

GRAND JUNCTION CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP SUMMARY
September 17, 2018

Meeting Convened: 5:31 p.m. in the City Hall Auditorium

Meeting Adjourned: 7:40 p.m.

City Councilmembers present: Councilmembers Chris Kennedy, Duncan McArthur, Phyllis Norris, Rick Taggart, and Mayor Barbara Traylor Smith.

Staff present: City Manager Greg Caton, City Attorney John Shaver, Finance Director Jodi Romero, Director of General Services Jay Valentine, Recreation Superintendent Traci Wieland, Public Works Director Trent Prall, Human Resources Director Claudia Hazelhurst, Benefits Coordinator Shelly Williams, and City Clerk Wanda Winkelmann.

Mayor Traylor Smith called the meeting to order.

Agenda Topic 1. Discussion Topics

a. Health Services Agreement with Marathon Health, LLC

City Manager Caton introduced the topic. The City of Grand Junction is planning to open a near-site health clinic as one of several initiatives to manage health care costs. The clinic will be used by current employees, their dependents, and retirees who are enrolled in a City health insurance plan. The goal of the clinic is that of offering a convenient, no cost medical, mental health, and wellness benefit to eligible patients but also to target, identify, and manage chronic illness to reduce future long-term medical costs. The clinic will be staffed and operated by Marathon Health, LLC, a company with over 35 years of experience in this field.

Randy Rush from Hub International discussed the history of the employer-sponsored health care model and clinics. Disruptive changes in the health care industry have created new solutions for employee health needs.

Project Manager David Ridley reviewed Marathon Health's history, including their 98% patient satisfaction and 96% employee satisfaction. In Colorado, they have eleven health centers. Mr. Ridley noted the clinics will offer urgent and acute care, and have a focus on preventive care. Mental health services will also be provided.

Expected outcomes include an approximate return on initial investment in the first year, and subsequent year returns (based on redirected care and predicated cost avoidance) results in approximate 2:1 return on investment.

Mr. Caton noted that the model is expandable in the event more hours are needed.

Fees for the initial year of this agreement are \$492,576 plus a one-time implementation fee of \$62,880. There will also be ongoing annual operating costs for the clinic space and related expenses. The expenses will be funded through the self-insurance program similar to other benefit and insurance programs of the City.

Understanding the positive effect a clinic can have on health care utilization, RMHP has agreed to contribute \$400,000 toward the first year cost of the clinic.

Discussion ensued about the hiring of local citizens as providers at the clinic, the availability of medical professionals, quotas of 12-15 appointments per day (with 25 minute appointments), increase in utilization, patient billing, benefit to employees, cost of facilities, contract termination, marketing to employees, wellness program, and an online portal.

Support was expressed for this item to be brought forward at the September 19 City Council meeting for formal consideration.

b. HopeWest Expansion Project

HopeWest is a constellation of programs, services and businesses operating across five rural counties of Western Colorado dedicated to building a community that transforms the experiences of aging, illness and grief for every family.

President and CEO Christy Whitney and Chief Development Officer Kathy O'Shea were present for this discussion. HopeWest has designed the Center for Living Your Best where participants will have access to an enriching environment and social gathering place, as well as access to services designed to enable people to stay in their own home as long as possible. HopeWest's goal is to create a healthy and meaningful life style for the aging population through The Center for Living Your Best.

Ms. Whitney reported they will be adding about 200 jobs over the next five years. She expressed her appreciation for being able to present this project to City Council.

c. Park and Open Space System

City Manager Caton presented the topic. The City's parks and open space system has many

acres of both developed and undeveloped land. City staff has identified undeveloped acreage within the system that has a higher and better uses either in furtherance of economic development or for park development. The properties that have been identified are a) 15 acres of the Las Colonias Business Park, b) 14 acres on the south side of the Matchett property frontage on Patterson Road and c) 41 acres (37 acres east of the driving range and a 4.2-acre parcel on the corner of South Broadway adjacent to the Tiara Rado Golf Course driving range). In accordance with the City Charter, property used or held for park purposes cannot be sold without a vote of the citizens.

Discussion ensued about how the sale proceeds would be spent, the fact that the City purchased the property known as Matchett Park, and Charter requirements regarding the sale of parks property.

Support was expressed for this endeavor. Next steps include amending the Matchett Park Master Plan and the Las Colonias Master Plan, which would include an extensive public process.

Agenda Topic 2. Next Workshop Topics

City Manager Caton reported the October 1 Workshop will be a presentation of the major departments operating budgets. The Workshop will begin at 4 p.m.

3. Other Business

Councilmember Norris suggested that a meeting be held with the irrigation company boards as talking face-to-face has value (instead of sending a letter). Support was expressed for this approach.

Adjournment

The Workshop adjourned at 7:40 p.m.