

**GRAND JUNCTION CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
October 18, 2017**

The City Council of the City of Grand Junction convened into regular session on the 18th day of October 2017 at 6:00 p.m. Those present were Councilmembers Bennett Boeschstein, Chris Kennedy, Phyllis Norris, Duncan McArthur, Barbara Traylor Smith, and Council President Rick Taggart. Also present were City Manager Greg Caton, City Attorney John Shaver, and City Clerk Wanda Winkelmann.

Council President Taggart called the meeting to order. Councilmember Kennedy led the Pledge of Alliance which was followed by an invocation by First Councilor Dale Rooks, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Fruita – 2nd Ward.

Proclamation - Proclaiming October 2017 as "National Homeless Awareness Month" in the City of Grand Junction

Councilmember Boeschstein read the proclamation. William (Bill) Wade, HomewardBound of the Grand Valley Board Chairman, was present to receive the proclamation along with other board members. Mr. Wade thanked City Council for recognizing the homeless situation.

Appointments

Appointment to the Grand Junction Housing Authority

Councilmember Norris moved to appoint the interview committee's recommendation, E. Chris Launer, to the Grand Junction Housing Authority for a five-year term ending October, 2022. Councilmember Traylor Smith seconded the motion. Motion carried by roll call vote.

Appointments to the Planning Commission

Councilmember McArthur moved to reappoint the interview committee's recommendation, Kathy Deppe-Spomer, and Christian Reece, to the Planning Commission and to appoint Brian Rusche and Andrew Teske to the Planning Commission/Zoning Board of Appeals for four year terms ending October, 2021. Councilmember Kennedy seconded the motion. Motion carried by roll call vote.

Appointments to the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board

Councilmember Traylor Smith moved to appoint the interview committee's recommendation, William Findlay and Byron Wiehe, to the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board for three year terms ending June, 2020. Councilmember Kennedy seconded the motion. Motion carried by roll call vote.

Appointment to the Downtown Development Authority/Downtown Grand Junction Business Improvement District Boards

Councilmember Boeschstein moved to appoint the DDA/GJBID Board's recommendation, Aaron Young, to the Downtown Development Authority/Downtown Grand Junction Business Improvement District Boards for a partial term ending June, 2018. Councilmember Kennedy seconded the motion. Motion carried by roll call vote.

Citizens Comments

Larry Sipes spoke about signage for garage sales not being removed. He suggested that an ordinance be passed that would require removal of garage sale signs within 48 hours of the end of the sale.

Jim Shults spoke about the standing of speakers during citizen comments. He listed a number of streets whose names should be changed.

Barrett Dunn spoke about the 200th anniversary of the birth of Baha'ullah. A celebration will be held on Saturday at Colorado Mesa University. Cities around the nation and world have issued proclamations in honor of this event. Ms. Dunn read a proposed proclamation about the anniversary.

Dennis Simpson discussed the process for the 2018 budget adoption. He stated that two meetings were held to discuss the budget with City Council but they were not televised. Mr. Simpson discussed the budget process used by the City of Montrose.

Bruce Lomiller discussed National Homeless Awareness Month and night patrols.

Richard Swingle discussed private enterprise and broadband.

Council Reports

Councilmember Norris attended a Visitor Convention Bureau meeting and the badge pinning and promotions ceremony for the Police Officers. She commented about the budget process and noted all budget workshops and meetings are open to the public and encouraged citizen involvement in City meetings.

Councilmember Kennedy discussed citizen involvement in local government and noted workshops are designed for Council to get informed on certain topics. Workshops are recorded and citizens can receive copies of the recordings. He stated that when disagreements occur, it does not mean Council is not listening. On Friday, a farewell

reception is being held in honor of Kristie Pollard's service to Grand Junction Economic Partnership as she moves on to a new career on the Front Range.

Councilmember McArthur attended Latino after-hours Chamber of Commerce event and a leadership event at the Governor's mansion. He attended the Colorado Municipal League Policy Committee meeting. Councilmember McArthur was in Craig this morning for the AGNC (Associated Governments of Northwest Colorado) meeting and discussed legislation that will be coming forward in the next session.

