

**GRAND JUNCTION CITY COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING**

**April 4, 2018**

The City Council of the City of Grand Junction convened into regular session on the 4<sup>th</sup> day of April 2018 at 6:00 p.m. Those present were Councilmembers Bennett Boeschstein, 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 and Councilmember Boeschstein led the Pledge of Allegiance which was followed by a moment of silence.

**Presentations**

Council President Taggart presented Economic Development Funds to six organizations who bolster the economic development of Grand Junction through the services they provide which helps extend the reach of the City by providing services and programs the City does not.

The first check presented was to Hilltop Community Resources in the amount of \$20,000 to help fund the Latimer safehouse remodel.

The second check presented was to Mind Springs Inc., in the amount of \$100,000 for the Building Sanctuary/Rebuilding Lives campaign which will help to fund a new West Springs inpatient psychiatric hospital.

The third check presented was to STRiVE in the amount of \$19,650 to help with upgrades to the Botanical Gardens facility which they operate.

The fourth check presented was to Western Slope Center for Children in the amount of \$37,500 for general operational support of their mission to support sexually assaulted children.

The fifth check presented was to Grand Junction Housing Authority in the amount of \$327,622 for the development fees of Highlands II, an affordable senior housing complex and for the Bookcliff Squire Project which will provide new housing units.

The final check presented was to Homeward Bound of the Grand Valley in the amount of \$200,000 for the Pathways Family Center and to help finish a Respite Center homeless shelter on 29 Road.

**Proclamations****Proclaiming April 2018 as Month of the Young Child in the City of Grand Junction**

Councilmember Kennedy read the proclamation. Lora Rohlman, Early Learning Ventures QI Specialist, was present to accept the proclamation. Ms. Rohlman gave an overview of Early Learning Ventures and thanked Council for the proclamation.

**Proclaiming April 2018 as National Autism Awareness Month in the City of Grand Junction**

Councilmember Traylor Smith read the proclamation. Doug Sorter, Development Vice President of STRiVE, was present to accept the proclamation. Mr. Sorter thanked Council for the proclamation and spoke of plans to expand the program to help serve the autistic population in Mesa County.

**Proclaiming April 2018 as Child Abuse Prevention Month in the City of Grand Junction**

Councilmember Boeschstein read the proclamation. Melissa Lytle, Executive Director of Western Slope Center for Children, was present to accept the proclamation. Ms. Lytle thanked Council for the proclamation, gave statistics on the population that they serve in Mesa County and told of the services they provide. She invited the public to their open house.

**Citizens Comments**

Brian McRoberts spoke about an intersection next to Thunder Mountain Elementary School that he believes is dangerous. He spoke of several situations of children almost being hit crossing the street due to drivers running stop signs and speeding. He asked for a stoplight and more law enforcement presence.

Joshua Neil Brackensburg spoke about a chess camp he facilitated in 2011 and was requesting support to coordinate another camp and help to make this an annual event.

Bruce Lohmiller spoke about 911 violence reports and M-1 holds for child abuse cases. He spoke about applying for a Community Development Block Grant for the Veteran's Art Center.

City Manager Caton gave a report on the Rosevale fire. He reported that the first call was received by 911 dispatchers at 7:27 p.m. on April 2<sup>nd</sup> and within 10 minutes 45 more calls had been received. The fire burned over 10 acres and 363 homes were

evacuated. There were no fatalities but one home was destroyed. A unified command system was coordinated with twenty different agencies, of which eleven were fire agencies and sixty fire units were onsite. The fire was contained by midnight and fire crews stayed on scene for 22 hours to watch for hot spots. Due to the number of people impacted, 400 people have since signed up for the emergency notification system. City Manager Caton said he very pleased with the efforts of everyone involved and stressed what a phenomenal job was done in the containment of this fire.

### **Council Reports**

Councilmember McArthur attended the 5-2-1 Drainage Authority annual meeting on March 27<sup>th</sup>, on March 28<sup>th</sup> he attended an Energy Briefing at the Grand Junction Area Chamber of Commerce (GJACOC), on March 30<sup>th</sup> he attended the Las Colonias Business Park Ground Breaking. On April 3<sup>rd</sup> he went to a legislative video conference at GJACOC and on April 4<sup>th</sup> he facilitated the Associated Members for Growth and Development (AMGD) meeting.

