

GRAND JUNCTION CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP SUMMARY
September 5, 2017 – Noticed Agenda Attached

Meeting Convened: 5:35 p.m. in the City Hall Auditorium

Meeting Adjourned: 7:05 p.m.

City Council Members present: All Councilmembers except Councilmember Norris

Staff present: Caton, Shaver, LeBlanc, Camper, Watkins, Romero, Valentine, Prall, Finlayson, McInnis, Kovalik, Hockins, Kemp, and Winkelmann

Others present: Jay Moss and Vara Kusal (HDABID), Richard Swingle, Broadband representatives, and other citizen were present

Council President Taggart called the meeting to order.

Agenda Topic 1. Discussion Topics

a. Broadband Discussion

City Manager Caton introduced the topic by stating that, after months of positive discussions with industry representatives, Council directed staff to draft a flexible program that would encourage expansion of broadband fiber installation for underserved areas during small and large commercial and residential projects. He outlined the program's eligibility requirements and highlights noting funding limits, time requirements, and economic development factors.

There was discussion regarding if the program encouraged (or should) developing a specific section ("middle"/ "last mile"), if the different sections should be funded differently ("last mile" is typically more expensive), if other entities can help fund specific sections (if State funds are used to install "middle mile" sections they must be open access and are typically in rural areas), what standard will be used to define Broadband data locally (State, Federal, FCC, etc.), who will police the feasibility of projects (program does not address), if incumbent providers use public funds without any results (what guarantees are in the program), is this program flexible to allow for different technologies and completion timeframes (program and parameters can be updated/reviewed per Council policy and annual appropriation), what will the anticipated program use be (fund outlay will probably be slow at first and the fund will replenish itself with 50% of the funds to be repaid within three years), and who will decide if the providers are a good credit risk (not determined).

City Manager Caton said locally, the biggest need is to complete the "last mile"; Council would define the local broadband data needs if the program is approved.

Councilmember Kennedy questioned if providing subsidies to incumbent providers for "last mile" fiber installation is a good investment of public funds.

Councilmember Boeschstein likes the proposal, believes it should be pursued, and would like to have provider feedback.

Council President Taggart suggested pursuing a revenue sharing plan with the providers for end-user service.

City Manager Caton said the intent of this program is to expand facilities by collaborating with all providers to move competition forward; staff will begin working with providers for their input in order to move forward.

b. Horizon Drive Association Business Improvement District Board

Jay Moss, President of the Horizon Drive Association Business Improvement District (HDABID) Board, reviewed Phase 1 (roundabouts - completed), 2 (Interstate to G Road), and 3 (Interstate to the Airport) of the Horizon Drive Improvements and added landscaping will be updated to create a contiguous look. He noted the cost for Phase 2 is estimated at \$6.5 million and that some grants are possible to cover around 1/3 of the project; he noted this phase does not qualify for CDOT (Colorado Department of Transportation) funds. Mr. Moss then asked where Horizon Drive falls in regard to City infrastructure improvements.

City Manager Caton said a 10-year capital improvement plan is being developed and years 1-5 are funded and years 6-10 are not; Horizon Drive Phase 2 is scheduled in plan years 6–10.

Mr. Moss reviewed the three Horizon Drive fatalities and circumstances since 2010 and said the HDABID Board has proposed an alternative plan to maximize dollars and safety to include three crosswalks. Two of the three would be able to be reused for Phase 2; the cost is estimated at \$200,000-250,000.

Police Chief Camper said crosswalks with pedestrian activated lights have a higher compliance rate than non-lighted ones.

Councilmember Boeschstein said HDABID has done a good job on their projects and adding crosswalks is also a good project.

Trent Prall, Interim Public Works Director, said there might be Federal Project Funds available for these types of projects.

City Manager Caton said it is important to evaluate the entire list of capital needs. If the City is able to get restricted (Federal) funds that could be matched with other (CDOT) funds, then it could be considered sooner since it would be closer to full funding.

c. November Ballot Discussion

Council President Taggart reviewed the concerns expressed to the County regarding the public safety ballot question not specifying a percentage of funds for the Grand Junction Regional Communication Center (GJRCC). Council President Taggart relayed the commitment of Commissioner Scott McInnis and the County to the GJRCC at a meeting that also included City Manager Caton, City Attorney Shaver, Grand Junction Police Chief Camper, Mesa County Sheriff Matt Lewis, and Mesa County District Attorney Dan Rubinstein t. Although the ballot question will not specify a specific percentage to go to the GJRCC, Commissioner McInnis said the purpose of the incremental dollars in the ballot question is for the GJRCC The County will partner with the other agencies to raise the commitment up to \$1 million for a period of three to five years.

City Manager Caton explained over a four-year period the City would use 100% of the \$.5 million budgeted for the GJRCC; the 1st year the GJRCC's budget would be status quo, the next three years the County and additional agencies would contribute \$355,000 (6% from each agency from the ballot question) to their budget. There was a consensus from the agencies to support this four-year plan.

Chief Camper said a permanent funding solution may require a different governing model.

Council President Taggart asked if the Council would like to formally support this ballot question. The general consensus was yes.

Agenda Topic 2. Next Workshop Topics

Community Development Block Grant - Allocation of Additional Funds, Invocation Discussion, Council Protocol Discussion, and Creating Council Policies.

Agenda Topic 3. Other Business

There was none.

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



**GRAND JUNCTION CITY COUNCIL
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2017**

**PRE-MEETING (DINNER) 5:00 P.M. ADMINISTRATION CONFERENCE ROOM
SPECIAL 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 Topics

- a. Broadband Discussion
- b. Horizon Drive Association Business Improvement District Board
- c. November Ballot Discussion

2. Next Workshop Topics

3. Other Business