

GRAND JUNCTION CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP SUMMARY
April 18, 2016 – Noticed Agenda Attached

Meeting Convened: 5:04 p.m. in the City Hall Auditorium

Meeting Adjourned: 7:15 p.m.

City Council Members present: All except Councilmember Traylor Smith

Staff present: Moore, Shaver, Ashbeck, Valentine, Lanning, Schoeber, Portner, and Tuin

Also: Richard Swingle, Karen Sjoberg, and Kristin Winn

Council President Norris opened the meeting.

Agenda Topic 1. Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) 2016 Program Year Funding Requests

Interim City Manager (ICM) Moore introduced the topic and reviewed the allocation process. Ms. Ashbeck, Senior Planner, said available grant funds increased by about \$10,000 over last year and 2016 is the first year of a new five year program; submission of a new Consolidated (master) Plan and an Analysis of Impediment to Fair Housing are required; no major changes are anticipated. These reports will go before City Council in June and be incorporated into the Action Plan. She referred to the Executive Summary that was provided and said the projections are based on the grant allocations from the last five years.

Councilmember Chazen suggested changing the CDBG Program goals to reflect Council's goal to create more economic development opportunities. Ms. Ashbeck said each grant is reviewed by HUD (Department of Housing and Urban Development) and must meet at least one national objective, but as long as the allocations comply, the goals can be redirected.

Ms. Ashbeck reviewed the fund amount available for 2016, the reimbursed Administration costs, and application requests by category: Service Projects and Capital Improvements for City and Non-City Projects. The majority of Council agreed to fund the Service Project requests at the minimum level and allocate the remaining amount to Western Colorado Suicide Prevention Foundation (total \$5,874). For the Capital Improvements category Council recommended the following: Center for Independence (riser) - \$18,750; Housing Resources of Western Colorado (Veteran housing) - \$7,750; HopeWest PACE Center (appliances) - \$28,000; Grand Junction Housing Authority (coolers) - \$75,000; Karis, Inc. (housing) - \$50,000; Safe Routes to Schools – Nisley, \$90,000/El Poso, \$45,000; and Senior Recreation Center (rehab), \$87,373.

Ms. Ashbeck noted that amendments to the Action Plan can be made for alternate projects if the primary projects cannot be completed. Councilmember Taggart suggested the drainage projects be placed on the alternate list.

Agenda Topic 2. Committee and Board Reports

Associated Governments of Northwest Colorado (AGNC) – Councilmember Chazen said the AGNC gets \$100,000 each year from DOLA (Department of Local Affairs) to fund local mini grants; the City was awarded \$7,950 to go toward the North Avenue medians.

Step 13 Residential Recovery Program – Councilmembers McArthur and Chazen toured a privately funded homeless rehabilitation (drugs and alcohol) facility in Denver. The facility has strict standards regarding work, meeting attendance, behavior, and facility cleanliness. Executive Director Peter Droege has been invited to address the Homeless Coalition.

5-2-1 Drainage Authority – Councilmember McArthur said the next meeting is April 20th when they will elect new officers. Council President Norris asked if the 5-2-1 is supporting the new Grand Valley Drainage District fee and if they are supporting the recall efforts. Councilmember McArthur said the 5-2-1 will remain neutral regarding the fee and John Crouch is leading the recall effort. He explained the legal proceedings being put in place regarding the drainage fee.

Historic Train Depot - Councilmember Boeschenstein said the Depot has been purchased and the owners have big plans and are working on getting grants from the State Historic Fund and getting Amtrak reestablished there.

Downtown Development Authority (DDA) - Councilmember Chazen said the DDA Board has been discussing the Rood Avenue Parking Garage end cap (west end) and side lot. He is encouraged the project is moving forward with the Board reviewing proposal and development ideas. The Board is also putting together ideas for an RFP (request for proposal) for the Mesa County School District 51 R-5 property and talking to a developer regarding the White Hall property.

Councilmember Kennedy noted the DDA Broadband RFP deadline has been extended to April 29th.

ICM Moore thanked everyone for their work on the Broadband Master Plan and said this topic will be on the May 16th workshop agenda advising things are progressing well.

