

**GRAND JUNCTION CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
November 15, 2017**

The City Council of the City of Grand Junction convened into regular session on the 15th day of November 2017 at 6:00 p.m. Those present were Councilmembers Bennett Boeschenstein, Chris Kennedy, Phyllis Norris, Duncan McArthur, Barbara Traylor Smith, Duke Wortmann, 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 the invocation by Pastor Michael Shannon, Palisade 7th Day Adventist Church.

Proclamations

Proclaiming November 2017 as "Hospice and Palliative Care Month" in the City of Grand Junction

Councilmember Traylor Smith read the proclamation. Christy Whitney Borchard, HopeWest President and Chief Executive Officer, accepted the proclamation and thanked Council. Ms. Whitney Borchard noted her appreciation for what the community has allowed them to become.

Proclaiming November 25, 2017 as "Small Business Saturday" in the City of Grand Junction

Councilmember McArthur read the proclamation. Allison Blevins, Downtown Grand Junction Business Improvement District (DGJBID) Executive Director, and Diane Schwenke, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Grand Junction Chamber of Commerce (GJCOC), were present to accept the proclamation. Ms. Schwenke thanked Council on behalf of the GJCOC and added that approximately 75% of Grand Junction's local businesses have less than 100 employees and she encouraged the community to support the local businesses during the holiday season. Ms. Blevins thanked Council and said, of the money spent with local businesses, 68% stays local and they are looking forward to Small Business Saturday.

Proclaiming December 5, 2017 as "Grand Valley Gives Day" in the City of Grand Junction

Councilmember Wortmann read the proclamation. Grand Valley Gives representative Chris Mueller was present to accept the proclamation. Mr. Mueller thanked Council for the proclamation and explained the Grand Valley Gives Day collaboration is made up of 33 non-profits. December 5th is the day online contributions made through coloradogives.org to local non-profits will be maximized through the \$1 million incentive

fund. Mr. Mueller said the purpose of the local collaboration is to stress the importance of contributing and encourages everyone to support local non-profit organizations.

Presentation

City Manager Caton took a moment to invite community members to outgoing Police Chief John Camper's going away party, Tuesday November 28th. Chief Camper is moving to a position with the Colorado Bureau of Investigations. City Manager Caton lauded Chief Camper on his achievements in Grand Junction and he announced Deputy Chief Mike Nordine will step in as Interim Chief.

Appointment to Commission on Arts and Culture

Councilmember Boeschstein moved to appoint the Commission on Arts and Culture Interview Committee's recommendation, Nora Hughes, to the Commission on Arts and Culture for a partial term ending February 2019. Councilmember Traylor Smith seconded. Motion carried by roll call vote.

Certificates of Appointment

To the Planning Commission

Christian Reece was present to receive her certificate of appointment to the Planning Commission for a four-year term ending October 2021. She thanked Council for her reappointment and said the Planning Commission is strong and she is honored to serve with the other members for the community.

To the Grand Junction Housing Authority

Chris Launer was present to receive his certificate of appointment to the GJHA for a five-year term, ending October 2022. He thanked Council for his reappointment.

To the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

William Findlay was present to receive his certificate of appointment to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board for a three-year term ending June 2020. Dr. Findlay thanked Council for his appointment and said he is excited to be serving on this Board and making things better for the community, especially for the kids.

Citizens Comments

Council President Taggart asked for a motion to continue Resolution 65-17 to the December 20, 2017 meeting. Councilmember Kennedy moved to add this to the consent agenda. Councilmember Traylor Smith seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Lee Borden, Executive Director for Western Colorado Center for the Arts, thanked Council for providing grant funding for the Grand Junction Commission on Arts and Culture Summer Art Camp Program. He described the program and how the funding benefitted over 200 children.

