

GRAND JUNCTION CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL WORKSHOP SUMMARY
April 11, 2016 – Noticed Agenda Attached

Meeting Convened: 3:05 p.m. in the Administration Conference Room

Meeting Adjourned: 5:07 p.m.

City Council Members present: All except Councilmember McArthur (Traylor Smith arrived at 3:14 p.m.)

Staff present: Moore, Shaver, Romero, Hazelhurst, Beard, McInnis, and Tuin

Also: Richard Swingle

Agenda Topic 1. Term of Municipal Judge

Council President Norris opened the meeting and reviewed the history of the topic. She then asked City Attorney Shaver to comment.

City Attorney Shaver advised that the City has adopted Colorado Revised Statute (C.R.S.) Title 13, Part 10 to govern the municipal court which provides that the Municipal Judge shall be appointed for a term no less than two years. Judge McInnis was last appointed in 2006 for a four year term. In reviewing past appointments in the City for Municipal Judge they were generally for two years.

Judge McInnis said she is seeking a four year term.

After discussions about what a “term” really meant, how a Judge can be removed if necessary despite the term appointed, that an annual evaluation should still occur, that the position should not be political, that the Statutes do allow for local rules regarding the Court including the term of the Judge, and that setting the salary is separate from the term, the consensus of the City Council present was to offer a four year appointment.

Council President Norris asked for the term of appointment to be added to an agenda for adoption.

Agenda Topic 2. Municipal Structure and Operations

Council President Norris asked that Staff make comments first on this topic.

Interim City Manager (ICM) Moore distributed the City’s organizational chart for the Council’s reference.

Judge McInnis asked to present first. She had three requests: that the operation of the court be in compliance with the law, that the Council and management support that by communicating that to the Staff, and that she have true access to the budget process like the other department heads. She then distributed a handout which contained colored coded organizational charts which indicated how direction was provided for the various positions versus how she felt it should be. The handout also contained excerpts from the City Charter and State Statutes. Judge McInnis said compliance with the law included her having oversight of the administrative side of the court operations.

City Attorney Shaver then provided his perspective which included that the Judge does have total “judicial” oversight of the court but that the business part of court operations, that is administration, is delegated through the City Manager to the appropriate department head.

There were discussions about these two interpretations, examples of how things are currently handled, and how a local ordinance might clarify some of the issues. The City Council directed the City Manager, the City Attorney, and the Municipal Judge to meet and work these matters out, document anything that can’t be resolved, and, if necessary, bring an ordinance forward for consideration.

Regarding Judge McInnis’s previous request for a salary adjustment, Council President Norris indicated that salaries City-wide would be reviewed mid-year.

Agenda Topic 3. Other Business

ICM Moore advised that the April 25th Special Workshop has Event Center Funding Options and Capital Spending Priorities currently slated.

Councilmember Traylor Smith explained that she and Council President Norris have met as the Event Center Committee and want to discuss their ideas with the rest of Council.

After discussion, the City Council decided that addressing Capital Spending Priorities should be the only thing on the April 25th agenda and several provided their ideas on how the information should be presented.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

**GRAND JUNCTION CITY COUNCIL
MONDAY, APRIL 11, 2016**

**SPECIAL WORKSHOP, 3:00 P.M.
ADMINISTRATION CONFERENCE ROOM
2ND FLOOR, CITY HALL**

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

- 1. Term of Municipal Court Judge**
- 2. Municipal Court Structure and Operations**
- 3. Other Business**