Councilmember Boeschstein attended an open house at Senator Michael Bennet's office. On Friday, the Colorado Creative District was in Grand Junction and presented ways a creative district could be established in downtown. He attended the Urban Trails Committee meeting and the Colorado Mesa University Water Course. Councilmember Boeschstein thanked Kristie Pollard for her service to Grand Junction.

Councilmember Traylor Smith attended the Parks and Recreation Board meeting. She reported that Requests for Proposals (RFP's) have been submitted for the feasibility study for the recreation center. She discussed ways citizens can be involved in City government by attending meetings and serving on a board. Councilmember Traylor Smith encouraged everyone to review the Council agenda for each meeting.

Council President Taggart held his comments due to the number of anticipated speakers for the North Avenue item (Agenda Item #5).

Consent Agenda

Councilmember Kennedy moved to approve the adoption of the Consent Agenda items #1 through #4. Councilmember Boeschstein seconded the motion. Motion carried by roll call vote.

1. Approval of Minutes

- a. Summary of the October 2, 2017 Workshop
- b. Minutes of the October 4, 2017 Special Session
- c. Minutes of the October 4, 2017 Regular Meeting

2. Set Public Hearing

- a. Quasijudicial
 - i. Introduction of a Proposed Ordinance Approving an Outline Development Plan (ODP) and a Rezone to Planned Development

(PD) with an R2 (Residential 2 du/ac) Default Zone District for Weeminuche Subdivision Located between 26 & 26 1/2 Roads, South of H 3/4 Road, and Setting a Hearing for November 1, 2017

- ii. Introduction of a Proposed Ordinance Zoning the Holder Annexation, Located at 3040 E Road, and Setting a Hearing for November 1, 2017
- iii. Introduction of a Proposed Ordinance Approving the Downtown Development Authority Tax Increment Debt Financing and Setting a Public Hearing for November 1, 2017

3. Contracts

- a. 2017 Community Development Block Grant Subrecipient Agreement between St. Mary's Hospital Foundation Gray Gourmet Program, Karis, Inc., HomewardBound of the Grand Valley, Marillac Clinic, Grand Valley Catholic Outreach, and Housing Resources of Western Colorado and the City of Grand Junction

4. Resolution

- a. New Outdoor Dining Lease for The Goat and Clover Tavern, LLC Located at 336 Main Street, Suite 104

Discussion and Possible Direction Regarding North Avenue/University Boulevard and CMU 20000

Earlier this year, the Colorado Mesa University 20000 Initiative, the Grand Junction Area Chamber of Commerce, and the North Avenue Business Owners Association proposed to change the name of North Avenue to University Blvd. as an objective of CMU 20000.

City Manager Caton noted this item will include citizen comments and that it is the CMU 20000 Steering Committee formally requesting that City Council reconsider its previous formal designation of the North Avenue name change and to create a five-member task force to make suggestions moving forward.

Jeffrey Hurd, Chairman of the Board of the Chamber of Commerce and co-chair of the CMU 20000 Steering Committee, reviewed the letter that CMU 20000 sent to City Council saying they are concerned that the name change is distracting from CMU's goals of increasing enrollment at the University. Mr. Hurd explained the name change was proposed to revitalize the North Avenue business community. The CMU Steering Committee is requesting a future resolution that formally endorses the CMU 20000 vision, rescind the North Avenue name change, and appoint a task force to suggest

ways to enhance the University's exposure in the community. Mr. Hurd outlined his connection to the community as a resident who was born in Grand Junction and is now raising a family here.

Councilmember McArthur asked if the CMU Steering Committee has a guiding document that outlines its mission. Mr. Hurd responded in the affirmative and the document is available online.

Councilmember Kennedy stated his appreciation for the letter and the heartfelt comments made by Mr. Hurd.

Councilmember Traylor Smith inquired about the purpose of the task force. Mr. Hurd outlined the proposed makeup of the task force and noted its mission would be to increase the visibility of the University.

Councilmember Boeschstein noted the Council's commitment to CMU and North Avenue. He outlined the many improvements made and the support given.

Council President Taggart asked Mr. Hurd to discuss possible recommendations to change street names. Mr. Hurd noted the CMU Steering Committee's commitment to not recommend future name changes.

Council President Taggart stated that the Council has been listening to the comments provided by individuals about this topic.