Richard Swingle of Grand Junction spoke on community involvement and asked that citizens be listed in workshop minutes on the basis of transparency. He referenced an email to the City Clerk and noted the city utilities bill includes information on city government and encourages citizen involvement. There are two ways to engage in city government: attending Council meetings is one way to be engaged and allows two opportunities for citizens to speak, and the other is to attend Council workshops which does not take public comment.

City Manager Caton said City Council allows several opportunities for citizens to speak at regular meetings and it has been a practice to allow comments for resolutions, along with the policy to approach Council and staff as needed. He noted that Council also replies to phone messages and emails, and staff does as well. He referenced the email which was brought to his attention by the City Clerk and how it was an administrative decision to not list the names of citizens attending workshops.

Councilmember Kennedy said that, although workshops are public meetings, there is no sign-up sheet, and some that attend may prefer not being listed to maintain their anonymity.

Bruce Lohmiller of Grand Junction said it would be good to allow citizens to speak at workshops. He made suggestions for City funding of night patrols and the Catholic Day Center. He suggested making the Day Center a work-related place. He spoke about 911 calls for the school district, M-1 Holds, and his interview by KREX regarding the governor's bill to give veterans employment preference.

Dennis Simpson of Grand Junction asked about the contract with Bonsai Design and why the City Manager could execute an agreement prior to Council's approval and why it has not been signed yet. City Manager Caton said this agreement has not been signed and when it is, Mr. Simpson will get a copy. City Attorney Shaver said there have been no negotiations regarding the contract during the time Mr. Simpson stated, although some dates have been fluid, the contract has not changed. Council President Taggart said this went forward as a resolution and that was the final contract which was approved. Mr. Simpson said this should be brought before Council again and that contracts should not be delegated to the City Manager.

Council Reports

Councilmember McArthur congratulated Mesa County and Mesa County Valley School District 51 for their successes in the November 7th election and thanked everyone for participating. He attended the Veterans Day Parade on November 11th which had a lot of participation. On November 13th he attended an energy update on the Jordan Cove Project, which he said will be a huge benefit to the community if it goes forward. Earlier that day Councilmember McArthur attended the Associated Governments of Northwestern Colorado meeting in Meeker where they had presentations from Congressman Tipton and Senator Bennett's offices regarding federal legislation on tax reform.

Councilmember Wortmann spent time with Councilmember McArthur and Council President Taggart at the Veterans Day Parade. He told of his four brothers who served in Vietnam and his father and uncles who also served in the military.

Councilmember Boeschstein attended the Arts Commission earlier that day. He said if they are funded, they will disperse funds to a dozen arts and culture organizations in the community. On November 14th he attended the Urban Trails Committee meeting.

Councilmember Kennedy attended the Grand Junction Economic Partnership board meeting earlier that day and the executive director search committee has narrowed the pool to four candidates. These candidates will be interviewed on November 30th to narrow the field; it is hoped a recommendation for the position will be put forward in December. On November 10th he was invited to speak at the Commons and the Fountains for two flag retirement ceremonies. The experience was moving to him as a veteran, and he spoke of four women who lived at the Fountains who were pilots during World War II. Councilmember Kennedy attended the Veterans Day Parade and said that on the way there he went to Taco Bell and the clerk told him the car ahead of him paid for his lunch since he was a veteran. This got him thinking, if he and other veterans whose meals are paid for, donated that amount to a Veteran's non-profit, what a difference this would make if others did the same. He donated to Wounded Warriors.

Councilmember Traylor Smith said she is from a military family. Her father was a rescue pilot in Vietnam, her former husband flew Air Force One and she spoke of other family members who served in the Air Force and Navy. She thanked the families of those serving for all their support. That week the City Manager had his monthly coffee and she pointed out that they had a robust discussion and urged citizens to see GJ City News for more information on when and where those gatherings take place. She thanked the City Manager for taking the time for these meetings.