Councilmember Wortmann attended the opening of the Riverfront at Las Colonias Park and is excited about the \$800,000 Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) grant for the project.

Councilmember Boeschenstein attended the Horizon Drive Association Business Improvement District meeting on March 22<sup>nd</sup>. On March 27<sup>th</sup> he attended the 5-2-1 meeting, on March 30<sup>th</sup> he attended the Las Colonias Business Park Ground Breaking, on March 31<sup>st</sup> he attended the Cesar Chavez Day festivities and, on April 4<sup>th</sup> he went to the Business Incubator Meeting.

Councilmember Kennedy said he attended many of the same events mentioned. He then read a Maya Angelou poem to remember the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Councilmember Traylor Smith attended the active shooter training and thanked the Grand Junction Police Department for the training. She attended the Parks Improvement Advisory Board meeting on April 3<sup>rd</sup> and gave an update on the improvements. She also attended the Las Colonias Business Park Ground Breaking on March 30<sup>th</sup> and is excited about the progress.

Councilmember Norris attended the Las Colonias Business Park Ground Breaking on March 30<sup>th</sup> and thanked the Downtown Development Authority for their support on the project.

Council President Taggart also attended many of the same activities; he spoke about Las Colonias and thanked Parks and Recreation Director Rob Schoeber for his work on the ground-breaking event. On April 3<sup>rd</sup> he spoke at a Grand Junction Regional Airport event, where Denver Air Connection gave away 300 airline tickets to non-profit organizations. He attended the Grand Junction Regional Airport Workshop on April 3<sup>rd</sup> and on April 4<sup>th</sup> he attended the Engineering Days celebration.

### **Consent Agenda**

Councilmember Traylor Smith moved to approve items #1 - #5 on the Consent Agenda. Councilmember Boeschstein seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

1. **Approval of Minutes**

- a. Summary of the March 19, 2018 Workshop
- b. Minutes of the March 21, 2018 Executive Session
- c. Minutes of the March 21, 2018 Regular Meeting

2. **Set Public Hearings**

- a. Quasi-judicial
  - i. A 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, Exercising Land Use Control, and Introducing Proposed Annexation Ordinance for the Tallman Annexation of 5.197 Acres, Located at 2734 B ¼ Road and 2723 Hwy 50

3. **Contracts**

- a. 2018 Contract Street Maintenance - Asphalt Overlays

4. **Resolutions**

- a. A Resolution Amending the 2018 City Council Meeting Schedule
- b. A Resolution Approving Trail Easement with Redlands Water and Power for the Monument Road (Lunch Loops) Trail

5. **Other Action Items**

- a. Orchard Ave Between Normandy and 29 Road Memorandum of Understanding Between the City of Grand Junction and Mesa County
- b. Downtown Grand Junction Partnership (DDA/BID) Organizational Change

**Public Hearing - 2018 Supplemental Appropriation Ordinance for Expansion of the School Resource Officer Program**

While not a singular solution to a comprehensive issue, expanding the City's School Resource Officer (SRO) program will help to address the recent need for additional safety in schools. It is recommended that the addition of two SRO's to the current program be authorized. This will allow for two officers at Grand Junction High School and will provide one officer at each of the four middle schools. Expanding the SRO program would improve the safety of students and the public and would be a welcomed and responsible investment in the community.

City Manager Caton presented the item. This topic was discussed at the March 7<sup>th</sup> City Council meeting at which point there was consensus to bring forward a supplemental appropriation ordinance to the 2018 budget in order to fund two additional SRO's. City Manager Caton reviewed the points shared with Council at the March 7<sup>th</sup> meeting including a School Safety Overview and School and City Boundaries map. He presented a breakdown of students per jurisdiction along with the distribution of SRO's that correlate with those numbers. With the addition of two sworn police officers, the SRO program could return to its intended level of staffing and better build a relationship with both students and school staff. Unlike hired security firms, SRO's receive specialized training and are capable of responding to the types of incidents that might occur in schools. SRO programs are proven to be valued within communities and an effective method by which police departments can address school safety. The officers act as a resource for students, the families of students, and District staff. They are a critical link between law enforcement and the safety of the public within District schools. Due to the crossing of school attendance and jurisdictional boundaries and the school of choice program, many students attend schools in jurisdictions different from where their home is located; therefore, this is a countywide issue and needs to be addressed as such.