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board – Councilmember Kennedy said the Board heard a vendor appeal regarding the RFP for JUCO (Junior College World Series) concessions; the decision was upheld.

Avalon Theatre Foundation – The Foundation will be dedicating a donor wall on April 22nd at the Avalon.

Colorado Riverfront Commission (CRC) – Councilmember Boeschenstein said the CRC is having a tour of all the Riverfront Projects on April 23rd & 24th. The City of Fruita has been awarded a grant from the State 16 Trails in 2016 Project which will provide a connection to Kokopelli Trail; the 29 Road Riverfront Connection and the Palisade Plunge did not make the first round of grant awards. He mentioned the Department of Energy has been trying to get a Visitors Center built using an existing cabin close to their offices showing the history and development of the atomic bomb at that location; he is encouraging them to relocate the cabin to Las Colonias since the uranium mill was located there.

Grand Junction Regional Airport Authority Board – Councilmember Taggart said the Board has a strong finalist for the Director position, Kip Turner, from Durango. Also, he has been working on the Airport Task Committee (ATC) regarding Minimum Standards, but has suggested these not be implemented because it would take the profitability out of West Star Aviation's gas fueling operations which is a very

competitive business. West Star has plans for expansion and Chattanooga, TN is currently trying to recruit them. The City is supportive of keeping West Star based in Grand Junction.

Councilmember Taggart said the legal issues regarding the unfinished building should come to a close this week and a report will be presented to the ATC no later than June which is about the same time the new Director should be hired.

Councilmember Taggart will update the Board on the ATC's progress regarding the effort to provide a direct connection to LAX (Los Angeles International Airport); there have been local contributions of \$.5 million toward this project.

Council President Norris stressed the importance of having a LAX connection for local economic development, both existing and proposed.

Agenda Topic 3. Board Reports see above

Agenda Topic 4. Other Business

Burn Permits - ICM Moore said Fire Chief Watkins is compiling data regarding burn permits issued both inside City limits and within the local fire districts. There was discussion regarding moving the burn season dates, researching how other communities handle open burns, the agricultural benefits, what the burn permits regulate, compelling reasons to continue open burns, and what federal regulations need to be considered. There will be further discussion and review of the information from Chief Watkins at the May 16th workshop.

Federal TIGER (Transportation Infrastructure Generating Economic Recovery) VIII Grant - Public Works Director Greg Lanning updated Council on the status TIGER VIII grant application they approved at the April 6th regular meeting; County Staff presented this project to the Commissioners seeking their participation, but they declined. Mr. Lanning asked if Council would be willing to reach out to the County since the grant looks at partnerships. He noted County funds wouldn't be needed for five years and the application deadline is April 29th. It was decided to apply for the grant without a commitment from the County and if the City is awarded the grant, Council will look for matching funds at that time.

Colorado Senate Bill 16-183 – City Attorney Shaver explained this bill may potentially deregulate all the provisions of the 911 utility through the Public Utilities Commission (PUC); these are important because they regulate the basic exchange service provider. He will send Council a fact sheet and an opposition letter regarding the bill; he asked them to review the information and circulate the letter.

Paul Brown – Councilmember Kennedy said the late Paul Brown had been recognized at the State Legislature.

911 Center – Council President Norris met with Fruita and Palisade's mayors and local EMS (emergency medical services) directors regarding a 911 Center and funding. A major concern is the lack of cell towers; in many areas there is no coverage and therefore no communication; cell towers will be the largest expense, estimated at \$9-10 million. Fruita and Palisade spend over 50% of their budgets on 911 communications. She will also be meeting with outlying municipalities on this issue.

It has not been decided how this will be funded, but it will be a county wide issue.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

GRAND JUNCTION CITY COUNCIL
MONDAY, APRIL 18, 2016

WORKSHOP, 5:00 P.M.
CITY HALL AUDITORIUM
250 N. 5TH STREET

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

1. **Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) 2016 Program Year Funding Requests:** City Council will consider which activities and programs to fund for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) 2016 Program Year. The City will receive \$384,713 for the 2016 Program Year which begins September 1, 2016. In addition, funds from prior years in the amount of \$117,866 will be allocated with the 2016 funds. [Attachment](#)
2. **Committee Reports**
3. **Board Reports**
4. **Other Business**