

GRAND JUNCTION CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP SUMMARY
December 17, 2018

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

Meeting Adjourned: 7:24 p.m.

City Councilmembers present: Councilmembers Bennett Boeschstein, Duncan McArthur, Phyllis Norris, Duke Wortmann, and Mayor Barbara Traylor Smith.

Staff present: City Manager Greg Caton, City Attorney John Shaver, Finance Director Jodi Romero, Director of Internal Services Jay Valentine, Budget Coordinator Linda Longenecker, Public Works Director Trent Prall, Fire Chief Ken Watkins, Deputy Police Chief Mike Nordine, Parks and Recreation Director Rob Schoeber, Assistant Director Traci Wieland, Assistant to the City Manager Greg LeBlanc, and City Clerk Wanda Winkelmann.

Mayor Traylor Smith called the meeting to order.

Agenda Topic 1. Discussion Topics: Items Relating to the April 2, 2019 Regular Municipal Election

- a. Proposed Projects Including Community Center, Portion of Orchard Mesa Middle School, and Partial Development of Matchett Park*

Rob Schoeber outlined the amenities included in the proposed Community Center and the facilities and proposed improvements at Orchard Mesa. Mr. Schoeber reviewed the proposed plan for the partial build-out of Matchett Park. Construction costs for the Community Center, Orchard Mesa, Matchett Park, and infrastructure are \$73.8M for 2018 figures; \$78.9M if built in 2020. Annual operating subsidy estimates are almost \$1.8M.

Discussion ensued regarding the partnership with Mesa County and the School District for the operations and funding of Orchard Mesa. It was noted that private recreation centers can co-exist and thrive when public community centers open.

For the above-mentioned improvements, a 0.39% increase in sales tax would be required. Council directed staff to draft language to put this on the April 2019 ballot. That language will be formally considered at the January 16 Regular Council meeting.

A break was called at 6:04 p.m. The workshop resumed at 6:09 p.m.

b. First Responder Needs

Mr. Caton noted a lot of discussion has occurred regarding the first responder needs for the operations and capital for the Fire Department and Police Department. The current total for first responders is \$9.6M.

Fire Department response times were reviewed that showed the core of the City receives a response time of fewer than six minutes; surrounding areas require a longer than six-minute response.

A national standard indicates police officers should have 37% availability of uncommitted hours towards proactive policing, directed patrol, and emergency calls; currently GJPD has a 10% availability.

Funding mechanisms were reviewed, including sales tax and property tax. First responder funding options were reviewed that include increasing the sales tax and eliminating property tax, and one option that addresses roadway expansion projects.

Mr. Caton reviewed the sales tax rates across the state.

Discussion ensued about the ballot question being a single subject, the fact that there are no caps on sales tax rates for home rule cities, possible future annexations, Mesa County as a funding partner, and grants received.

City Council support was expressed for Option E, which includes a 1.25% sales tax increase for Fire (0.35%), Police (0.15%), replacing Property Tax Revenue (0.50%), and Roadway Expansion Projects (0.25%).

c. Consideration of the Sale of Burkey Park

Mr. Caton noted that discussions have occurred about the possible sale of Burkey Park, with proceeds going towards the improvement of Matchett Park. Mr. Shaver stated that the Burkey property was donated in the 1960's with the hope that it would be developed as a park. If the sale of Burkey park was approved by the voters, a permanent structure would be built at Matchett Park that commemorates the Burkey family (such as a pavilion).

Support was expressed to put the sale of Burkey Park on the April ballot.

d. Possible Charter Amendments

Mr. Shaver discussed two “housekeeping” Charter amendments: the first provision is Section 119 of the Charter regarding the renewal of franchises (a conflict in language that has arisen as a result of federal legislation); the second provision concerns the length of term of leases from 25 years to 99 years. Each and every lease that would be approved would come before City Council.

Support was voiced for an ordinance to be considered on Wednesday’s Regular Council meeting for these two Charter amendments.

Agenda Topic 2. Next Workshop Topics

Presently no topic is set for the January 14 Workshop (no Workshop will be held on December 31).

3. Other Business

Councilmember McArthur reported he will not be in attendance at Wednesday’s Regular Meeting.

Adjournment

The Workshop adjourned at 7:24 p.m.