contrary to what has been in the media, there has been public input into the plan both through public hearings and also through representation by the elected officials. It was agreed that a working group would be created to study the issues. The citizens and elected officials from Palisade still support this process. He said they feel the working group is doing a great job.

Council President Doody responded that he too is comfortable with the process and praised the efforts of former Public Works Director Mark Relph, Palisade Town Manager Tim Sarmo and now Deputy City Manager Laurie Kadrach.

Councilmember Hill added that there will be more opportunity for public input. It is so important that the City and the Town of Palisade, through funding from Genesis, work together to gather baseline data. Mr. Edwards noted that Genesis has had some concerns from what has been in the media but has been very cooperative.

Councilmember Coons thanked Mayor Edwards and the others in the working group. She pointed out that engaging the public is never easy and issues such as these involves dealing with perceptions.

Mayor Edwards said they are not against educating the public. He said that the public officials need to talk to State Senators and Representatives to work on amending Amendment 23 and the Gallagher Amendment so that funds aren't continuing to be robbed from what they were initially set up specifically for, which is energy.

Deputy City Manager Laurie Kadrach said the working group met last Wednesday for about four hours. Genesis Gas and Oil representative Bob Behner and/or Catherine Robertson from the BLM is happy to meet with Council prior to the joint meeting on April 16th. The working group is doing a lot of wordsmithing and trying to bring in the additional comments from the public. The public can mail in comments or post them to the website. On April 2nd there will be a working document available for the elected officials and the community giving the Council time to review it before the April 16th meeting. On April 17th there will be an educational forum in Palisade. There will be stations set up so people can visit the different stations. The document will be distributed and there will be another

meeting to take verbal comments. There has been no date set yet but will likely occur the end of May or the first part of June. The working group will be meeting this Wednesday.

Council President Doody asked Mayor Edwards about a couple of his Town Board member's willingness to meet with a couple of City of Grand Junction Councilmembers. Mayor Edwards thought that this was a good idea and commented that the meeting would not have to be posted as required if there are less than three members of each.

Councilmember Coons suggested still posting the meeting and try to get as many elected officials as possible. Mr. Edwards agreed.

Ms. Kadrach asked Council if they would like her to schedule another meeting with Palisade's Town Board, ½ hour before Palisade's regular meeting and inviting Mr. Behner from Genesis Oil and Gas and/or Ms. Robertson from the BLM.

Action Summary: City Council requested City Staff get together with Palisade's Staff and schedule a meeting date about an hour before Palisade's regular meeting to discuss this issue.

2. **APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS & COMMISSIONS:** City Clerk Stephanie Tuin presented an update on the status of appointments to the Commission on Arts and Culture, Downtown Development Authority, Historic Preservation Board, and Parks Improvement Advisory Board. She advised that there are three openings on the Commission on Arts and Culture and asked Council to advise her of how many applicants they would like to interview. She stated that there is a vacancy on DDA due to a resignation and asked if they should wait until June when other terms expire or should they advertise now. The Historic Preservation Board is still lacking a DDA representative, but as soon as she gets that recommendation from Mr. Stalf, Council will see that recommendation. Ms. Tuin also advised Council that the PIAB has requested that the City Clerk's office advertise for their vacancy.

Action Summary: City Council suggested not interviewing any more than six applicants for the Commission on Arts and Culture and requested that Ms. Tuin advertise for DDA at this time to fill the vacancy and for the upcoming expiring terms in June.

3. **OPTIONS FOR SYNTHETIC TURF AT STOCKER FIELD:** Director of Parks and Recreation Joe Stevens presented information for discussion on replacing natural turf at Stocker Stadium with synthetic turf in partnership with PIAB. Mesa State is having some synthetic turf installed and Mr. Stevens passed around some samples. He addressed the budget, the commitment from other organizations for funding and the timing. He noted that the City has been asked to pledge some funding but does not have anything budgeted.

Councilmember Palmer asked if there are maintenance offsets. Mr. Stevens said they will use less water but will still need to use a wetting agent. The synthetic turf won't need to be fertilized but the natural turf will still need to be fertilized at Suplizio Field. The synthetic turf will have to be raked to loosen the blades that get compacted.

Councilmember Palmer asked Mr. Stevens how long the synthetic turf will last. Mr. Stevens stated that it has a ten year life cycle. \$850,000 is the cost for a low grade product. Mr. Stevens suggested that money be set aside for replacement. The product is new and has only been in use about five years. It will be the City's responsibility to replace the turf so he suggested using the money that will be saved from the required maintenance.

