

**GRAND JUNCTION CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP SUMMARY**  
**April 30, 2018 – Noticed Agenda Attached**

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

**Meeting Adjourned:** 7:26 p.m.

**City Councilmembers present:** Councilmembers Bennett Boeschstein, Chris Kennedy, Barbara Traylor Smith, Duke Wortmann, and Mayor Rick Taggart.

**Staff present:** City Manager Greg Caton, City Attorney John Shaver, Assistant to the City Manager Greg LeBlanc, Community and Development Director Tamra Allen, Senior Planner Kris Ashbeck, Utilities Director Randi Kim, Visit Grand Junction Director Elizabeth Fogarty, Visit Grand Junction Division Manager Barbara Bowman, Finance Director Jodi Romero, and City Clerk Wanda Winkelmann.

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Mayor Taggart called the meeting to order.

**Agenda Topic 1. Discussion Topics**

a. Lodging Tax Discussion

Mr. Caton noted that this topic was first discussed at a Workshop with City Council on March 5<sup>th</sup>. City Council provided direction to move towards placing the question before eligible voters during the election on the first Tuesday of November 2018.

Mr. Caton distributed a revised resolution that amended the language that no less than one percent of the Lodgers Tax Increase would be dedicated to the Grant Junction Regional Air Service Alliance for a period of three years.

The purpose of this discussion is the submission of a ballot question to enact, levy and impose an increase in the Lodgers Tax at a rate of 3% on the price paid for the leasing or rental of any occupied hotel room, motel room, lodging house, bed and breakfast, and other accommodation. Using lodging tax revenues to fund destination marketing and visitor services also creates a positive nexus between the cost of providing those services and the users of those services, while providing a substantial economic benefit to the City by the infusion of funds from people who live outside the community.

In 2017, tourism generated approximately \$1.46 million in lodging taxes and \$1.39 million in local sales tax revenues. The travel industry provides Grand Junction more than 5,500 jobs and \$139.9 million in wages. Grand Junction also experienced \$282.3 million in direct travel spending in 2017.

Because the lodging tax is almost universally paid by business and leisure travelers, it imposes little burden on City residents.

If Council authorizes a question and the voters approve a lodging tax increase, the revenues generated by the additional 3% lodging tax, which are estimated at \$1.75 million in 2019, will be allocated through the annual budget process for marketing for tourism and tourism related activities.

Discussion ensued about the term “amenities,” regional marketing efforts, and placing a question on the November ballot.

Support was expressed for a resolution to be introduced at a future meeting for City Council consideration.

b. 2018 Program Year Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Funding Requests

The purpose of this item is for City Council to consider requests to fund qualified activities and programs as part of the Community Development Block Grant 2018 Program Year. The City has not yet received its 2018 allocation, but estimates it will receive \$425,000 for the 2018 Program Year beginning on September 1, 2018. In addition, unexpended funds from prior years in the amount of \$6,516 will be allocated with the 2018 funds.

Ms. Ashbeck noted that Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds are an entitlement grant to the City of Grand Junction which became eligible for the funding in 1996. The 2018 Program Year, which will begin September 1, 2018, marks the City’s 23rd year of eligibility. Applications for funding were solicited and received by the City on March 26th after a workshop was held with potential applicants. The purpose of the City Council workshop is to establish a work plan for the 2018 CDBG Program Year by recommending which projects should be funded. The final funding decision is scheduled to be made by the City Council at its meeting on May 16, 2018 with adoption of the Annual Action Plan occurring at the June 18, 2018 meeting.

**2018 CDBG PROJECT FUNDING**

The City has received grant requests of \$730,147 from outside agencies and has identified six City capital improvements projects totaling \$218,500 that would be eligible for CDBG funding for a total of \$948,647 in grant requests (excluding \$25,000 administration funding requested). Though the City is not expected to receive final confirmation of its 2018 CDBG funding amount until May 2018, it is estimated that the City will receive \$425,000 for the 2018 Program Year, which is a 6 percent increase from last year. In addition, there are funds remaining from prior years in the amount of \$6,516 that will be allocated with the 2018 funds, for a total of \$431,516 available for allocation. The purpose of the April 30, 2018 workshop is to establish a work plan for the 2018 CDBG Program Year by recommending which projects should be funded. The applications for 2018 funding and complete applications for each project were included in the April 30 Workshop packet.

## **HUD CDBG GUIDELINES AND EVALUATION CRITERIA**

The CDBG program has several funding criteria that are important to consider when evaluating which projects the City can fund with its 2018 allocation:

1. Administration activities may not exceed 20% of Program Year allocation
2. Human Services activities may not exceed 15% of Program Year less the amount of outstanding obligated funds
3. Applications for CDBG funding will be judged by the criteria below:

A) Proposed project meets National Objectives:

- Benefits low and moderate income persons;
- Eliminates or prevents slum or blight; or
- Addresses an urgent community need (usually a natural disaster)

B) Proposed project is eligible and meets the City's Five Year Consolidated Plan Goals:

- Need for non-housing community development infrastructure
- Need for affordable housing
- Needs of the homeless
- Needs of special needs populations and other human services

C) Ability of the applicant to complete the project: Agency capacity, history of performance, staff level and experience, financial stability

D) Amount requested is consistent with agency needs

Discussion ensued regarding the specific funding requests and the final funding decision will be made at the May 16 Council meeting.

### **Agenda Topic 2. Next Workshop Topics**

Mr. Caton reviewed the topics for the May 14<sup>th</sup> Workshop: Growth Management and Streets Policy and Impact Fee Discussion

### **3. Other Business**

None

### **Adjournment**

The Workshop adjourned at 7:26 p.m.

To access the Agenda and Backup Materials electronically, go to [www.gjcity.org](http://www.gjcity.org)



**GRAND JUNCTION CITY COUNCIL  
MONDAY, APRIL 30, 2018**

**PRE-MEETING (DINNER) 5:00 P.M. ADMINISTRATION CONFERENCE ROOM  
WORKSHOP, 5:30 P.M.  
CITY HALL AUDITORIUM  
250 N. 5<sup>TH</sup> STREET**

*To become the most livable community west of the Rockies by 2025*

**1. Discussion Topics**

- a. Lodging Tax Discussion
- b. 2018 Program Year Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Funding Requests

**2. Next Workshop Topics**

**3. Other Business**

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*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/](http://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](mailto: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.
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3. Attend a Regular Council Meeting (generally held the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays of each month at 6 p.m. at City Hall) and provide comments during “Citizen Comments.”

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