

GRAND JUNCTION CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP SUMMARY
May 16, 2016 – Noticed Agenda Attached

Meeting Convened: 4:30 p.m. in the City Hall Auditorium

Meeting Adjourned: 7:41 p.m.

City Council Members present: All, Councilmember Taggart arrived at 4:43 p.m. and Councilmember Traylor Smith left at 6:30 p.m.

Staff present: Shaver, Camper, Watkins, Hazelhurst, Finlayson, Kovalik, Valentine, Hockins, Lanning, Portner, Romero, Dackonish, Mathis, Evans, Thornton, and Tuin

Also: Richard Swingle, Julie Mamo, Marc McGill, Amy Hamilton, Bruce Lohmiller, Paul Sweeney, Karen Sjoberg, Kristin Winn, Elizabeth Rowan, and many other members of the public.

Council President Norris opened the meeting and introduced Marc Magill.

Agenda Topic 1. Meet with Marc Magill, VA (Veterans Administration) Medical Center Director

Mr. Magill thanked Council and said the VA healthcare system is transforming its services and he is optimistic about the VA's future in Grand Junction; he reviewed some specialty programs highlighting veteran housing and training programs, access to specialist providers, use of surgical robotics, tele-services, and how they are sharing technology with other local providers. He noted local contractors were used in the building of their new parking garage and hoped local contractors will be used for future projects. Mr. Magill then said the local American Legion was asked to assess the Grand Junction VA facility and services and a town hall meeting was held in Palisade. He lamented that the Choice Program failed for both patients and providers (some providers have not being paid).

Councilmember Chazen asked for information regarding a VA outreach program that is expanding into Colorado. Customer Relations Service/Alternate Patient Advocate Chief Paul Sweeney explained Cover to Cover, a holistic program for elderly veterans that assesses needs and stresses preventive measures. It will soon be implemented on the western slope and be able to be accessed through the 211 Program.

Councilmember Traylor Smith asked what steps the VA is taking to provide elder care needs. Mr. Magill said the VA has adequate capacity for long term care and mental health care; they are working on services for geriatric psychological needs; he felt the Grand Junction VA is well suited professionally and geographically to provide this type of care and added tele-medical services would also benefit this population by being able to utilize out-of-area specialists.

Councilmember Kennedy said cannabis has been shown to be an effective treatment for mental and PTSD (post-traumatic stress disorder) illnesses and asked what steps are being taken locally and federally to provide this treatment. Mr. Magill said personally he is in favor of clinically evidenced nontraditional treatments being prescribed and covered through the VA.

Mr. Sweeney announced an Open House will be held on May 25th where concerns regarding the VA and their programs can be voiced. Council President Norris thanked them for the update and for what they do for veterans and the City.

Agenda Topic 2. Overview of Open Burning within the City Limits and the Rural Fire Protection District

Grand Junction Fire Department (GJFD) Chief Ken Watkins said fire prevention is the main concern regarding open burning and noted additional information on rules, regulations, and burning alternatives can be found on the GJFD's website.

Fire Marshal Chuck Mathis reviewed some of the regulations for recreational burns and the handout highlighting local burn and permit statistics and the fire reporting classification system.

Chief Watkins explained the cost analysis (not all calls are billed/reimbursed), response costs, permit costs/revenue, and how the City program compares to others in the State regarding issuing permits, what can be burned, and if prior dispatch notification is required (GJFD prefers no prior notification).

Marshal Mathis went over typical differences between larger agricultural versus smaller residential burns and how each can affect visibility, respiratory issues, and calls to dispatch.

Mesa County will be launching a county-wide program on September 1st with the following changes: online application system, only \$20 single event (within a 10 day window) permits will be issued (currently the City allows unlimited burns annually within both season date ranges), and the size of burn piles will be limited (local departments will continue to regulate residential burns). The County would like all municipalities/fire districts to adopt their new system and an education campaign will be conducted this summer. Chief Watkins suggested the City transition to the County system as one system will be less confusing. Many felt since the City is more densely populated than the County, it should have more stringent regulations.

Marshal Mathis listed anticipated benefits and concerns if the City restricted open burns only to agricultural. There was discussion regarding restricting burns to bigger parcels, having the GJFD conduct larger burns, and banning recreational burns.

