

**GRAND JUNCTION CITY COUNCIL
WORKSHOP SUMMARY
June 18, 2007**

The City Council of the City of Grand Junction, Colorado met on Monday, June 18, 2007 at 7:01 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, Linda Romer Todd and Council President Jim Doody.

Summaries and action on the following topics:

1. **WATERSHED COMMUNITY PLAN PRESENTATION:** Acting City Manager Laurie Kadrach presented the final draft of the plan. She reviewed the history of the draft and how it has been previously presented, and how each local government will have a public presentation to their governing bodies and public. She noted that Terry Franklin, Water Services Manager, compiled the comments that were made from the focus groups and through the website. Ms. Kadrach reviewed those comments. The staff has incorporated the best management practices into the regulations drafted to implement the Watershed Ordinance.

Councilmember Coons asked about the number of comments that were received via the web. Terry Franklin, Water Services Manager, advised that there were 56 pages of comments but 43 of the 56 pages were strike outs done on the Plan itself.

Council President Doody asked for clarification on the comment regarding Mesa County's oversight. Mr. Franklin advised that those comments refer to Mesa County being more involved so it isn't just the City of Grand Junction managing the City's watershed, but rather a larger oversight over the whole County.

Councilmember Coons asked about the next step, and asked if this will be formally adopted. Mr. Franklin said the rest of the comments will be incorporated into the Plan and then there will be another Focus Group meeting after June 26th. Then the document can be brought back to City Council for adoption. The document will not be actually signed by anyone, but once finalized, Genesis has agreed for the document to be legally binding.

City Attorney John Shaver added that the best management practices are then enforced through the permitting process.

Ms. Kadrach said another reason for it not being adopted is that if best management practices are changed then it does not have go through a re-adoption process.

Councilmember Palmer noted best management practices rely on inspection of the work and is the City comfortable with the number of inspections planned. Another issue was the baseline water quality data, and he asked if that has been established. Mr. Franklin said the City has that baseline data, the new data

relates to Palisade's watershed. Regarding inspections, the City is comfortable with the number specified in the Plan.

Councilmember Coons asked if it is necessary to formally adopt the Plan if it is incorporated into the regulations. City Attorney Shaver advised that it is not necessary as a practical matter.

Councilmember Todd asked what procedures did Rifle put in place for drilling in their watershed. Ms. Kadrich said much of the Rifle plan was used as a model for this Plan.

Action summary: Council asked that the revised Plan be brought back once the comments have been incorporated.

- 2. WATERSHED ORDINANCE IMPLEMENTATION REGULATIONS:** The regulations implementing the Watershed Ordinance were prepared by the Utility Department staff, in conjunction with various affected interest groups, and was presented by Terry Franklin, Water Services Manager. He reviewed the process in developing the document. The reclamation of the permit sites will be guaranteed by a bond. The cost will be determined by a third party. Mr. Franklin identified what activities will require a permit and what activities will not, although even the non-permitted activities will require a notice of intent. He listed the items required by the permit application.

Councilmember Coons asked for an overview on the development of the regulations. Acting City Manager Kadrich advised that during the Focus Group meetings, the regulations were discussed extensively.

Council President Doody pointed out that there is a differentiation between minor impact and major impact. An activity determined to have a major impact will be reviewed by City Council.

Councilmember Coons noted that these regulations are for any activity in the watershed, not just oil and gas activity.

Mr. Franklin said the regulations will be reviewed as needed.

Councilmember Coons asked how this ordinance will work with BLM's permitting process.

City Attorney Shaver said the federal government has primacy but the City's process will supplement the federal process. Mr. Franklin said they will try to make it a smooth process through early dialogue with any proposed users.

City Attorney Shaver noted the City's permitting process does not approve or disapprove the drilling, that is a federal function. If an irreconcilable conflict arises, federal rule will prevail but he is confident that conflicts can be resolved.

Mr. Franklin pointed out that inspections will take place after any permits are issued and third-party inspectors will be hired to perform those inspections and the permittee will pay for those inspections.

Action summary: City Attorney Shaver advised these regulations will be brought forward when the Watershed Plan is final as these regulations do incorporate the Plan by reference.

3. **WATER CONSERVATION EFFORTS BY THE PARKS DEPARTMENT:** Don Hobbs, Assistant Parks and Recreation Director, presented water conservation efforts through central control irrigation. He reviewed the history of the irrigation in the City's parks system. He described all the options now available through the central irrigation system. Access is available remotely through cell phones and radios as well as computer. Other components include controlling the lighting and locking electric doors. The controller is much like the home units with the exception that the parks controller is tied to a central computer. The system also has three weather stations. There are 23 rain gauges around town that are set to shut off systems depending on the amount of rain received in that part of town. Freeze click devices are set to shut off the system when the temperature gets down to 37 degrees.

Mr. Hobbs advised that the control device adjusts the system every day based on the evapotranspiration (ET) and other data. The system stores all the data for how the system is run and provides a daily report on the operation. The mowers also report back to central operations so adjustments can be made. The system can also detect any malfunctioning valve and will shut it down and send a report to the central computer.

Most systems run at night but occasionally they have to catch up and water during the days. Another reason for daytime watering may be the need to adjust the sprinkler heads.

Mr. Hobbs advised that not every area in the parks system is on this system, like the park in the Ridges, but they are working on it.

Councilmember Thomason asked about security. Mr. Hobbs said the system is password protected and use-protected by availability.

Councilmember Hill asked how many systems are still on treated water. Mr. Hobbs listed those that are on non-potable water, many of the systems in the City do not have access to irrigation water.

Council President Doody asked about work load versus work force, specifically the labor savings. Mr. Hobbs said he can't speak to that because the shut downs would just not happen without central control. The system still needs to be maintained. The savings is in water.

Jerry Roberts, Parks Maintenance Supervisor, said the centralized system is more efficient. When a system is converted, the change is dramatic.

Terry Franklin, Water Services Manager, then presented information on the water conservation efforts to be encouraged City-wide, also known as the DRIP (Drought Response Information Project) program. He compared Ute Water's statistics; 64 gallons in the winter and 115 gallons per person per day in the summer. The City's per capita is 66 gallons per person per day in the winter but the summer is 175 gallons per capita. They are now working on ways to measure conservation efforts. One way would be to offer a rebate to users that install a smart controller for irrigation. That way they can measure the savings.

Action summary: City Council was very impressed with the parks irrigation system. They also thanked Mr. Franklin for his update.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.