James Randolph stated former Councils used to interact with citizens and encouraged this Council to get involved with citizens.

Randy Evans questioned the manner in which the North Avenue name change came about. If citizens didn't want the name change, why was it made? Mr. Evans also questioned why success is measured by growth and stated that success should be measured by the quality of life and a strong community.

Roger Sollenbarger spoke about the need for more jobs if families want their children to live in Grand Junction. Mr. Sollenbarger stated that the name University Boulevard was chosen to entice businesses to come to this area.

Sharon Sollenbarger stated that she is supportive of the North Avenue name change.

Steve Fitzgerald discussed the problems associated with trash on North Avenue and two businesses that have left the area.

Robert Cartlage owns a business on North Avenue. He commended CMU 20000 for wanting to work with North Avenue business owners. Mr. Cartlage stated he has called the Police Department multiple times for inappropriate behavior on North Avenue. He and his colleagues take the initiative to clean up graffiti and pick up trash. Mr. Cartlage believes a name change will hurt his business.

LouAnn Harrah is a business owner who fully supports CMU and is offering a 10% discount to University students. She discussed issues important to the community, such as the decreasing debt by the City and the questions on the November ballot. Ms. Harrah noted the burden the name change would have on her business.

Vera McTiddle thanked the City Council for listening. She noted she is against the North Avenue name change.

A citizen who didn't provide her name inquired if Council knew where the University of Notre Dame is to make the point that, even though most don't know the street on which the famous university is located, it is still a world-renowned university. She read a letter by a friend asking that Council rescind the resolution.

Helen Proms thanked Council for the opportunity to speak. She discussed the process under which the North Avenue name change occurred. Ms. Proms discussed the need for changes on North Avenue. She talked about "data torturing" and how data can be manipulated to any outcome desired. Ms. Proms described the cost to change business documents and licenses.

Steve Moore thanked City Council and CMU 20000 for considering rescinding the resolution. He noted this name change has been divisive to the City and requested that money be spent towards improving areas of the City rather than changing street signs.

Jackie Aguilar is a business owner on North Avenue and objected to the process that was utilized to get the name changed. Ms. Aguilar reviewed the letter sent by CMU 20000 and requested that the City Council put this issue on the ballot.

Ora Moore appreciated the letter submitted to City Council and questioned the makeup and vision of the proposed task force.

April Hunter noted this issue has isolated the citizenry and requested that information presented for decision-making be strictly scrutinized. Ms. Hunter offered alternates to the makeup of the task force. She discussed the City's contribution to CMU.

Mike Blosser discussed the movie, "Twelve Angry Men". He noted the characters in the movie changed their opinion of an accused man's guilt after reviewing the evidence. Mr. Blosser discussed the cost to businesses to change signage, directories, uniforms, etc.

Jeff McCluskey noted his past comments to Council about the costs to businesses for the North Avenue name change.

Dennis Simpson addressed his concern over the process that was utilized to change North Avenue's name. He requested that this not happen again. Mr. Simpson noted the actions required to obtain a copy of the audio recording of the workshop and requested that workshops be televised and posted online.

Jerry Hoisington stated his belief in the KISS principle - if it isn't broken, don't fix it. He noted the difference between hearing and listening.

Lori Valencia lives on North Avenue and noted she does not want the name to be changed. Ms. Valencia has discussed the name change with her neighbors and noted they do not like the idea of North Avenue changing. If this item is on the ballot, she and her neighbors won't get to vote as they live in the County. She commended the people who spoke that had differing opinions and thanked Mr. Hurd for his comments. Ms. Valencia offered suggestions for ways the University could increase its visibility.

Leslie Schaffer is a certified petition carrier and described the process she uses to obtain petition signatures. Ms. Schaffer noted people would stop her to sign the petition.

A citizen who didn't provide her name noted the changes she has seen over the years. She discussed the reasons people live in this area and suggested improvements could be made to other schools in the community rather than giving money to the University.

Nancy Bennett thanked Mr. Hurd for his comments and submitting the letter to Council.

Darla McFarland agrees with the comments to help local schools before helping the University. She noted that senior citizens on fixed incomes have difficulty affording increases in expenses/taxes. Ms. McFarland receives social security every month and is lucky to own property that provides additional income.

Mayor Taggart thanked the audience for their comments.

