

GRAND JUNCTION CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
August 2, 2017

The City Council of the City of Grand Junction convened into regular session on the 2nd day of August, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. Those present were Councilmembers Bennett Boeschenstein, Phyllis Norris, Duncan McArthur, Duke Wortmann, and Council President Rick Taggart. Absent were Councilmembers Chris Kennedy and Barbara Traylor Smith. Also present were City Manager Greg Caton, City Attorney John Shaver, and Interim City Clerk Debbie Kemp.

Council President Taggart called the meeting to order. Councilmember Wortmann led the Pledge of Alliance which was followed by the invocation by Scott Iles, Western Colorado Atheists and Freethinkers, who turned the podium over to Andrew Vodopitch to give the invocation.

Presentation of the June Yard of the Month Winner

Richard and Jenny Schriener, 3659 N. 15th Street, was present to receive the June 2017 Yard of the Month Award. Randy Coleman, Forestry Supervisor, introduced the Schrieners and showed some photos of their decorated yard. He described many of the flowers and plants grown in their yard, one of which is a plant that is native to Korea that Ms. Schriener is willing to share with the Parks Department. He provided them with an award and thanked them for their time.

Presentation by Kristi Pollard, GJ Colorado State Leasing Authority Dissolution

Kristi Pollard, Grand Junction Economic Partnership (GJEP) Executive Director, thanked Council for their support of the Leasing Authority that Council invoked through Ordinance No. 3926 in 2006. She gave a brief description of the project's purpose which allowed the GJEP to work with the Colorado Bureau of Investigation to complete a facility that they have since purchased. She then introduced Kirk Rider, Attorney for the project. Mr. Rider gave a chronological account of the venture, stating the project was exciting and innovative from the beginning. There was an immense amount of work put in by everyone involved, especially the partners who met month after month, despite the liabilities they faced through new regulations (Dodd-Frank Financial Regulations). He acknowledged that the City was a tremendous help throughout the project. He recognized this venture as one of the best of his career and he hopes to see other great cooperative efforts in the future.

Ms. Pollard said that the project has been completed, the board has dissolved, and the final audit is done. Ms. Pollard presented Council with a check in the amount of \$60,340 for funds remaining in the account after the completion of the project and dissolution of the board. The funds were earnings gained through operations and leasing of the building. City Council thanked Ms. Pollard and Mr. Rider

Appointment

Councilmember McArthur moved to ratify the reappointments of David Reinertsen, Ray Richard, and Thomas Cronk to the Mesa County Building Code Board of Appeals with terms ending in July 2020. Councilmember Norris seconded the motion. Motion carried by roll call vote.

Certificate of Appointment to the Riverfront Commission

Rondo Buechler, J. Fred Barbero, and Catherine Ventling were present to receive their Certificates of Appointment to the Riverfront Commission with terms of 3 years ending in July of 2020.

Mr. Barbero said that he is reminded of Jim Robb's original vision of the riverfront of a necklace and pearls analogy where the trail was the necklace and the pearls were the various lakes. The river and the riverfront trail provides a great vibrancy to the City. They are used for so many outdoor activities. He thanked Council for the appointment so that he can provide some payback for the use of the lands.

Mr. Buechler thanked Council for the appointment and said he is looking forward to working with the organization.

Ms. Ventling thanked Council and said she is looking forward to serving the community.

Citizens Comments

Bruce Lohmiller, 3032 N. 15th Street, #208, spoke about the school bond and expressed his hope that the Council will reconsider that issue. He then spoke to the need of helping students through M1 holds referring to a young lady in New Jersey that received counseling and then passed away three days later. He lauded the new Amphitheater.

Robert Noble, 1041 Ouray Avenue, spoke about a building development at 10th Street and Grand Avenue. He lives on the north side of the alley where it will be built. He is concerned about the impact of the process of that building and on the other neighborhoods in the future. He feels the notices that were posted informing his neighborhood of the building development were small and not conspicuous enough. He was informed that there were no public hearings because the development was a multi-resident project. He wished there would have been an opportunity to be able to have a

say in the development. He spoke on the appeal that had been done at a Planning Commission meeting and the discourse at that meeting. He feels the approval of the review should look at the appeal of the adjoining areas. He urged City Council to revisit the ordinances that established the process for that kind of development.

Council Reports

Councilmember Norris attended the groundbreaking for Discoverability near Las Colonias Business Park and said it was wonderful. Disabled people will now have access to the trails and to the park. She also went to a Las Colonias event and commented that it was a perfect event. She urged people to go to Las Colonias and experience the different events that they offer every weekend.

Councilmember Wortmann had nothing to report

Councilmember McArthur said on July 20th he met with Sam Mamet, the Executive Director of the Colorado Municipal League, along with Mayor Taggart, City Manager Caton, and City Attorney Shaver to discuss what their priorities were for Grand Junction. On July 25th he attended the Celebrate CU event at Two Rivers Convention Center where two Colorado University Regents attended and introduced a number of students from this area who will be attending CU. On July 26th he attended the Associated Governments of Northwest Colorado meeting in Rifle, Colorado and discussed upcoming issues and legislation. On July 27th he attended the Sports Commission Strategic Planning meeting about their marketing plan looking to the future. On July 28th he attended the Hilltop Bash at the Avalon Theater which was successful and well attended. On August 1st he was also present for the groundbreaking of Discoverability and expressed how it will be a wonderful addition to the park. On August 2nd he attended the AMGD meeting where Ken Brownley, Mesa County Assessor, spoke and discussed abatement legislation and the assessment process.