Councilmember Kennedy said this is a great first step in providing safety and security to students but said the City needs to find a way to be proactive in finding the root of violence in the schools. He believes a social worker in the schools would be more beneficial than using the funds later on to incarcerate offenders. He asked if it was realistic to add more SROs if there are currently sworn positions unfilled, and asked

about the letter to the Mesa County Sheriff's Department and the response that was received.

City Manager Caton spoke to the first question and said it is a challenge they need to overcome in staffing those positions, especially by the proposed deadline of August and he hopes creative recruitment methods will fill those positions. The answer to the second question was that they did receive a response from the Sheriff, and that they believe it is more of a jurisdictional funding issue.

Mesa County Sheriff Matt Lewis took time to explain his response regarding monies requested from the public safety sales tax. He said he sees this as a Countywide issue, but the excess funds are already spoken for by the individual departments and will be used to catch up the needs of the Mesa County Sheriff's Office. He said he is dedicated to helping with this issue and will work closely with the other agencies to help solve the problem. He proposed the City use excess sales tax funds for the expansion of the SRO program.

Councilmember Kennedy added, regardless of jurisdictions, schools must be kept safe, and everyone should focus on the children and work together towards a solution.

Councilmember Norris stated the citizens of Grand Junction are also citizens of Mesa County and believes some of that money should also benefit them.

Sheriff Lewis responded the City gets a portion of the countywide sales tax and he recognizes that City citizens are also County citizens. He clarified public safety tax dollars are his responsibility and he has to take all needs into consideration.

Councilmember Boeschstein said his kids were bullied at Grand Junction schools and how this solution is just the tip of the iceberg. He supports this item in the budget, but feels these are misguided dollars. Root causes of school violence should be addressed through mental health solutions, anti-bullying programs, and drug and alcohol classes.

City Manager Caton addressed the 1A Public Safety Tax breakdown (Mesa County receives 85% and the City receives 6%) and the City's funds go toward funding the Communication Center and other capital costs. He stated the requested 75% of the SRO expansion cost was based off this breakdown.

The public hearing was opened at 7:34 p.m.

There were no public comments.

The public hearing was closed at 7:34 p.m.

Councilmember Traylor Smith moved to adopt Ordinance No. 4794, an ordinance making supplemental appropriations to the 2018 budget of the City of Grand Junction, Colorado in order to expand the School Resource Officer Program on final passage and ordered final publication in pamphlet form. Councilmember Kennedy seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

**Public Hearing - An Ordinance Amending Ordinance No. 4772 Concerning the Issuance of DDA Bonds**

Section 3 of Ordinance No. 4772 authorized the 2018 Bonds to be issued in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$9,120,000; however, the City intends to issue the 2018 Bonds in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$10,000,000. To accommodate the change in principal amount and permit bond counsel to deliver an approving opinion with respect to the 2018 Bonds, Section 3 of Ordinance No. 4772 is being expressly amended by this ordinance to increase the principal amount of the 2018 Bonds up to a maximum of \$10,000,000.

With Ordinance No. 4772 City Council authorized the issuance of Downtown Development Authority (DDA) Tax Increment and Refunding Bonds, Series 2017 and Series 2018. Ordinance No. 4772 approved a total of \$19.12 million; \$10 million to be issued in 2017 and \$9.12 million in 2018; however, to keep both bonds bank-qualified, the order of the issuance was reversed and \$9.12 million was issued in 2017 and the \$10 million issuance will occur in 2018.

Jay Valentine, Deputy Finance Director presented this item. The previous ordinance lacked the specific amounts of the bonds, and therefore this language has been added.

Councilmember Traylor Smith asked for clarification that nothing changed except specific amounts were added. Mr. Valentine said that was correct.

The public hearing was opened at 7:39 p.m.

There were no public comments.

The public hearing was closed at 7:39 p.m.

Councilmember Boeschstein moved to adopt Ordinance No. 4795, an ordinance amending Ordinance No. 4772 relating to the issuance of the City of Grand Junction, Colorado, Downtown Development Authority Tax Increment Revenue and Refunding

Bonds, Series 2017, and Tax Increment Revenue Bonds, Series 2018; and related matters on final passage and ordered final publication in pamphlet form.

Councilmember Traylor Smith seconded the motion. Motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.

