

GRAND JUNCTION CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP SUMMARY
June 13, 2016 – Noticed Agenda Attached

Meeting Convened: 4:00 p.m. in the City Hall Auditorium

Meeting Adjourned: 6:01 p.m.

City Council Members present: All except Councilmembers Taggart and Traylor Smith

Staff present: Caton, Moore, Shaver, Rainguet, Romero, Camper, Hazelhurst, Lanning, Valentine, Prall, Roth, Schoeber, Kovalik, Portner, Thronton, and Tuin

Also: Mike Curtis, Zane Znamenacek, Sean Yeates, Richard Swingle, Amy Hamilton, Marjorie Haun, and Dennis Simpson

Council President Norris opened the meeting and welcomed City Manager Greg Caton.

Agenda Topic 1. CDOT Update on Redlands Parkway/Highway 340 Roundabout

City Manager Caton introduced Zane Znamenacek from CDOT (Colorado Department of Transportation). Mr. Znamenacek presented the project's proposed concept, history, and timeline. The City submitted this intersection to the State as a priority for improvements and it qualified as the second priority in Region 3 due to safety concerns. He reviewed the intersection's accident history noting within the last year there has been an increase. Mr. Znamenacek explained the benefits of roundabouts for traffic, pedestrians, and bicyclists. There has been a lot of public outreach including a public meeting held in April which was well attended. There will also be an Open House later this year to present the final plans and summary comments. Construction is planned to begin in fall 2017 and the cost is estimated to be about \$3.5 million.

Council President Norris asked how many positive and negative comments were submitted at the April meeting. Mike Curtis, from CDOT, said the meeting started on a negative note, but turned around. He noted many bicyclists were in attendance and expressed safety concerns. Mr. Znamenacek listed and addressed the four main comments: traffic gaps in order to access Highway 340; bicycle and pedestrian safety; construction phasing and possible closures; and modification of the existing traffic light.

Councilmember Chazen asked why there was an increase in accidents in July 2014. Mr. Znamenacek said there were no changes to the traffic light or the lanes; it seemed to be an anomaly. Councilmember Chazen then asked how this intersection compared to others in the City regarding safety and how a roundabout will address the visibility issues and reduce rear end collisions. Mr. Znamenacek said regarding safety, this intersection is one of the worst and explained the accident to cost ratio the State uses to identify needed projects. He then explained roundabouts reduce head on and broad side collisions, slow traffic, and decrease injuries and their severity. Councilmember Chazen then asked if the City would be responsible to fund a portion of this project. Mr. Znamenacek said the City contributed to the initial project design and if interior landscaping is desired, the City would need to fund or find funding for that; the same as the 24 Road Project. Otherwise, it is 100% funded by CDOT.

Councilmember Boeschenstein expressed concerns regarding a storm drain icing over and a school cross walk in the same area. Mr. Curtis said there would be improvements to the storm drain and the cross walk would remain.

City Manager Caton asked how many lanes this roundabout would have. Mr. Znamenacek said it would be a hybrid with some movements having two lanes and others having one; this design should accommodate projected traffic through 2040.

Council President Norris noted many in this community do not like roundabouts and she is disappointed CDOT didn't listen to their comments, regardless of the safety concerns.

The majority agreed roundabouts are much safer and this is a needed improvement.

Agenda Topic 2. Financial Update

Financial Director Jodi Romero worked with City Manager Caton to create a financial summary after the 2015 books were closed. There are \$1.1 million in additional ending fund balance. Regarding 2016 revenues, Ms. Romero said the delay of warm weather may have contributed to the lower than projected sales tax earnings, but May's revenue showed a 2.1% growth over last year. She referred to the handout and asked Council for feedback regarding the listed options.

Councilmember Boeschstein suggested notifying Boards that financial requests must be submitted at the beginning of the City's budget process to be considered. City Manager Caton said a policy could be drafted for future direction.

Councilmember Chazen expressed concern on what the General Fund Reserve balance may be at the end of 2016 if all these requests are funded from it. City Manager Caton said the goal is to resolve 2015 commitments and then address 2016 challenges with the remaining overage from 2015 and current expense modifications; operational adjustments are already being made.

Council President Norris noted it was decided to keep the Reserve balance at a minimum of \$18.5 million until it was known if any of the Severance Tax disbursement would be diverted and what the final payment would be. Ms. Romero said scheduled disbursement will be in August; reduced revenues are anticipated.

The handout included the following items and recommendations:

Grand Junction Housing Authority (\$388,329) and HomewardBound Fees (\$100,000) – Council agreed with the Staff recommendation to fund these out of the General Fund Reserve.

2016 Colorado Mesa University Expansion Fund (\$500,000) - Council agreed with the Staff recommendation to fund this out of the General Fund Reserve.

Purchase School District 51 Property by Matchett Park (\$355,000) - Council agreed with the Staff recommendation to fund this from Parkland Expansion.

Parkland Expansion funds were designated for the Las Colonias Amphitheater in 2017; grant funds are currently being sought and funding options will be reviewed to fulfill the Las Colonias commitment during the 2017 budget process. Discussion ensued regarding various funding options (sell property, delay the Las Colonias development, fund from Reserves, or fund from Parkland Expansion) and how this and the other financial obligations can be budgeted in 2017.

City Attorney Shaver explained the legal constraints that would be placed on this property if Parkland Expansion funds are used to purchase the site. If, at a later date, it was decided to sell the property, it would have to be a ballot question.

Reinstate Arts Commission Funding – The decision was deferred until all Councilmembers could be present.

Councilmember Kennedy felt this should be fully funded to help salvage some programs and any amount not used could be carried over to the next year. Councilmember Boeschstein agreed as it produces a strong sense of community.

Councilmembers McArthur and Chazen felt it should not be funded and suggested these organizations seek other funding sources.

Council President Norris said members of the Arts Commission began to reevaluate their mission when this funding was cut; they have very creative people on the Board and it will be good to see where they go. She supported the Staff recommendation.

Pay Plan – Council agreed with the Staff recommendation to defer this and reevaluate later in the year.

City Manager Caton said a Capital discussion will be held at a later meeting.

Councilmember Chazen asked if the City has fully funded its commitments to Grand Junction Economic Partnership (GJEP) and the Business Incubator Center (BIC). Ms. Romero said Kristi Pollard, GJEP Executive Director, is satisfied with the 2016 funding, but will put in a request for 2017. Deputy City Manager Moore said the BIC has received normal funding, but it was not enough for them to move downtown.

Agenda Topic 3. Committee and Board Reports

There were none.

Agenda Topic 4. Other Business

Councilmember Boeschstein suggested Council send a letter of support to the City of Orlando. Council President Norris agreed and suggested having the Moment of Silence at the June 15th regular meeting focus on the victims and their families.

Councilmember Kennedy said his Council Comments for the June 15th meeting will address the tragedy in Orlando and what that city is facing. He felt acknowledging events like this during moments of silence is not actionable enough.

Council President Norris advised Council Comments should not reflect national political discussions.

Council agreed sending a letter of support would be appropriate, but they would +refrain from including political topics.

With no further business the meeting was adjourned.

**GRAND JUNCTION CITY COUNCIL
MONDAY, JUNE 13, 2016**

**WORKSHOP, 4:00 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. CDOT Update on Redlands Parkway/Highway 340 Roundabout
[Supplemental Documents](#)
2. Financial Update [Attachment](#)
3. Committee and Board Reports
4. Other Business