Councilmember Norris said she has three kids who served in the military. She is familiar with their experience and noted that many times soldiers do not have a lot of money. She helps those serving by paying for their lunches when she is traveling and encouraged others to thank those in the military. Councilmember Norris spoke of the Governor's Conference on Tourism that Visit Grand Junction hosted the previous week, in which there were over 400 members who attended. She said they got great feedback from downtown businesses who said they were swamped during the event.

Councilmember Norris thanked Chief Camper for his work. He has done a tremendous job and he will be leaving that department stronger than when he arrived which is a testament to the wonderful job he has done in the time he has been in Grand Junction.

Council President Taggart said he also went to the Veterans Day Parade and that the Airport Authority is close to selecting a final candidate for the Director position. He was not able to speak at the tourism conference because his son had a significant stroke and he has been with him for the past three weeks. Council President Taggart urged parents to please not to forget to hug their kids, and he thanked the community for reaching out to him.

Consent Agenda

Councilmember Traylor Smith moved to approve the adoption of Consent Agenda items #1 through #4 and #6b. Councilmember Boeschstein seconded the motion. Motion carried by roll call vote.

1. Approval of Minutes

- a. Summary of the October 30, 2017 Workshop
- b. Minutes of the November 1, 2017 Regular Meeting

2. Set Public Hearings

- a. Legislative
 - i. Proposed Ordinance Making a Supplemental Appropriation for the Downtown Development Authority and Setting a Hearing to December 6, 2017
- b. Quasijudicial
 - i. Proposed Ordinance Zoning 5 Properties known as Levande on 12th Street Located at 2404, 2412, 2424 and 2432 North 12th Street and 1225 Wellington Avenue from R8 (Residential 8 units

per acre) to R24+ (Residential 24plus units per acre) and Setting a Hearing for December 6, 2017

3. Resolutions

- a. A Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Submit a Grant Request to the Department of Local Affairs for the Development of Las Colonias Business Park

4. Other Action Items

- a. Downtown Grand Junction Business Improvement District's 2017 Annual Report and 2018 Operating Plan and Budget
- b. Horizon Drive Association Business Improvement District's 2017 Annual Report and 2018 Operating Plan and Budget

Regular Agenda

Ordinance Appropriating Certain Sums of Money to Defray the Necessary Expenses and Liabilities of the City of Grand Junction, Colorado and the Downtown Development Authority for the Year Beginning January 1, 2018 and Ending December 31, 2018

This request is for an ordinance appropriating certain sums of money to defray the necessary expenses and liabilities of the City of Grand Junction, Colorado and the Downtown Development Authority for the year beginning January 1, 2018 and ending December 31, 2018 and setting a public hearing for December 6, 2017.

City Manager Greg Caton outlined the main purposes of a budget and explained that it is through the budget the City delivers services. He presented the 2018 budget timeline and overview and noted some highlights. City Manager Caton thanked staff, specifically Jodi Romero and Linda Longenecker, for their hard work on the budget.

Councilmember Norris asked how the Finance Department changed. City Manager Caton said the department was consolidated after the elimination of the Deputy City Manager position and others. Duties were reassigned to spread responsibilities out in order to give more structure and support to the Finance Department.

The public comment portion opened at 7:53 p.m.

Dennis Simpson thanked Council for holding public hearings before adopting the budget. He said City Manager Caton's presentation was very good, but he believes this is not something the public can comment on. Colorado state law has a budget law that lists many "common-sense" things. The City does not comply with this because Grand

Junction is a home rule municipality. Mr. Simpson said real money is spent every year and budget law requires funds be broken down by line item, but the City does not do this. The Department of Local Affairs collects information from across the State. He looked at several and could not find any that reported their budget like Grand Junction. According to Mr. Simpson, other budgets gave specifics that Grand Junction should do as well. He asked if City employees will get a raise in 2018, or if employees will be added, because he can't tell based on this budget.

