

GRAND JUNCTION CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP SUMMARY
October 30, 2017 – Noticed Agenda Attached

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

Meeting Adjourned: 7:08 p.m.

City Council Members present: Councilmembers Kennedy, Norris, Traylor Smith, Wortmann, and Mayor Pro Tem Boeschstein.

Staff present: Caton, Shaver, LeBlanc, Romero, Valentine, Longenecker, Caskey, Prall, Tonello, Schoeber, Watkins, Camper, and Winkelmann.

Mayor Pro Tem Boeschstein called the meeting to order.

Agenda Topic 1. Discussion Topics

Budget:

Grand Junction Economic Development Partners (Grand Junction Economic Partnership, Grand Junction Chamber of Commerce, Business Incubator Center, and Greater Grand Junction Sports Commission)
Funding Request

Grand Junction Economic Partnership (GJEP) – Business Development Manager Steve Jozefczyk reviewed GJEP's budget line items and highlighted their strategy for the Winter and Summer Outdoor Retailer shows which are to be held in Colorado in 2018 (previously held in Utah).

Councilmember Norris commented on the advertising line item and requested information regarding the results of the increased funding. Mr. Jozefczyk stated GJEP is keeping track of the number of hits received through social media and noted there is an uptick in the activity through his office.

Councilmember Norris inquired how much the City contributes to GJEP's budget. City Manager Caton noted the budget is a 50/50 split between public and private agencies.

Grand Junction Chamber of Commerce (COC) – President and CEO Diane Schwenke reviewed the 2017 highlights, including 108 companies visited, an expansion package, technical assistance, and workforce development assistance. In 2018, 125 companies will be visited, development of foreign trade zone application, commercial air service expansion, and expansion of a workforce development program. Ms. Schwenke discussed the importance of partnerships.

Ms. Schwenke reviewed the funding to Industrial Developments, Inc. (IDI) and GJEP for \$68,200 to grow a fund that can assist smaller existing companies in expanding over time. To ensure collaboration and communication, there will be crossover board members between IDI and GJEP. The funding would alternate with IDI receiving the funding in even years and GJEP receiving funding in odd years. This funding is restricted to incentives only for companies within city limits.

Business Incubator Center (BIC) – Executive Director Jon Maraschin described their four areas of focus: financial assistance, business development, counseling and workshops, and facilitating tax incentives. The 2017 results include graduating two companies, accepting six new companies (two pending), including five new companies into the kitchen incubator program, creating or retaining over 300 jobs, and leveraging over one million dollars in direct loans and an additional three million dollars. Mr. Maraschin reviewed the 2018 funding requests from North Star Funds for operational support (half-time staff position for twelve months) and \$25,000 for website design and upgrades.

Mayor Pro Tem Boeschstein noted he is the Council representative for the BIC and stated they have been improving the property. Mr. Maraschin noted his appreciation for the support received from the City of Grand Junction.

Councilmember Norris asked about the plans for the BIC to have a downtown presence. Mr. Maraschin described the opportunities that exist and noted he is having ongoing conversations to expand into downtown.

Councilmember Kennedy asked about the commercial food piece of the BIC. Mr. Maraschin stated this area is very busy and discussed the possibility of a food hub.

Greater Grand Junction Sports Commission - John Hopkins, member of the Executive Committee, played a video that highlighted Suplizio Field. Highlights for 2017 included gaining 501 c3 status and hosting several major events, including the Colorado Masters statewide swim meet, USA Cycling NCAA championships and para cycling championships, fifth year of Special Olympics, and the Rim Rock Marathon. The primary focus for 2018 is to develop and implement the strategic plan. Competitive cycling events may be coming forward in 2019 and 2020.

Regarding the budget, \$74,000 is allocated to the following: completing the strategic plan, marketing, association memberships, operational costs (student assistants), trade shows and conferences. It is recommended that \$25,000 be used toward seed money to grow events.

Councilmember Norris asked if the Sports Commission is a part of CMU. Mr. Hopkins replied in the negative and reviewed the history of the Sports Commission. He reported that the Sports Commission presently has nine members and they may look to expand it to eleven.

Councilmember Norris discussed jobs created by the activities of the Sports Commission and suggested the importance of partnering with Visit Grand Junction. Mr. Hopkins noted their activities are showcasing the valley.

Downtown Development Authority (DDA) - Executive Director Brandon Stam presented an overview of the 2018 recommended budget. The budget was presented and approved by the Downtown Development Authority Board of Directors on October 26.

Mr. Stam noted their partnership with the Police Department to ensure downtown remains inviting for all visitors. The facade grant program was increased and two new grant programs were added. The DDA is assisting with the application for a creative district.

In 2018, the DDA recommends a \$500,000 contingency to earmark funds for planned and potential projects, including an update to the Plan of Development.

Mr. Stam described their possible assistance with the Train Depot project and the R-5, White Hall, and the parking garage end cap housing projects. The majority of their funds are being spent on economic development. Mayor Pro Tem Boeschstein noted the City's appreciation to the DDA for their partnership, especially the Las Colonias project.

City Manager Caton noted the Council meetings on November 15 and December 6 will include budget public hearings. The joint Persigo meeting with Mesa County on November 9 will include a discussion on the budget and the administrative overhead.

Agenda Topic 2. Next Workshop Topics

November 13 – Budget Reconciliation. This will be the wrap-up and any changes or modifications will be completed on December 6.

Other Business

There was none.

Adjournment

With no further business the meeting was adjourned.



**GRAND JUNCTION CITY COUNCIL
MONDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2017**

**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 Topics

- a. Budget:
Grand Junction Economic Development Partners (Grand Junction Economic Partnership, Grand Junction Chamber of Commerce, Business Incubator Center, and Greater Grand Junction Sports Commission)
Funding Request

Downtown Development Authority Recommended 2018 Budget

2. Next Workshop Topics

- a. November 13 - Budget Reconciliation

3. Other Business