

GRAND JUNCTION CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP SUMMARY
August 17, 2015 – Noticed Agenda Attached

Meeting Convened: 5:00 p.m. in the City Hall Auditorium

Meeting Adjourned: 8:30 p.m.

City Council Members present: All

Staff present: Moore, Shaver, Lanning, Taylor, McInnis, Portner, Thornton, Hockins, Kovalik, and Watkins

Also: Dan Wilson, John Justman, Julie Costan, Shane Allerheligen, Chris Launer, Rich Krohn, Tim Ryan, Richard Swingle, Terry Barber, David Pollard, Bobbi Alpha, Robbie Breaux, and Dennis Simpson

Agenda Topic 1. Drainage Discussion

Greg Lanning, Public Works Director, reviewed recent history with the Drainage District; he explained the summit talks that have taken place over the summer, the proposal to develop a “White Paper Group” with Grand Valley Drainage District (GVDD) and the 521 Drainage Authority. He also explained in the last two months there have been several leadership changes at the GVDD.

Tim Ryan, Interim Manager for the GVDD, explained that the drainage system is used for development run-off when the mill levy is designed for irrigation return flow and seep. There were talks at the summit over the summer and out of that they developed a proposal outlined in the “White Paper”. GVDD is the custodian for the Title 37 system and they are looking for partners to develop Intergovernmental Agreements (IGA’s) with other entities within the District. Before Council is a proposed IGA with an introduction letter.

Dan Wilson, GVDD Counsel, provided an overview of the proposal and talked about the key points. GVDD wants to have the City as the first partner. In the summits, there were conversations to start small and eventually expand to the 521 boundary. Mr. Wilson said that changing the governance is not an option with the GVDD Board. The capital improvements decisions will be made by the ones who sign the IGA. The GVDD Board just wants to get started. If the City signs the IGA it means the GVDD will accept the liability for the two pending projects – City Market (Patterson and 12th) and the Highlands (805 Bookcliff). Mr. Wilson described the “White Paper” group’s key points which everyone agreed was the 521 model has not worked for several years which is a serious problem that needs to be solved; and at least the Drainage District was an option. Mr. Wilson talked about the proposed fees, the funding, and how fees could be collected.

Mayor Norris pointed out that the City contributes the biggest share so she is in favor of a joint enterprise fund. She would like the City to have an input into how the money collected is spent.

There was discussion on fees, which would not require voter approval, versus a mill levy increase, which would. Revenue bonds were also mentioned but Councilmember Taggart did not think the proposal as presented was “bankable”. Since upgrades to the drainage system are so far behind, a pay-as-you-go scenario did not seem reasonable.

Some provisions in the proposed IGA were objected to but it was noted that much of that language came from the 521 Drainage Authority IGA. However, the language can certainly be amended.

Council direction was to get all of the data by completing the basin studies, get assistance and a recommendation from the Department of Local Affairs (DOLA), prioritize the projects, get expertise on the financials (bond underwriters for example), and then bring it back to Council. It was also suggested that grant opportunities be pursued.

Agenda Topic 2. Avalon Theatre foundation Update

Debbie Kovalik, Convention and Visitor Services Director, introduced Bobbi Alpha and Robbie Breaux from the Avalon Theatre Foundation (ATF) and complimented the ATF on how focused they are and how she has enjoyed working with this group.

Ms. Robbie Breaux explained the report provided which included the history, a financial report, and a request for naming rights that was talked about at the July 6th Workshop. After the last meeting with City Council, ATF was asked to do an audit of the funds contributed. Ms. Breaux explained the amounts contributed to the Foundation and that they would like to keep these numbers confidential. She then presented a check to the Council for \$200,000. This brings the total contributed by the ATF to \$1.45 million. Ms. Breaux said there is a question regarding a \$20,000 grant from the Film Society and asked if this amount could be considered as part of their repayment amount.

Ms. Breaux had a conversation with Mr. Wood, a major contributor, and naming rights were discussed but no specific details had been finalized with him. There was an expectation that the donation would result in a naming right.

Ms. Alpha had a phone conversation with Ms. Combs regarding her donation which also included future naming rights once they were identified.

Given the expectations for the naming rights, the ATF recommended that naming rights be granted to Ms. Combs and the David Wood Estates as presented. The other question City Council asked of the ATF board members was if there were any other donors that had expectations of receiving naming rights. Ms. Breaux said during the audit an additional request

was found in the letter of intent for naming rights for the balcony. This terrace was not part of the initial list of naming rights approved originally by City Council.

