GRAND JUNCTION CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP SUMMARY
November 4, 2019

Meeting Convened: 5:32 p.m. in the City Hall Auditorium

Meeting Adjourned: 6:50 p.m.

City Councilmembers present: Councilmembers Kraig Andrews, Chuck McDaniel, Phyllis Norris, Phil Pe'a, Anna Stout, Duke Wortmann, and Mayor Rick Taggart.

Staff present: City Manager Greg Caton, City Attorney John Shaver, Finance Director Jodi Romero, Budget Coordinator Linda Longenecker, Senior Assistant to the City Manager Greg LeBlanc, Visit Grand Junction Director Elizabeth Fogarty, Public Works Director Trent Prall, Fire Chief Ken Watkins, Deputy Fire Chief Chris Angermuller, Utilities Director Randi Kim, Parks & Recreation Director Ken Sherbenou, Community Development Director Tamra Allen, Police Chief Doug Shoemaker, Deputy Police Chief Matt Smith, and City Clerk Wanda Winkelmann.

Mayor Taggart called the meeting to order.

Agenda Topic 1. Discussion Topics

a. Budget Reconciliation

On September 30, the City Manager presented the 2020 Recommended Budget. Since that time the budget has been revised. The changes are related to capital and economic development funding and have been balanced within the 5-year capital plan. There were no changes to the General Fund surplus or fund balance. The total budget has increased by $3.6 million for the addition of the Dos Rios Pedestrian Bridge Project that is 86% grant funded and the increase in the scholarship funding to Colorado Mesa University. The 2020 Recommended Budget is now $162.3 million.

The next steps are public hearings on November 20 and December 4.

b. Catholic Outreach Presentation by Sister Karen Bland

Sister Karen stated this request is for a $500,000 grant towards the purchase of the Downtown Suites, which has 45 small apartments. The apartments would be used for affordable housing and the building is currently on the market for $4.8M.

Discussion ensued about the housing of individuals who are chronically homeless. Support was expressed to fund the grant request.

c. Fire Department Community Stakeholder Discussion and Survey

The Fire Department is working through the multi-year process to become accredited through the Center for Public Safety Excellence. The first major step in accomplishing accreditation status is the completion of a comprehensive community stakeholder session. Chief Watkins and Deputy Chief Angermuller presented a summary of the process and reviewed the required community stakeholder session.

City Council was given a copy of the survey that is included in the community stakeholder session. Individuals will have the opportunity to complete an online survey.

d. Discussion of 2019 Strategic Plan

The Strategic Plan is a tool used by elected officials and city staff to both guide policy creation and focus efforts during the next two years. The overall purpose of the Strategic Plan is to direct decision-making and budgeting by the City of Grand Junction and to provide guidance to staff. The plan also communicates the City's priorities as set by City Council.

This plan is organized around a framework of four strategic directives. A strategic directive is a high-level priority that is articulated in a way that effectively describes a community priority. Each strategic directive is accompanied by a number of key initiatives. These key initiatives are more specific actions, programs, and ideas designed to aid in achieving the goals set by the strategic directives. These directives include:

- Public Safety
- Planning & Infrastructure
- Diversification of our Economic Base
- Community Building & Engagement

Recently there have been some additional thoughts and suggestions regarding the Community Building & Engagement directive and questions whether, as drafted, it fully captures the intent of City Council. Upon approval of the substantive content in the Plan, a final product will be produced with refreshed images.

Support was expressed to add the term "connectedness" to the Community Building Directive and add a resolution to the November 6 City Council meeting to adopt the Strategic Plan.

Agenda Topic 2. Next Workshop Topics

City Manager Caton noted that the November 18 workshop will include a discussion of the Redevelopment Area.

Additionally, a request was received from GJ Maverick, LLC to consider disconnection from the City and exclusion from the Persigo 201 Service Area Boundary of their 17.5-acre property located at 2428 H Road. This item will be added to the November 18 workshop.

3. Other Business

Councilmember Norris requested that the November 6 City Council consent agenda item regarding the bid for Fire Station #6 be moved to the Discussion Agenda as she has questions regarding how the bid was awarded.

Mayor Taggart reminded City Council that the performance evaluations for the City Manager and City Attorney are due on Friday.

Adjournment

The Workshop adjourned at 6:50 p.m.