

**GRAND JUNCTION CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP SUMMARY**  
**July 6, 2015 - Noticed Agenda Attached**

Meeting Convened: 4:40 p.m. in the City Auditorium

Meeting Adjourned: 7:34 p.m.

City Council Members present: All except Boeschstein and Traylor Smith

Staff present: Moore, Shaver, Camper, Schoeber, Watkins, Romero, Kovalik, Bowman, Lanning, Hazelhurst, Taylor, and Tuin

Also present: Diane Schwenke, Kristi Pollard, Amy Jordan, and Ben Johnson

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Interim City Manager Moore said he was switching items around on the agenda so the first topic will be Air Service Opportunity since they are present.

Agenda Topic 1. Air Service Opportunity

Diane Schwenke, Grand Junction Chamber of Commerce (COC), Kristi Pollard, Grand Junction Economic Partnership (GJEP), and Amy Jordan, Grand Junction Regional Airport Authority (GJRAA), were present to address this topic. Ms. Schwenke said a unique opportunity has come up to apply for a Department of Transportation grant but the application time frame is short. The grant may allow an expansion of air service to possibly Los Angeles (LA). Ms. Schwenke provided a brief background at how this came about and what has taken place so far. They are looking for a revenue guarantee to an airline, but there has not been an airline determined at this point. With the number of people flying to southern California on a daily basis, she believes the market is there. From the Economic Development (ED) report everyone heard last week, ED implications are there. She said they are hoping to get minimal match from several different entities. Ms. Schwenke said they are asking for a letter of support and a \$25,000 commitment from the City. They are hoping the grant award would be in the range of \$500,000 - \$750,000.

Ms. Jordan said she and Ben Johnson of the GJRAA recently went to a jump start air service conference and talked to current carriers and additional possible carriers. She outlined the top 7 markets and described passengers and the flights from Grand Junction. The target is an airline to carry business passengers.

Ms. Schwenke described from a business standpoint how this makes sense along with the ED statistics from the Chabin Concepts Competitive Analysis report.

Ms. Pollard of GJEP provided information regarding other business outreach to open new opportunities with an LA access. There are numerous students attending Colorado Mesa University (CMU) from California and Hawaii. She mentioned that Rick Wagner had explored Chicago as an opportunity but a larger plane would be needed to go east, so for now the best new route would be to go west.

Ms. Schwenke said they are making the same support request to Mesa County, the Town of Palisade, the City of Fruita, Associated Governments of Northwest Colorado (AGNC), and approaching other businesses. The COC and GJEP will both bring in-kind marketing to the table.

There was general discussion regarding the logistics of the possibility of being awarded the grant, the negotiating ahead, whether it would hurt other current carriers, the financial sustainability, the required one year commitment, the potential for ED, and the availability of funds in the Council's ED budget.

Mayor Norris asked Interim City Manager Moore how much is currently in the City's ED fund. Mr. Moore said there is \$457,497 available but there are possible commitments.

Mayor Norris directed the Interim City Manager to prepare a letter of support so that it can be brought forward for formal approval on July 15<sup>th</sup>. She would also like to know at that time who else has committed to this project.

Agenda Topic 2. Avalon Theatre Foundation Board Update and Request for Naming Rights for the Avalon Theatre Mezzanine Lobby and Main Lobby

Interim City Manager Moore said this is an opportunity to hear from the Avalon Theatre Foundation Board for an update and a request for naming rights.

Debbie Kovalik, Convention and Visitor Services Director introduced Robbie Breaux and Bobbi Alpha, Co-chairs from the Avalon Theatre Foundation Board. Ms. Alpha reviewed the mission of the Avalon Theatre Foundation (ATF). Ms. Breaux provided a history of the Theatre and then Ms. Alpha reviewed the scope of the Phase I improvements and the facility usage over the last 9 months. There was a review of the ATF gifts and donations starting in 2012.

