

**GRAND JUNCTION CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP SUMMARY
September 19, 2016 – Noticed Agenda Attached**

Meeting Convened: 5:30 p.m. in the City Hall Auditorium

Meeting Adjourned: 8:21 p.m.

City Council Members present: All.

Staff present: Caton, Moore, Shaver, McInnis, Watkins, Hazelhurst, Romero, Camper, Schoeber, Rainguet, Blevins, and Tuin

Also: Julie Mamo, Jade Joyce, Amy Hamilton (Daily Sentinel), and other members of the public.

Council President Norris called the meeting to order.

Agenda Topic 1. Structure and Operations of Municipal Court

Municipal Judge McInnis presented that the law is clear that the Judge has the authority to appoint the Court Clerk, assign their duties, and conduct the business of the Court. She referred to a number of excerpts from the City Charter, the Municipal Code, State Statutes, and the Colorado Code of Judicial Conduct. Her concern was the independence of the Court and she feels the current structure has the appearance that it is not. She presented a proposed revision to the organizational chart of the City, specific to the Court, and said she is opposed to the draft ordinance provided that restructures the Court. She also presented a Resolution that she asked the City Council to adopt that directs compliance with all the laws and rules referred to previously.

City Manager Caton then presented what has been done in order to respond to the Judge's concerns: additional security has been added in the courtroom, a glass window at the clerk's counter has been installed, legal staff no longer accesses the area behind the glass window, a computer has been placed on the Judge's bench, a job description for a part-time Court Clerk is being developed, and the budget will be bifurcated so the Judge has control over her portion of the budget. He reviewed the comparison sheet provided that identifies how other municipalities around the State structure their Municipal Courts. He stated that the discussion demonstrates the need for an ordinance detailing the structure and service delivery of the Court. Most of the things in the ordinance are currently in place and are best practices; the ordinance puts it in writing.

City Attorney Shaver noted that the City is in compliance with the laws referred to by the Judge and the ordinance proposed will clarify that delivery of service by the Court. He noted that many cities have a similar ordinance.

After further discussion, the majority of City Council supported the organizational chart presented by the Judge and were not in favor of moving forward with the proposed ordinance. There was a concern expressed about a part-time Judge having the ability to supervise a full-time staff.

Councilmembers noted that they need a chance to review the proposed Resolution presented by the Judge before deciding whether it should go forward.

Agenda Topic 2. Recommendations to City Council from the Vagrancy Committee

Councilmember Chazen introduced the topic and then deferred to Police Chief John Camper. Chief Camper referred to the Options List and explained the priority of the recommendations.

Council discussed many of the recommendations and brought both Julie Mamo, Grand Valley Peace and Justice representative, and Jade Joyce, HomewardBound Director, into the discussion. The conclusion was that the City Manager will propose funding for some of the recommendations in the 2017 budget, specifically the increased camp cleanup and possibly some funding for a Champion/Coordinator. City Manager Caton suggested that the Traveler's Aid Fund would be a good opportunity for community support. These recommendations can then be considered in the budget review process. It was suggested that they continue to work on or plan for the other items including the Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) and increased downtown patrols.

Agenda Topic 3. Next Workshop Topics

It was noted that the next two workshops will have budget discussions scheduled.

Agenda Topic 4. Committee and Board Reports

Grand Junction Housing Authority – Councilmember Traylor Smith reported that they received some funding that will help with their acquisition of the Nellie Bechtel Apartments.

Agenda Topic 5. Other Business

Jade Joyce, HomewardBound Director, advised that they are changing their policy so that clients can only stay a maximum of 90 days per calendar year at their facility instead of 180 days but they can earn more shelter days by making progress in their lives such as getting drug addiction counseling, looking for work, etc. The change will start October 1st.

With no further business the meeting was adjourned.

**GRAND JUNCTION CITY COUNCIL
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2016**

**PRE-MEETING (DINNER) 5:00 P.M. ADMINISTRATION CONFERENCE ROOM
WORKSHOP, 5:30 P.M.
CITY HALL AUDITORIUM
250 N. 5TH STREET**

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

1. **Discussion of the Structure and Operations of Municipal Court**
2. **Recommendations to City Council from the Vagrancy Committee**
3. **Next Workshop Topics**
4. **Committee and Board Reports**
5. **Other Business**