**Public Hearing - An Ordinance Amending Chapter 2 of the Grand Junction Municipal Code regarding Ballot Title Protests and the Deadline for Write-in Candidate Affidavits**

Wanda Winkelmann, City Clerk, presented the item. Due to a recent petition effort, City staff started reviewing the current City practices related to election procedures to identify opportunities for increasing citizen access and transparency. During that review, it was determined that the Grand Junction Municipal Code does not contain provisions related to ballot title protests, meaning that no process exists for how a citizen would protest the title of a ballot question. The Colorado Municipal Election Code contemplates that protests concerning a ballot title shall be conducted as provided by local charter, ordinance, or resolution.

As such, staff is recommending an amendment to Chapter 2 of the Grand Junction Municipal Code to identify a procedure for the submission of ballot title protests. Highlights of the procedure include: the protestor must be a registered elector of Grand Junction, the City Clerk provides a form for the protest, the protest must be filed by noon on the Tuesday immediately preceding the hearing of the ordinance or resolution setting the ballot title, and City Council will hear the protest and provide a ruling prior to considering the ordinance or resolution setting the ballot title.

Staff is also recommending a change to the deadline for write-in candidate affidavits. By way of Senate Bill 16-142, the Colorado Municipal Election Code was amended to change the required date of filing for a write-in candidate affidavit from twenty days prior to the day of election to sixty-four days (CRS 31-10-306). Staff recommends amending the Grand Junction Municipal Code to match this timeline.

Councilmember Traylor Smith asked about notification of the ballot title. Ms. Winkelmann spoke to the public notice that would be available in regard to this.

Councilmember Kennedy asked if protestors could register to vote the day of the protest or if they have to be registered for a certain amount of time. City Attorney Shaver said that would be based upon State Statutes for registrations and doesn't have to be referenced in this Code.

Councilmember Kennedy asked why staff is recommending the change from 20 to 64 days. Ms. Winkelmann said 20 days isn't long enough to allow municipalities to cancel elections if there were equal to or fewer candidates running as there were openings. City Attorney Shaver said it is about balancing those provisions.

Councilmember McArthur asked if it required being a City elector. Ms. Winkelmann said it did.

The public hearing opened at 7:49 p.m.

There were no comments.

The public hearing was closed at 7:49 p.m.

Councilmember Wortmann moved to adopt Ordinance No. 4796, an ordinance amending Chapter 2 of the Grand Junction Municipal Code concerning protest of ballot titles and/or submission clauses and the deadline to file write-in candidate affidavit on final passage and ordered final publication in pamphlet form. Councilmember McArthur seconded the motion. Motion carried by roll call vote with Councilmember Kennedy voting NO.

### **Resolution - Resolution Establishing a Colorado Creative District**

Colorado Creative Industries (CCI) is a division of the Colorado Office of Economic Development and International Trade (OEDIT). The Colorado Creative District Program is meant to recognize districts that are contributing to Colorado's economy through creativity, culture and the arts. The Program supports these districts in their endeavors to bolster investment, job growth and local incomes through their support of strategic investments in the development of creative places. The process of becoming a Creative District involves a rigorous application and certification process by CCI to become a Certified Creative District. One of the requirements of CCI is that City Council adopt a resolution to support the creation of a Creative District in Downtown Grand Junction. CCI would like to see that there is broad community buy in prior to certification.

Brandon Stam, Executive Director of the Downtown Development Authority, presented the item and said this process is to formally be recognized as a Creative District by the state of Colorado.

Councilmember Norris asked which community groups are involved in this request. Mr. Stam responded Mesa County Public Library, Colorado Mesa University, the Arts

Center, Grand Junction Economic Partnership, as well as a number of downtown businesses. Robbie Bro, Colorado Creative Industries Board Member, spoke about her excitement to consider Grand Junction's application.

Councilmember Norris thanked all the groups who have supported this effort.

Councilmember Kennedy asked if the creation of the district provides an avenue for funds. Mr. Stam said it does not, although it does make them eligible for marketing dollars.

Councilmember Boeschstein thanked the citizens for attending the City Council meeting and for their work on this project.

Councilmember Boeschstein moved to adopt Resolution 24-18, a resolution in recognition and support of establishing a certified Creative District within the City of Grand Junction, Colorado. Councilmember Norris seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

### **Non-Scheduled Citizens & Visitors**

Ed Kowalski thanked Council for passing item 5.a. on the Consent Agenda.

### **Other Business**

There was none.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

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Wanda Winkelmann, MMC  
City Clerk