Councilmember Coons asked Mr. Stevens how purchasing the turf would affect other funding in the Parks and Recreation budget. Mr. Stevens stated that there are some available balances, one of those being lottery proceeds, and another being impact fees. There are also currently available balances from dues that have not been earmarked for specific projects. He stated that if Council gives an affirmative direction, he will put the funding together so that it does make sense.

Council President Doody asked how the blades are repaired if they come up and is there a history of patch jobs. Mr. Stevens stated that there are so many varieties of turf and they come with a warranty, and if there was a concern there would be something written into the contract, agreement, or warranty to ensure company commitment.

Council President Doody asked about other events such as the circus that would affect the surface. Mr. Stevens stated that there are other locations for the circus, perhaps Mesa County fairgrounds. Graduations are another concern with high heels and foreign materials (chewing gum); these will have to be monitored in another fashion.

Councilmember Hill stated that users are excited about this possibility. There is some maintenance but overall it is a reduction in maintenance, the field wouldn't have to be relined. Ten years down the road he sees the burden for replacement on PIAB, not the City.

Councilmember Palmer asked if there are any safety advantages in synthetic turf. Councilmember Hill stated that at one time they had looked at this for baseball fields and there is a bit more cushion in the turf, however it does get hot, so they still require some water to cool it down.

Action Summary: City Council felt that the synthetic turf would be a good idea and asked Staff to put together some numbers on this and bring it back to Council.

Council President Doody called a recess at 8:25 p.m.

The meeting reconvened at 8:44 p.m.

4. **POLICE DEPARTMENT SERVICE DELIVERY CHANGES FOR 2007:** Police Chief Bill Gardner updated the City Council on changes within the Police Department. He gave the historical context that precipitated the changes he has instituted. He explained his philosophy of Strategic Policing: Mission #1 is public safety. This has been implemented by transitioning to a Watch Commander System to ensure public safety; Mission #2 is neighborhood problem solving. Mission #2 depends on prioritizing call management (Differentiated Call Response) as the previously used beat system did not work. Chief Gardner used the bombings in Grand Junction last year to explain the Police Department's foundation. He stated that the watch strategy becomes priority when there are incidents that need attention. Neighborhood command is focused on as time and manpower allows.

Chief Gardner stated that they are using a team approach where teams are assigned to larger areas in the City and are challenged to look for a problem in an area and then work to solve the problem. Last week a team of officers looked at one business that had generated 70 calls in the last six months. They began solving the problem by making an appointment with the owners, giving them the data and explaining the problems. There have been no calls since and the Police Department continues to have a healthy dialogue with the business. Chief Gardner then identified the four Watch Commanders that will be the Operational Chiefs of Police for twelve hours per day each, and stated that they are all experienced officers. There are then Sergeants assigned to each geographical area under those Watch Commanders. Chief Gardner explained the Emergency Response that will be called up through the Incident Command System. He gave examples of when this might be used. Chief Gardner identified the four areas of the City. Officers were asked to volunteer for certain areas which include not only officers but also a liaison officer. Officers from the Community Advocacy Program, who are on duty at any given time, will be posted to the web.

He detailed the various advantages to this system and how they will help them manage their resources, especially calls such as vandalism, noise complaints, and cold theft reports that can be handled by civilian staff.

Linda Bowman, Police Information Coordinator, then reviewed the website changes and advised more changes for input and web based reporting are still to come. The web pages with the officers will be printable, the shift/officers on duty site is live. Chief Gardner elaborated on the links available, noting they intend to keep the web page simple.

Councilmember Coons asked about how the civilian police technician is recruited and trained. Chief Gardner stated that recruiting for a civilian police technician is easier than recruiting for a police officer. There is a 12 week training program, much of the same training as officers. These civilian police technicians can handle traffic accidents, cold case investigations, and go with officers to crime scenes. They can't do arrests.

Councilmember Hill stated that he was excited about this, however he questioned the Chief's statement that officers will look for problems, and asked if it is really looking for solutions. Chief Gardner clarified that they find a problem and take steps for reducing the problem and yes, it is solution oriented; the solution is banking on creativity of employees.

Councilmember Palmer stated that he found the differentiated call response interesting, empowering employees and dispatch. The service to people with incidents will be so much greater. Not all incidents need an officer to show up, it will help officers be available when an officer is really needed.

In conclusion, Chief Gardner told two stories that show that the changes are making an impact.

Councilmember Palmer agreed and added his own observations and comments he has heard.

Action Summary: City Council thanked Chief Gardner for his report and indicated support for the new system.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 9:35 p.m.