

GRAND JUNCTION CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING

July 3, 2019

The City Council of the City of Grand Junction convened into special session on the 3rd day of July 2019 at 6:01 p.m. Those present were Councilmembers Chuck McDaniel, Phyllis Norris, Phillip Pe'a, Anna Stout, Duke Wortmann, and Mayor Rick Taggart.

Also present were City Manager Greg Caton, City Attorney John Shaver, Assistant to the City Manager Greg LeBlanc, City Clerk Wanda Winkelmann, and Deputy City Clerk Selestina Sandoval.

Mayor Taggart called the meeting to order. Councilmember Wortmann led the Pledge of Allegiance.

City Council Questions of District E Candidates

Mayor Taggart introduced the candidates: Kraig Andrews, Michael Gibson, Daniel Fouts, Abram Herman, Sarah McCarthy, and Andrew Sweet. Mayor Taggart explained that the candidates will each be given the opportunity to provide an opening statement and answer six questions; City Council will ask follow-up questions and the candidates can provide a closing statement. The order that the questions were answered were rotated and candidates were given three minutes to respond.

Personal/opening statement. Please include in your statement your most important attributes (experience, training, personal qualities, etc.) that make you the best candidate to serve on Council. Also, please describe your volunteer civic activities.

Questions.

(1) Do you have any conflicts of interest that may interfere with your service on City Council? Are you willing to commit the time necessary to learn your job and serve as councilmember? Are you prepared to serve on City boards and or commissions in addition to your service on City Council? Understanding that personal and employment circumstances may change, do you presently intend to run for this Council seat in 2021?

(2) What do you see as the biggest issue facing the City? What would you do to address the issue?

(3) What are your budget priorities for the general fund? What are your priorities for capital spending? What are your views on TABOR? Should the Council propose de-Brucing to voters?

(4) The City is in the process of developing our Comprehensive Plan for implementation over the next several years. What are your thoughts for ensuring maximum citizen input for the Comprehensive Plan that is presently in development? What are your views balancing growth in the community while not sacrificing our citizens' quality of life?

A break was called for at 7:24 p.m. The meeting resumed at 7:32 p.m.

(5) Do you support economic development in Grand Junction and, if so, how would you go about it? What is the role of the City in economic development? What ideas do you have to diversify and improve our local economy? What are your views on the Las Colonias and Dos Rios developments?

(6) How important are parks, the arts, and cultural/recreational amenities to our City? What do you see as priorities for further development in this area?

Follow-up questions and closing statements.

Councilmember McDaniel asked Candidate Andrews questions about his resume and Mr. Andrews reported that his resume was shortened so that it would fit on one page. No additional follow-up questions were asked and each candidate made a closing statement.

Consideration of Next Steps

Discussion ensued about the next steps and the appointment process. Support was expressed for holding the discussion about the candidates and the subsequent final selection at the July 17, 2019 meeting. Also, upon Mr. Shaver's recommendation, there will not be public comment taken on the candidates as the Charter clearly states it is the Council's role to select the candidate. To allow for onboarding and orientation, the Council expressed support for swearing in the new Councilmember in time for him or her to be seated at the August 7, 2019 City Council meeting.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:36 p.m.

Wanda Winkelmann
City Clerk