

GRAND JUNCTION CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP SUMMARY
March 5, 2018 – Noticed Agenda Attached

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

Meeting Adjourned: 7:29 p.m.

City Councilmembers present: Councilmembers Boeschstein, Kennedy, McArthur, Norris, Traylor Smith, Wortmann, and Mayor Taggart.

Staff present: Caton, Shaver, LeBlanc, Romero, Bowman, Fogarty, Kemp, and Winkelmann.

Mayor Taggart called the meeting to order.

Agenda Topic 1. Discussion Topics

a. Introduction of the New Grand Junction Regional Airport Authority Executive Director

Angela Padalecki, the new director of the Grand Junction Regional Airport, was introduced to the City Council. Ms. Padalecki stated she is excited to be in Grand Junction and outlined the priorities for the Airport:

1. Ensuring the airport has reliable facilities.
2. Improvements to the terminal.
3. Engaging airline partners.

Discussion ensued about the cost of flights out of Grand Junction versus traveling to Denver to save money on airfare.

Ms. Padalecki stated her willingness to come back in front of Council to provide information or answer questions.

Councilmember McArthur left the meeting at 5:50 p.m.

b. The Offering of Invocations at City Council Meetings

Mr. Caton stated that the purpose of this item is to review the current process regarding the offering of invocations prior to City Council meetings and discuss any changes City Council would like to make.

In 2008 Resolution No. 114-08 was adopted that provides definitions and outlines procedures regarding invocations. An invocation is defined as a verbal or written statement delivered at the beginning of a public meeting of the City Council (or other deliberative public body of the City). The invocation is the offering of a brief pronouncement of simple values intended to solemnize the occasion of the meeting.

Councilmember Kennedy stated that the current practice of invocations should not continue in its current form and believes a moment of silence would suffice.

Councilmember Traylor Smith noted the invocations are a part of the Grand Junction tradition and the method of selecting invocators is fair. She would like the current practice to continue.

Councilmember Boeschstein believes the system is very open since anyone can submit his or her name to be an invocator and the current practice should continue.

Councilmember Wortmann would like Council to stay the course.

Councilmember Norris stated the moments of silence are good for the City and believes the current practice of selecting invocators is fair to everyone. She believes the system should continue as it is.

Councilmember Kennedy noted the system is not fair when most of the invocators are from a Christian faith. Grand Junction is an outlier because of its invocation practice.

Mayor Taggart summarized the feedback from Councilmembers and four are in agreement to keep the current practice. Councilmember Traylor Smith stated she spoke with Councilmember McArthur earlier in the day and he is in favor of keeping the current practice.

Mayor Taggart described a recent phone call with a woman expressing her concern about invocations at City Council meetings. He outlined the process used in Grand Junction and the caller was satisfied with the explanation. Mayor Taggart thought improvement could be made to communicating the current practice.

Mr. Caton reviewed the current practice that is in place: staff conducts research in the phone book and online of area churches and adds them to the list. Also, staff advertises in the newspaper inviting individuals or groups to submit their name to be added to the list. Names are randomly drawn from the list and invocators are invited to a particular Council meeting. Moments of silence are substituted when an invocator is not available to attend the meeting.

Councilmember Kennedy questioned why the City is actively seeking invocators. Attorney Shaver noted this practice is outlined in the resolution and is inclusive.

Discussion ensued about the resolution discouraging invocators from proselytizing and Attorney Shaver reported a copy of the resolution is sent to every selected invocator.

Because the majority of Council is in favor of keeping the current practice, no formal discussion or action will be scheduled on a future agenda.

c. Lodging Tax Discussion

Mr. Caton noted that the City has coordinated with a working group of stakeholders to discuss how an increase in lodging tax could be used. This group, including representatives attending the workshop tonight from the Chamber of Commerce, Visit Grand Junction Advisory Board, Grand Junction Regional Air Service Alliance, and the Sports Commission, discussed a 3% overall increase to the lodging tax. Potential uses include 1% for airline support or partnerships, 0.75% support for the Greater Grand Junction Sports Commission, and 1.25% in additional funding for Visit Grand Junction's marketing efforts.

Mr. Caton discussed the possibility of a tax question being placed on the November 2018 ballot, or one could come forward at the April 2019 election. He stated an additional five hotels are scheduled to be built in the next 24-36 months.

Discussion ensued about the amount of lodging tax collected in other communities.

Mr. Caton outlined how additional lodging tax dollars could be spent:

1. New air service and marketing efforts.
2. Advertising on the Front Range and telegraphing Grand Junction's brand.
3. Special events.
4. Special projects.
5. More data analytics.

Representatives from the working group spoke about their involvement in the group, the potential increase in lodging tax, and how it could impact their operations.

Direction was received for staff to continue to work with stakeholders and return with possible ballot language for Council's consideration.

Agenda Topic 2. Next Workshop Topics

Next Workshop Topic on March 19, 2018: Update on the Recreation Center Feasibility Study

3. Other Business

Councilmember Norris stated that the Housing Authority approved a new project called Highlands II, which will serve senior citizens, veterans, and the widows of veterans.

Councilmember Kennedy inquired into the City's letter to be a Next Century City as the information has to be submitted by Friday, March 9. City Manager Caton responded that the application will be submitted by the deadline.

Mayor Taggart noted he is touring recreation facilities in other municipalities and invited Council to join him.

Adjournment

With no further business the meeting was adjourned.

To access the Agenda and Backup Materials electronically, go to

www.gjcity.org



**GRAND JUNCTION CITY COUNCIL
MONDAY, MARCH 5, 2018**

**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

Discussion Topics

- a. Introduction of the New Grand Junction Regional Airport Authority Executive Director
- b. The Offering of Invocations at City Council Meetings
- c. Lodging Tax Discussion

Next Workshop Topics

- a. March 19: Update on the Recreation Center Feasibility Study

Other Business

What is the purpose of a Workshop?

The purpose of a Workshop is for the presenter to provide information to City Council about an item or topic that they may be discussing at a future meeting. The less formal setting of a Workshop is intended to facilitate an interactive discussion among Councilmembers.

How can I provide my input about a topic on tonight's Workshop agenda?

Individuals wishing to provide input about Workshop topics can:

1. Send an email (addresses found here www.gjcity.org/city-government/) or call one or more members of City Council (970-244-1504);
 2. Provide information to the City Manager (citymanager@gjcity.org) for dissemination to the City Council. If your information is submitted prior to 3 p.m. on the date of the Workshop, copies will be provided to Council that evening. Information provided after 3 p.m. will be disseminated the next business day.
 3. Attend a Regular Council Meeting (generally held the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month at 6 p.m. at City Hall) and provide comments during "Citizen Comments."
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