Councilmember Boeschstein said on July 24th he attended the Grand Valley Regional Transportation Retreat. He congratulated them on providing a great transportation system. On July 26th he went to the Rocky Mountain Television Retreat at Colorado Mesa University. On July 27th he attended the County Fair. On August 1st he went to the Historic Preservation Board Meeting.

Council President Taggart attended the Mesa County Valley School District 51 reception for the new Superintendent, Ken Haponstall; he was pleased with the presentation. Last week he met with Engineering Association, ProStar, who is allowing the City to do a pilot program with them using new technology that precisely locates utility lines on the Geographical Information System (GIS) for development and redevelopment. ProStar will use the City's pilot program to show other cities what Grand Junction is doing. He spoke of the whistleblower case with the Grand Junction

Regional Airport Authority (GJRAA) now being completely resolved and mentioned some of the ramifications of that ruling.

Consent Agenda

Councilmember Norris moved to adopt the Consent Agenda items #1 - #3.
Councilmember Boeschstein seconded the motion. Motion carried by roll call vote.

Consent Agenda

1. Approval of Minutes
 - a. Minutes from the July 17, 2017 Special Meeting
 - b. Summary of the July 17, 2017 Workshop
 - c. Minutes of the July 19, 2017 Regular Meeting
2. Set Public Hearing
 - a. Quasi-judicial
 - i. Resolution Referring a Petition to the City Council for the Annexation of Lands to the City of Grand Junction, Colorado, Setting a Hearing on Such Annexation, and Exercising Land Use Control, and Introducing a Proposed Annexation Ordinance for the Caballero Annexation, Approximately 5.093 Acres of Portions of Public Rights-of-Way for D 1/2 Road, Located at 3149 D 1/2 Road
3. Resolutions
 - a. Resolution Authorizing a Telecommunication Facility at Canyon View Park
 - b. Resolution Permitting Reimbursement from the Proceeds of Tax-Exempt Financing for Capital Expenditures Related to the Business Park and the Surrounding Park Amenities

Grant Request to Great Outdoors Colorado

Rob Schoeber, Director of Grand Junction Parks and Recreation, introduced this item. He described the location of the trail extension was from the No Thoroughfare Trail to the Lunch Loop Trail. It is a Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) Connect Initiative. It provides access to the outdoors by filling trail gaps and improving access to families. The application deadline is August 3, 2017 and the turnaround time for notification is one month. The City was one of eight chosen to apply for the initiative. GOCO offers eight different grant opportunities and the City is now involved in six of those and are proud of the involvement and what's been done with the opportunities

Traci Wieland, Recreation Superintendent, presented this item. This is a first phase to close a significant gap and complete a connection to Colorado National Monument. She identified the project importance: it would close a trail gap, improve safety, spur economic development, and provide a connection for underserved communities.

She described the project area and what the safety concern areas are. The trail extension would be 1.5 miles long, 10 feet wide and made of concrete. Currently bicyclers have to utilize the shoulder on a street with cars passing by them at speeds of 50-60 miles per hour to reach the Lunch Loop Trails.

The project is around \$2.4 million of which GOCO would provide \$1.5 million, the City would contribute an annual \$75,000 and Mesa County has committed \$75,000 for 3 years. Mesa Land Trust is also securing additional grant funds to make up the remaining 19%.

Upon opening the floor for questions, Councilmember Norris asks if there will be a parking area. Ms. Wieland answered that this plan is for the trail area itself. There is a future vision for parking. Councilmember Norris asked for clarification on the 9% of funds the City will commit to. Ms. Wieland explained that would consist of a three-year commitment of \$75,000 each year starting in 2018 out of the Open Space Fund. City Manager Caton explained that the benefit of this project is that it can be spread out over three years and no general fund dollars will be used. Councilmember Norris thanked Mesa Land Trust for their support.

Councilmember Boeschstein thanked Ms. Wieland and Mesa Land Trust for all their hard work. He asked if all the land necessary has been acquired to complete this project. Ms. Wieland said four areas were in question; two easements have already been acquired and in exchange for one easement, work will be done on a particular piece of property to alleviate flooding. The fourth area has also been cleared up.

Mayor Taggart thanked Mesa Land Trust for working with the City. He expressed his agreement and said that he has experienced for himself how unsafe this area is to bike on. He believes that making it safer for families is terrific.

Councilmember Boeschstein moved to adopt Resolution No. 44-17 – A Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Submit a Grant Request to Great Outdoor Colorado for the Connect Initiative and the Lunch Loops Trail Construction. Councilmember Wortmann seconded the motion. Motion carried by roll call vote.

Non-Scheduled Citizens & Visitors

Libby Collins, on behalf of Mesa Land Trust, thanked City Council and staff for working so well with them. She lauded City staff for their partnership.

Other Business

Councilmember Wortmann took time to compliment the Visitor and Convention Bureau. He had seen the VCB's Visitors' Guide, titled "You'll love that everything is different here", and said the literature and pictures were amazing.

Adjournment

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

Debra M. Kemp, MMC
Interim City Clerk