City Manager Caton said Council is aware there is a move to a different pay plan in 2018. He explained the current pay plan has a very narrow range where people top out quickly. The new plan will have a much wider range and slot employees to the nearest step without moving backwards at the beginning of 2018. He explained how employees would be adjusted depending on where in the range they fell and that they have developed a five-year financial forecast which allows making these recommendations to Council. "Listserv" notes increases in wages throughout the State which are necessary to keep Grand Junction and other cities from losing employees to the Front Range. Pay studies will be done every 3-5 years and steps will then be adjusted. City Manager Caton said that employees must meet standards to get increases. He would like to have further discussion with Mr. Simpson to address his concerns that the City doesn't meet some State standards. Workshops have policy level discussion and the staff implements it. In the back of the budget book are all the line item details and this has been available online since October 2nd. All documents submitted at meetings are added to agenda packets. Grand Junction is a fully transparent public agency.

Andy Hamilton, Chairman of the Commission on Arts and Culture, gave a heartfelt thank you to Council for continuing to support that organization. Mr. Hamilton said money goes to non-profit arts and cultural organizations that provide programs and events. He explained the process of the commission to obtain grants. The continued financial support of the grant program ensures cultural activities remain a part of the Grand Junction lifestyle.

Melissa Lytle, Executive Director of the Western Slope Center for Children, thanked Council for their funding and explained how it helps. 2017 marked their 20 years of service anniversary, in which they have helped 16,000 victims of abuse. The first week of December they are moving into a new building and will be able to expand services which couldn't be done without Council's support.

Doug Sorter, Vice President of Development for Strive, thanked Council for their support. He explained the partnership between Strive and the Botanical Gardens; Strive operates the Botanical Gardens in conjunction with the City and this partnership

allows them to support people with developmental disabilities by allowing them to work, while helping the Botanical Gardens to grow and improve.

Jamie Lewis, representative of the Grand Junction Centennial Band, thanked Council for their consideration in the 2018 budget. They are an all-volunteer, 65-piece band that serves the community through free concerts and providing scholarships. She invited everyone to join them for concerts.

Jackie Severs with the Latimer House thanked Council for their consideration in supporting them in 2018 for their new safe house building. She explained that they serve victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. She said they just obtained a new building but it needs renovations for enhanced safety features. Ms. Severs said 300 women will stay in the new safe house in the coming year.

David Shepardson of Grand Junction said he talked to Chief Camper regarding the vagrancy issue. He said he has a soft spot for the homeless community. Downtown is a common hub for the homeless community and they are more active late at night. He spoke of an occasion where there was a group of 17 homeless individuals in an alley downtown and it took 45 minutes for police to respond to his call. Mr. Shepardson said this is a growing issue and getting worse. He said Chief Camper was not confident there is a solution.

City Manager Caton said this is a significant issue and challenge. For 2017 the City partnered with the Downtown Development Authority in hiring four officers with two being dedicated to the downtown area. They also partnered with some other organizations and implemented the Ambassador's Program to change parking enforcement and improve overall official presence (yellow shirts). Adding these resources did help and as this is a yearlong program, City Manager Caton hopes that it will continue to help. He stated funding has increased for homeless individuals seeking housing solutions. Homeless camps along the riverfront are being cleaned up and funds have been added for 2018. The Parks & Recreation Director went to a conference to find out the benefits of camp clean ups. City Manager Caton spoke of a partnership with Hilltop for a traveler's aid fund for those that need traveling assistance. The City is looking to create a marketing campaign to give to non-profit organizations (not to the homeless themselves) to help with services. This is a common issue and there is no "best" solution.

Michael Day of Fruita expressed his concern that the District Attorney's (D.A.) office is struggling with funding. He said the City could have sent funding to the D.A. Fifty-five percent of serious crime is what burdened the D.A.'s office in 2016, and he felt that they can't do their job if they are unable to take action.

