

**GRAND JUNCTION CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP SUMMARY**  
**February 29, 2016 – Noticed Agenda Attached**

Meeting Convened: 5:00 p.m. in the City Hall Auditorium

Meeting Adjourned: 8:16 p.m.

City Council Members present: All

Staff present: Moore, Shaver, Romero, Valentine, Portner, Lanning, Schoeber, Camper, Kovalik, Brian Clark, Montgomery, Hazelhurst, Bowman, and Tuin

Also: Richard Swingle, Derek Wagner, Vara Kusal, Bruce Lohmiller, Dennis Simpson, and Kim Williams

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Agenda Topic 1. Compression Only Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR)

City Council watched a short video on the importance of knowing Compression Only CPR. Firefighter/Paramedic Brian Clark then instructed the Council on how to perform the procedure afterwards they practiced and asked some questions.

Agenda Topic 2. Policy for Street Banners

ICM Moore introduced the topic and Kathy Portner, Community Services Manager, explained that the Visitor and Convention Bureau (VCB) had a street banner program but then Xcel Energy discontinued the use of their poles due to safety concerns. Staff then worked with Xcel Energy to develop a Joint Use Agreement and the City has been able to conditionally reinstitute non-commercial use of the poles by shifting liability to the City. She said initially, only poles previously used had been inspected and approved by Xcel, but others will now be considered. Ms. Portner then explained Xcel has specific requirements, e.g. installation and banner sizes and shapes. The City subsequently drafted a policy based on the VCB's previous policy and included Xcel's specific requirements and a Use Application (similar to the City's Special Event Permit issued by the Community Development Division). Part of the policy identifies specific business districts and allows for VCB to have special consideration for special events. Colorado Mesa University (CMU) has proposed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that would grant them long term primary use of the poles surrounding the campus to create a university district identity. The intent of the MOU would be to allow CMU to more fully realize installation costs, create a district atmosphere, have the ability to keep banners up longer than 30 days, and promote CMU activities. If the MOU is considered, the VCB asked that a provision be included for consideration of special events so banners could be continuous along 12<sup>th</sup> Street when those events occur.

City Attorney Shaver explained with the Joint Use Agreement the City's liability would be subject to governmental immunity and liability caps so that using Xcel's poles would hold the same risk as any of the City's day to day operations.

Various ideas were discussed. Council directed Staff to look at options regarding the administration of the program and report back on their recommendations.

Agenda Topic 3. TABOR (Taxpayer Bill of Rights) Projection Model

ICM Moore introduced this item noting this is a follow up to the TABOR Workshop regarding the questions of priorities, funding, and Council direction. ICM Moore listed the priorities identified in the handout and noted costs were also provided.

Councilmember Taggart expressed concern that many other previously discussed items were not included in the handout. He asked to schedule a Workshop to discuss and create a priority list for City projects.

Council President Norris agreed and said other topics should also be included.

It was agreed these projects had not been prioritized, but should be.

Councilmember Traylor Smith asked what amount would be needed for all road maintenance projects. Public Works Director Greg Lanning said \$18 million would cover current costs for all project materials, but there are not enough work crews available to complete all at once so projects would need to be spread out over at least four years.

Councilmember Chazen noted the current TABOR overage is being used to pay off the Riverside Parkway. He asked Financial Operations Director Jodi Romero how far away the City is from their "black box" excess. Ms. Romero estimated the "black box" excess will be about \$525,000 and noted there will also be a property tax excess of \$1.2 million. If voters do not approve that these funds go to another project, the City would need to refund taxpayers beginning in 2021. However, when the Riverside Parkway is paid off, \$3.8 million will become available to be repurposed, less any refund to the taxpayers.

It was agreed that the discussion on public safety which would include the Grand Junction Regional Communication Center should be separate from the TABOR issue since these projects require guaranteed funding and will possibly be distinct districts or authorities.

Comments were made regarding discussions including too much detail, what government's primary goal is (public safety), under what overarching secondary goal should the projects be prioritized (infrastructure and Economic Development (ED)), what the definitions are for each category, that projects should be prioritized before new councilmembers are elected, how to present a high priority ballot issue, and what direction should Staff be given.

It was decided the process should be to confirm policy direction, define category criteria, breakdown and then prioritize projects in order to determine funding options.

City Attorney Shaver reminded Council there are three types of ballot questions: new revenue, debt, and refunding TABOR excess, and all can have permutations.

Councilmember Taggart suggested increasing the number of workshops in order to move this topic forward. All agreed to add one more workshop per month; the next additional workshop will be March 21<sup>st</sup>.

#### Agenda Topic 4. Other Business

ICM Moore worked on a spreadsheet to compile updates and status reports on various committees and projects and will build on that spreadsheet with City Clerk Tuin to make access available to Council.

#### Agenda Topic 5. Board Reports

##### Homeless and Vagrancy Committee

Council President Norris met with the Homeless Coalition to learn what service gaps there are; she found there are very few and felt the Coalition has a good handle on the homeless situation.

Councilmembers McArthur and Taggart felt Council should have a representative on the Coalition to help drive and streamline discussions to find permanent housing options.