Councilmember Chazen said he reviewed the City's current open burn regulations and felt they are good and specific enough.

Chief Watkins said he was surprised to see the number of permits issued in the urban areas and would recommend restricting burns in these areas.

Councilmember Traylor Smith suggested more specific information be compiled regarding the type, size, and location of the burns in order to tailor regulations and formulate viable alternatives. Councilmember Taggart agreed, but suggested implementing bans excluding agricultural and larger lots in the meantime.

It was agreed to get more information on local burning, consider banning burns on 5 (±) acres or less starting this fall, find out how much to charge for a green waste pickup service, and promote alternatives to burning; Chief Watkins and City Attorney Shaver will work on these changes.

Agenda Topic 3. Wireless Master Plan (WMP) Update

Information Technology (IT) Director Jim Finlayson said he met with the City and County Planning Commissions in January and both recommended adoption of the WMP. The City Planning Commission (PC) requested specific site preferences for any publicly owned properties be removed from the proposed City ordinance; the public hearing will be held June 1st. He then reviewed the handout and explained the WMP makes the coverage assumption that all carriers make use of all equipment on all

available towers; maximizing private tower use may be difficult since owners cannot be compelled to allow additional use/equipment which is one reason why the use of public property should be considered.

Councilmember Chazen asked if the ordinance would preclude towers on private property. Staff Attorney Shelly Dackonish said public (especially City) property would be preferred since it would be pre-vetted for expedited permitting and would allow the City to control the type of tower built, the type of use, specific location, maintenance, and would provide a stable revenue source, but it would not preclude private property owners.

Staff Attorney Dackonish explained the PC specifically objected to the property preference order (City owned; publicly owned; privately owned) so two versions of the ordinance will be presented June 1st, one with the preferences and one without.

Concern was expressed that this preference would preclude a level playing field for private land owners. Mr. Finlayson explained tower locations would primarily be a decision made by the cellular companies or the tower builders, not the City. He noted the red numbered items on the Siting Preference Hierarchy page were the items the PC requested to be removed from the ordinance.

Councilmember Kennedy noted that having pre-vetted properties is a great step forward and will be a benefit to the service providers.

City Attorney Shaver said a sunset clause could be added to the ordinance regarding the specific siting preferences.

Internal Services Manager Jay Valentine said GASB (Government Accounting Standards Board) recommends creating a separate fund (Staff prefers an Enterprise Fund) for tower leasing revenue (about \$25 to \$50,000 annually per tower). An Enterprise Fund would allow the revenue to be used for needed technology upgrades and would create a revenue stream for 911 communications. The ordinance does not address revenue; Council decided more research and information is needed before a decision can be made on the accounting structure.

Agenda Topic 4. Financial Update

Discussion postponed.

Agenda Topic 5. Committee and Board Reports

Discussion postponed. The Event Center Report will be at a future meeting.

Agenda Topic 6. Other Business

There was none.

With no other business the meeting was adjourned.

GRAND JUNCTION CITY COUNCIL
MONDAY, MAY 16, 2016

WORKSHOP, 4:30 P.M. (note early start time)
CITY HALL AUDITORIUM
250 N. 5TH STREET

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

1. **Meet with Marc Magill, VA Medical Center Director**

2. **Overview of Open Burning within the City Limits and the Rural Fire Protection District:** An overview of open burning within the Grand Junction Fire Department response area will be presented. The presentation will include information on the City's burn permit program including: City ordinances, permit locations in the City and Rural Fire Protection District, brush fire response, and emergency medical calls which may be related to open burning during the burn season. In addition, a comparison of open burning and permit requirements in other western slope communities will be presented.

Attachment
Supplemental Documents

3. **Wireless Master Plan Update:** The Wireless Master Plan (WMP) is now in final draft and has been recommended for adoption by the Planning Commission. The workshop will include an overview of the plan highlights, review the guidance provided by City Council in the January 18, 2016 workshop, and discuss proposed changes to the City's zoning and development regulations to implement the plan and bring the regulations into compliance with new federal regulations.

Attachment
Supplemental Documents

4. **Financial Update**

5. **Committee and Board Reports**

6. **Other Business**