Thaddeus Schrader of Grand Junction, owner of Bonsai Design, told of a discussion regarding an agreement to stay in Grand Junction with Parks and Recreation. The City responded in an interesting and dynamic way to move in a visionary fashion for a much broader project. He said that the budget may have been presented at a 50,000-foot view, but they are thinking through all decisions in detail and considering all aspects. If his interaction is any indication of how the City Manager handles the budget, then he has great respect for how spending a little bit of money can have a big impact. Mr. Schrader thanked the City for the investment to create economic investment in Grand Junction.

The public comment portion closed at 8:27 p.m.

Councilmember Norris addressed the for the lack of funding for the D.A.'s office. She stated that Grand Junction has to pay for the City's officers while the D.A.'s office is funded through the taxes that people pay that go to Mesa County. She gladly supports public safety but doesn't want to see more money go to the County when tax money is already being allocated there. Councilmember Norris said they are well aware of the new pay structure and believes it is a good change that will encourage employees to move up. She said this is best year for the budget since she has been on Council.

Councilmember Traylor Smith showed the budget binder referenced and said Council goes through detailed spreadsheets with explanations for weeks before the final budget is presented. She congratulated staff for all their work on this budget. She spoke of the ambulance station and how there wasn't the full amount in the budget to fund it. Councilmember Traylor Smith verified with City Manager Caton that there were approximately 300 fire calls and 15,000 EMS calls this year which is why an EMS Station is needed in the north area. She said the City must keep the personnel to meet the needs of the community and thanked staff for staying ahead of the game financially.

Councilmember Kennedy said that this is the first time since he became part of Council that the budget is a policy document, representing Council's vision for the City and how to get there. He is pleased to see the increased funding for economic development, and that the City is making inroads to a sound infrastructure for the future and investing in roads and public safety on many fronts. What the City Manager has done over the past 18 months through streamlining gives him a lot of confidence that the City is moving in the right direction. He noted Las Colonias Park, the business park and the Two Rivers Convention Center Project not only improves the City, but also the quality of life for citizens. He commended staff and hopes citizens feel the same pride.

Councilmember Wortmann referenced a book called Jesus Calling by Sarah P. Young that teaches about being patient. He stated that he was stunned because he never felt

like the City was on the deck of the Titanic and is surprised someone would use that analogy in speaking about the budget.

Councilmember Boeschstein agreed with all Council's statements and thanked City Manager Caton and staff. They have done a wonderful job. The economy is up, sales tax was up 13% in one month, and investment is being put into the community by putting money towards Las Colonias Business Park, the Avalon Theatre, Colorado Mesa University, North Avenue, Horizon Drive, Two Rivers Convention Center, water and sewer, arts and culture, and in the recreational center feasibility study. He felt it is a good budget and plan for the future.

Council President Taggart thanked City Manager Caton and staff. He asked for people to remember Council is a policy board to focus on strategy. Although that doesn't stop Council from breaking down to the details, he discourages it. The budget was built from the ground up by a talented staff and they do not need Council to do their job.

Council took a break at 8:45 p.m.

The meeting resumed at 8:54 p.m.

Ordinance Expanding the Boundaries of and Including Property located at 118 S 7th Street into the Downtown Grand Junction Business Improvement District

The City received a petition from Maria V. Maestas and Alfred R. Maestas to have their property at 118 S 7th Street included into the Downtown Grand Junction Business Improvement District (DGJBID).

The public hearing opened at 8:55 p.m.

Allison Blevins, DGJBID Executive Director, gave a brief history of the BID and named some of the events they sponsor. She explained the reason this property should be included in the DGJBID, identified the owners, and the use of the building, and why their inclusion would benefit the BID.

City Attorney Shaver said this property was initially included in the BID and was later excluded upon request.

Councilmember McArthur said it was originally the dinner theater and it was nice to see it coming back into the BID.

There were no public comments.

The public hearing closed at 8:57 p.m.