Councilmember Traylor Smith stated City Council does not make decisions in workshops. Formal decisions and votes occur at the dais during regular Council meetings. She stated that there are a number of ways to reach Councilmembers: during breaks at meetings, sending voicemails or emails, writing letters, attending board meetings that advise Council, meeting with Councilmembers in person, etc. She explained that they have been listening, but described that government has a process and they must follow that process. She explained that CMU 20000 initiated the resolution for a name change, and once they asked to rescind that request, they moved on it, not because they weren't listening to the citizen's voices or because their voice was more important, but because that fell in line with the process they have to follow.

Citizen Jerald Hawkins described his involvement in the North Avenue name change. He suggested more information about the name change should have been posted on the City's website. Mayor Taggart explained that Council agendas and minutes are posted online. Councilmember Norris recommended citizens sign up for GJCITY News to read about events that are coming up.

Councilmember Kennedy requested information about the posting requirements for meetings. City Attorney Shaver noted the required posting locations and stated the agenda and minutes are posted online. He also reviewed the process for fulfilling record requests. Councilmember Kennedy noted the importance of citizens being informed of where information can be found.

Councilmember McArthur expressed concern that if the resolution renaming North Avenue was rescinded, another name change could be proposed and adopted in the future. City Attorney Shaver noted that Council could put this item on a future ballot. He discussed the severability of the elements of the ordinance.

Councilmember Kennedy discussed other cases whereby it is required that business owners have a say in future street name changes. City Attorney Shaver noted a process could be crafted to pose similar requirements for Grand Junction. Councilmember Kennedy suggested a task force could address this issue. City Attorney Shaver suggested additional venues to aid in processes, such as involving the Planning Commission or an advisory board to make a recommendation to Council. City Attorney Shaver noted that Council could establish a process requiring an ordinance to change a street name (rather than a resolution).

Councilmember Norris noted that perhaps the task force isn't the appropriate body to explore the name change and the City should not be a member of the task force. Councilmember Norris voted against this measure due to the cost to businesses. She noted there was information out there on the North Avenue name change.

Councilmember Norris asked Council to consider how it can improve communication with the community. She requested that residents send in their input to Council about the budget.

Councilmember Boeschstein noted that Council has new information from the Chamber of Commerce and comments from citizens tonight regarding the North Avenue name change. He suggested the Council could rescind the resolution that changed the name.

Councilmember Traylor Smith moved to approve the letter from the CMU 20000 Steering Committee be referred to staff for the preparation of a draft resolution consistent with the City Council discussion and the requests contained in that letter to rescind Resolution 47-17; and furthermore, that the draft resolution be considered at the November 1, 2017 City Council meeting. Councilmember Kennedy seconded the motion. Motion carried by roll call vote.

Councilmember Kennedy moved to approve that the other aspects of the letter from the CMU 20000 Steering Committee be referred for consideration at the November 1, 2017 City Council meeting. Councilmember Traylor Smith seconded the motion. Motion carried by roll call vote.

Ordinance Vacating Right-of-Way and Easements Located in the Jarvis Subdivision Plat

The City-owned 63-acre site, located between Highway 50 and the Riverside neighborhood along the Colorado River, was recently platted to accommodate future redevelopment. This proposal is to vacate certain rights-of-way and easements that are no longer needed to serve the property or the surrounding area. They include portions of Riverside Park Drive, Lila Avenue, alleys and sewer and utility easements. Future development plans for the property will establish new rights-of-way and easements as needed.

The public hearing was opened at 9:23 p.m.

Kathy Portner, Community Services Manager, outlined the property and future plans for the property and explained that the areas in the request will not impact those plans.

There were no public comments.

The public hearing was closed at 9:29 pm.

Councilmember Boeschstein moved to approve Ordinance No. 4767 An ordinance vacating right-of-way and easements within the Jarvis Subdivision Plat, located at 1001

S. 3rd Street. Councilmember Traylor Smith seconded the motion. Motion carried by roll call vote.

Non-Scheduled Citizens & Visitors

Richard Swingle commented on the notices that are provided for meetings. He believes it is important to make it clear that citizens cannot speak during workshops.

Other Business

There was none.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:33 p.m.

Wanda Winkelmann, MMC
City Clerk