Councilmember Traylor Smith talked about vagrancy being a symptom of the bigger issue of mental illness and the challenges of going through the process to find permanent housing. ICM Moore said a block of rooms in the new HomewardBound facility will be for the single and chronically homeless.

Police Chief John Camper suggested Council and the Homeless and Vagrancy Committee issue a strong statement in support of permanent housing to help address the chronically homeless issue.

Councilmember Chazen felt Council sent a message to the Coalition by having four members attend their last meeting with the intent to find out more about the services they provide. He was disappointed to find the Coalition thought they came to provide funds for their programs even though the Councilmember conveyed no money is available. He would like to ask the providers how they can help mitigate costs incurred by the City due to the homeless.

Councilmember Boeschstein mentioned there are two reports that show the local costs and services provided to help the homeless: Cost of Homelessness and a report of all the services.

Councilmember Taggart asked that a plan and strategy be put in place to help educate others on what the City does to help eliminate this problem.

Councilmember McArthur and Chief Camper will attend the next Coalition meeting.

#### Economic Development Partners Meeting

Council President Norris and Councilmember Chazen met with some of the ED Partners (Diane Schwenke, Kristi Pollard, and John Maraschin) regarding sustainable funding for ED. They are looking toward keeping the Vendor Fee but would like to audit the City's numbers. Council President Norris said she declined their request and noted there were some miscommunications on both sides. Council needs to decide if they are going to fund ED and if so, how.

Councilmember Traylor Smith said what the ED Partners asked for was to find out how much the Vendor Fee threshold would need to be ratcheted up to exclude all local businesses and then find out how much money that scenario would bring in (about \$250,000 per year).

Councilmember Taggart noted eliminating Vendor Fees would allow the City to decrease its contribution to the ED budget line item without decreasing the amount.

Council agreed they would like to move forward with this so there is adequate time to craft a policy, ordinance, and notify businesses of the change to the Vendor Fee.

#### Grand Junction Regional Airport Authority (GJRAA)

Councilmember Taggart said the GJRAA Board will meet in two weeks to discuss how to find a new Executive Director and how best to resolve legal issues with the past Executive Director. He also noted the Airport Task Force is moving forward to expand airport business and he felt is doing a great job.

#### Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

Councilmember Kennedy said a community group, P.L.A.C.E., is actively pursuing a community/recreation center and the Board is interested in completing the feasibility study and design.

Museum of Western Colorado Board

Councilmember Boeschstein said he spoke with Board Member Peter Booth about the Museum moving to Fruita due to Whitman Park vagrancy issues. Council President Norris has a meeting planned to speak with the Museum, ICM Moore, and the Downtown Development Authority to hear what direction the Museum would like to go. It was noted the building is owned by the City and would revert to City control if they decide to move.

Orchard Mesa Pool Board

Councilmember McArthur gave a brief history of the Orchard Mesa Middle School building use. He has suggested moving the Senior Center to the building if the school moves and possibly use it for a community center. He said the School District liked the idea.

521 Drainage Authority

Councilmember McArthur said the Grand Valley Drainage District (GVDD) proposed an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) with the 521 Drainage Authority to collect a fee for the District. There were enough votes to prepare the IGA, but he felt there will not be enough to pass it.

The GVDD will have a contested election in April and a recall effort is currently underway. There was discussion regarding the GVDD's new fee and how it will be billed to customers and if the City plans to pay theirs. Mesa County has opted not to pay the fee. City Attorney Shaver said a fee can be charged in addition to a mill levy if it is for a business enterprise.

Grand Junction Downtown Development Authority (DDA)

Councilmember Chazen said the potential new owners of the train depot attended their last meeting. He explained they are applying for an historical grant from the State to go toward building rehabilitation and the process requires a government entity to manage the grant. The DDA Board supported the arrangement, but will review the grant details when available in order to mitigate exposure.

The City was approached with a request to install wireless internet downtown. A request for information has been submitted.

Councilmember Chazen said the Travel Lodge sold and will be renovated to become an assisted living facility.

Grand Junction Economic Partnership (GJEP)

Councilmember Traylor Smith said GJEP received the Jump Start Program approval on February 3<sup>rd</sup>, have companies starting in the process. They are working with more prospects.

Activity on Patterson Road

Councilmember Chazen asked what is being built on Patterson Road near Foresight Park. It is a senior residential housing facility.

With no further business the meeting was adjourned.

GRAND JUNCTION CITY COUNCIL  
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 29, 2016

WORKSHOP, 5:00 P.M.  
CITY HALL AUDITORIUM  
250 N. 5<sup>TH</sup> STREET

*To become the most livable community west of the Rockies by 2025*

1. **Compression Only Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR):** Firefighter/ Paramedic Brian Clark will demonstrate compression only CPR and have Council practice the procedure.
2. **Policy for Street Banners:** Staff will present options for developing a policy for the installation of street light banners and seek Council direction. **Attachment**
3. **TABOR (Taxpayer Bill of Rights) Projection Model**
4. **Other Business**
5. **Board Reports**