Councilmember Boeschstein moved to adopt Ordinance No. 4773, an ordinance expanding the boundaries of and including property located at 118 S. 7th Street into the Downtown Grand Junction Business Improvement District on final passage and ordered final publication in pamphlet form. Councilmember Wortmann seconded the motion. Motion carried by roll call vote.

Resolution Regarding Las Colonias Master Lease and the Development Corporation Documents (CC&R, LCDC, Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws)

This request is to further the development of 15 acres of the Las Colonias property known as the Las Colonias Business Park. The redevelopment will occur pursuant to a 25-year Master Lease from the City to the Las Colonias Development Corporation (LCDC), which will operate under the auspices of a 5-member board. The LCDC will sublease the developable sites and otherwise assist in the management and development of the project. In addition to the Master Lease the City Council will be approving the articles and bylaws of the LCDC and the Covenants, Conditions and Restrictions (CC&R's) for the project.

City Attorney John Shaver acknowledged the partnership of everyone involved. This document brings to fruition the Business Park at Las Colonias. The City owns the park (147 acres) and this project represents about 10% (15 acres) of the park development. He provided the history of the Las Colonias site and the Business Park project. The City will lease the property to a development corporation. The reason for this is that the City can't be the regulator and administrator of the park and therefore the best way to proceed is through the development corporation serving as the intermediary group. The board of the development corporation will be comprised of 5 members to administer the project. They are considering registering this corporation as a non-profit or 501(c) to allow the possibility of monetary donations. The master lease will inform the anchor tenant and all other tenants. City Attorney John Shaver went through the documents being presented for approval: the Articles of Incorporation which is the formation document of the development corporation, the bylaws, the operating agreement, and the covenants, conditions, and restrictions that constitute private rights and responsibility.

Councilmember McArthur said he objected to a few things and previously voted in opposition to this project, but now is the time to move forward. He recommended that the contract try to anticipate future events and address how to deal with them. For example, in the event Bonsai Designs is sold, he suggested bylaw language added to say, "or a successor that is approved by the remaining board members".

City Attorney Shaver said the nature of that seat on the board is in response to the expectation of Bonsai Designs, Inc. That company intends to be there a very long time and the project is a vision of the City and the Schraders. City Attorney Shaver said additional language can be added, but there would need to be clarification.

Councilmember McArthur said there is potential for changes, but the contract language doesn't allow for it. Changing bylaws is cumbersome, so it is best to modify it now.

City Attorney Shaver said it can be written however Council would like.

Councilmember Kennedy said that bylaw revisions are not insurmountable. He asked if Bonsai Designs ceased to exist, would the bylaws need to be revised even if the additional language was added? City Attorney Shaver responded in the affirmative. Councilmember Kennedy asked about the two-year board terms and whether that created issues with Council terms for the purpose of rotation. City Attorney Shaver said the tradeoff is continuity which is why he wrote it that way.

Council President Taggart said the seven members of Council would need to agree on who that Council representative will be, and keep in mind if the representative is coming up for reelection within that 2-year Board term.

Councilmember Norris believes the first board will do a lot of adjusting in the early years and can make these, and other changes as needed. She then asked about the rent agreement, and where the funding would go.

City Attorney Shaver said that money would go towards maintenance and other investments in infrastructure, land acquisition, etc. A minimum of \$10,000 is half of the anticipated funding.

Councilmember Norris asked who will carry the insurance, the City or the tenants. City Attorney Shaver clarified that any improvements like the office building and storage facilities would be the responsibility of the businesses to carry insurance on, but the City is responsible to carry insurance for the common areas. She said her dad trucked a lot of uranium to that area, and she thanked all the groups involved that have gotten the Park to this point. She feels they have done a great job and she supports moving forward with the project.

Councilmember Boeschstein thanked Councilmember Norris for her comments and echoed that, yes, this has been a 100-year project. He thinks this area is coming back to life, which is great. He asked for clarification on the future of the Park and the industrial portion of the plans. City Attorney Shaver explained that 90% of Las Colonias

will be a typical park with a lot of green area. Even within the 15-acre development, there is an expectation that it will look and feel like a park and have continuity with the rest of the Park. The businesses will integrate with all services.