Ms. Kovalik reviewed the Resolution regarding naming rights that was passed along with the information in the staff report that was provided. Ms. Alpha reviewed the two very generous donors who would qualify for naming rights for the Mezzanine Lobby and Main Lobby as referenced in the Resolution. She said both of the donors qualify for the naming rights explaining how they qualify for the naming rights and how they came up with the name they want to give the Mezzanine Lobby. The next large donor for the Main Lobby is from a family trust (both individuals are deceased) and Ms. Alpha provided the background on them. Ms. Alpha is requesting approval from the City Council to proceed with allowing the naming rights

for these donors. Ms. Kovalik said the amounts do meet the criteria of the donation amounts for the two areas but the ATF would like to keep the amounts private.

There was a lengthy discussion regarding whether or not the adoption of the Resolution for naming rights included donations received prior to its adoption.

Several Councilmembers said they need to have the audit of the donations completed before moving forward and it should be discussed at a future City Council workshop. It was agreed that there is a lot of work to be done with the report brought to Council at a workshop and then presented at a subsequent City Council meeting.

Ms. Breaux said they are working on Phase 2 and would like to meet with each Councilmember individually. Councilmember Taggart is the Council representative on the Avalon Theatre Committee.

### Agenda Topic 3. Discussion on Process to Replace the City Manager

Interim City Manager Tim Moore informed Council that, after careful consideration, he is not interested in the position of City Manager. He will serve in the capacity of Interim and assist Council in any way that he can.

Human Resources Director Claudia Hazelhurst outlined three things she hoped to get direction on: 1) the use of an interim manager, 2) whether recruitment should be handled internally, with an executive search firm, or a combination of both, and 3) designation of City Council contact(s) for recruitment or use of the full City Council. Ms. Hazelhurst explained the process, and that she has made inquiries. There are about 30 agencies that perform this type of Executive Search.

There was a general discussion regarding the responsibilities of a search firm and how the firm would work with City Council or Staff. The Charter was discussed to clarify the Council's role, the implementation role of the Interim City Manager, and his work load. Ms. Hazelhurst talked about the time frame from submitting a Request for Proposal (RFP) to the selection process. Several Councilmembers provided their ideas of what the structure should look like and what they would be looking for in a new City Manager, and their opinions on having an Interim other than Mr. Moore.

It was opened up to the Department Heads present along with Staff on what they thought and/or what their thoughts were on the process of the search for a new City Manager. Some of Staff's thoughts were that the City is in turmoil, the focus should be finding a new City Manager, business will be as usual in their departments, they have very competent employees, and they believe the City should not "settle" when seeking a new manager.

Numerous questions were taken from City Council regarding the next steps of the process and what the different ideas are for what they would be looking for in the interview process, the candidate, the contract, and being kept up to date.

Ms. Hazelhurst was directed to respond back to the Council on the time frame, provide a timeline, and then move forward. City Attorney Shaver said the hiring of the executive search firm is within the City Manager's spending authority.

Agenda Topic 4. Retiree Health Trust Fund Discussion. Removed from the Agenda and will be discussed during the budget process at a later date.

Agenda Topic 5. Other Business.

Councilmember Kennedy would like to get the broadband information on a workshop in about 2 weeks.

Councilmember Chazen said it was good that the Special Meeting earlier that day included public comment.

Councilmember McArthur talked about the drainage article that was in the paper and gave an update. He said there will be a Pool Board meeting coming up.

**Adjourn**

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned.

**GRAND JUNCTION CITY COUNCIL  
MONDAY, JULY 6, 2015  
WORKSHOP  
15 MINUTES FOLLOWING THE CONCLUSION  
OF THE 3:00 P.M. SPECIAL MEETING  
(APPROXIMATELY 4:30 P.M.)  
CITY HALL AUDITORIUM  
250 N. 5<sup>TH</sup> STREET**

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- 1. Avalon Theatre Foundation Board Update and Request for Naming Rights for the Avalon Theatre Mezzanine Lobby and Main Lobby:** This is to consider a request for naming rights for the Avalon Theatre Mezzanine Lobby. In addition, the Avalon Theatre Foundation Board will provide an update on their fundraising efforts.
  
- 2. Air Service Opportunity:** Chamber Director Diane Schwenke and GJEP Director Kristi Pollard will brief the City Council on an opportunity to expand airline service at the Grand Junction Regional Airport.
  
- 3. Discussion on Process to Replace the City Manager**
  
- 4. Retiree Health Trust Fund Discussion**
  
- 5. Other Business**
  
- 6. Board Reports**