After a continued discussion regarding the contributions, the resolution, amending the current resolution, accepting the recommendation for the amounts already contributed, and going forward with additional naming rights, it was decided to bring this to a City Council meeting for a formal approval of the three contributors who have already contributed and to be able to move forward from this point. Ms. Breau said the ATF recommends that an appropriate group of individuals including Council and ATF board members establish other possible naming rights for further major fundraising efforts.

There was discussion on the time frames for the three naming rights being considered. It was suggested that there be more research on what was usual and customary for these types of rights.

City Council thanked the ATF and members for all their hard work.

Agenda Topic 3. Broadband Update

Jim Finlayson, Information Technology Director, provided an update on the progress since the Council retreat including progress with the Wireless Master Plan (WMP), using a broadband consultant, that the City joined the Next Century Cities, and the Mountain Connect Conference. Scott Hockins, Purchasing Supervisor, has joined the effort as the broadband lead. Councilmember Kennedy and Mr. Finlayson attended the Mountain Connect Conference and spoke with a Broadband Consultant.

Mr. Hockins described the related projects and how they build off of each other. There has been a \$150,000 grant awarded for the Mesa/Garfield Counties regional study, and each county will match \$25,000 each. The City of Grand Junction will play a big part in this, but the two counties will take the lead. Mr. Hockins described the Missoula, Montana process as an example to review, the Region 10 grant, and noted that the City is about a year behind in their efforts.

Councilmember Chazen asked about the grant monies that are available for the rural counties - is the City eligible for that? Mr. Finlayson said the City is eligible for the money for the study however the other grant money is focused on rural areas. Ms. Kathy Portner is looking at other grant opportunities and believes there are funds that would be available for the City.

Councilmember Kennedy said the DOLA grants are for the "middle mile"; the City is in need of funding for the "last mile".

Mr. Finlayson said he intends to work with Charter and CenturyLink as part of the study.

Mr. Hockins described the Council considerations which are: wait for the Mesa/Garfield Counties study before the City proceeds; hire their own consultant which would be faster and

could take about six months with a cost of about \$75,000; or select a pilot project, hire a consultant, and move forward with a pilot program.

There was discussion on possible pilot programs with Mr. Finlayson suggesting the downtown area as there is fiber and conduit already. Councilmember Kennedy said first they should have a plan and know the City assets to make sure the pilot project location fits with the Economic Development (ED) Plan. NEOfiber is in the consulting business and he would like to move forward in developing a Broadband Plan. The study should be specific just to Grand Junction and there are funds in the ED budget.

Interim City Manager (ICM) Moore recapped the discussion: hire a consultant and move forward with a Grand Junction Plan, revisit a pilot project at a workshop, determine where the pilot project will best serve the citizens, and determine the construction costs to implement the Plan in the near future.

Agenda Item 4. Other Business

Councilmember Chazen said he is not able to attend the Associated Governments of Northwest Colorado (AGNC) meeting in Hayden and asked if anyone could attend on his behalf. No one was able to attend in his place.

Agenda Item 5. Board Reports

Councilmember Taggart said that Ken Gart has been designated as the Bike Czar in Colorado and they are wanting to designate 16 new trails in Colorado. One of the new proposed trails will be Palisade Plunge. Also the USA Pro Challenge is wanting to talk to Grand Junction again.

Councilmember Traylor Smith followed up from Grand Junction Economic Partnership (GJEP) and the contacts GJEP made from the Logistics Conference.

Adjourn

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned.

**GRAND JUNCTION CITY COUNCIL
MONDAY, AUGUST 17, 2015**

**WORKSHOP, 5:00 P.M.
CITY HALL AUDITORIUM
250 N. 5TH STREET**

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

1. **Drainage Discussion:** An update to current discussions with the Grand Valley Drainage District.
2. **Avalon Theatre Foundation Update:** This is to update Council regarding the questions that were addressed at the July 6, 2015 workshop during the Avalon Theatre naming rights discussion for the two largest donors.
3. **Broadband Update:** Staff will update the City Council on the work to date and next steps for expanding and enhancing the broadband capacity in the City.
4. **Other Business**
5. **Board Reports**