Councilmember Boeschstein asked if the City is responsible for the park and the businesses and development corporation will be responsible for the Business Park. City Attorney Shaver said yes, this is the best local example of a public-private partnership.

Council President Taggart thanked staff and Mr. Schrader for all the hard work that has gone into this project. Innovation is a cornerstone for private enterprise, but it is unusual for government. He commended the innovative approach in determining the rent amounts.

The public hearing was opened at 9:28 p.m.

Michael Day of Fruita, agreed with Councilmember McArthur about his feedback in that one can have the best of intentions, but when one assumes, it may be detrimental in the long run. He asked for more consideration on the additional language.

Thaddeus Schrader, owner of Bonsai Designs, Inc, agreed with Councilmember McArthur and explained Bonsai Design's position. He gave a brief history on the project. The company has invested over \$100,000 in the process of proposing many ideas and layouts. This project has transformed from an incentive package into a labor of love, and is moving into their life's work, partnered with their growing support for schools and trying to invest in community. They asked to have a standing seat on the board because of the time and energy that they have invested in the project and he assured that they intend to stay for the long haul. He said he hopes Council allows them to maintain the position.

The public hearing was closed at 9:32 p.m.

City Attorney Shaver said the discussion of the board seat is in the bylaws and would not have litigation potential.

Councilmember Kennedy moved to adopt Resolution No. 69-17, a resolution authorizing the content and the filing of the articles and bylaws of the Las Colonias Development Corporation and approval of the Master Lease of certain property at Las Colonias Park and the Covenants, Conditions, and Restrictions (CC&R's) concerning the property all for the purpose of facilitating the development of the Las Colonias

Business Park in the City of Grand Junction, Colorado. Councilmember Traylor Smith seconded the motion. Motion carried by roll call vote.

Resolution Regarding CMU 20000 Initiatives

Colorado Mesa University (CMU) is a key economic driver for the Grand Valley. The continued growth and development of the university can and will define us as an educated, economically prosperous, and vibrant community. CMU 20000 is a community initiative that will help to grow our economy, led by the Grand Junction Area Chamber of Commerce. Colorado Mesa University an economic impact on our community of nearly a half of a billion dollars. Growing the University will increase that impact.

Moved to the consent agenda; item#6b tabled to the December 20th Regular Meeting.

Non-Scheduled Citizens & Visitors

Michael Day of Fruita said that Richard Swingle's presentation had a great point regarding no public comments being allowed at Council Workshops. He said that this Council meeting was amazing because of the back and forth comments being allowed. To Councilmember Norris's remarks, he said he was the no vote guy, and he did his best to let people know things were a mess with the D.A.'s office. He commended City Manager Caton for grabbing the bull by the horns and working things out with the City budget. In his opinion, he is glad Chief Camper is leaving.

Councilmember Traylor Smith said long time Grand Junction resident Jeanie Thomas passed away this week. She lived a great life and a tribute was held for her that day at the Grand Junction Rotary Club. Councilmember Traylor Smith asked that people keep her family in their prayers. Ms. Thomas was a very sweet soul and will be missed.

Council President Taggart said that the intention of workshops is to educate Council and the presentations are for Council's benefit. Regular meetings are lasting longer because there is more time allowed for public comment.

Councilmember Kennedy attends many public meetings in about 19 different Colorado counties and said the City of Grand Junction's workshops are no different from other municipalities. Council is trying to make meetings more accessible and the public can also phone or email.

Councilmember Boeschstein said that the Lincoln Park Neighborhood will be holding a meeting in the hopes of strengthening their neighborhood. This is another way of communicating with citizens and to make changes.

Other Business

There was none.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:44 p.m.

Wanda Winkelmann, MMC
City Clerk