

GRAND JUNCTION CITY COUNCIL MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING

June 28, 2021

The City Council of the City of Grand Junction convened into special session on the 28th day of June 2021 at 5:30 p.m. Those present were Councilmembers Abe Herman, Phillip Pe'a, Randall Reitz, Dennis Simpson, Anna Stout, and Council President Chuck McDaniel. Councilmember Rick Taggart was absent.

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

Council President McDaniel called the meeting to order.

OTHER ACTION ITEMS

- a. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Placing Charter Amendments on the November 2021 Ballot

- i. Colorado Discover Ability (CDA) – Terms of Lease

In 2017 the City leased property on Struthers Avenue to CDA for 25 years. Since then CDA has successfully built a building and expanded its programs which provide year-round adaptive recreational experiences for people with disabilities; however, the short term (25 year) lease does not provide certainty as to the location of the program and continued investment that a long term (99 year) lease provides. The lease is for 1.1169 acre/48,621 square feet of property in the Las Colonias Park located at 599 Struthers Avenue and applies to no other City property.

Leasing of any public property is permissive and within the sole and sound discretion of the City Council on terms it deems necessary and appropriate, including the acreage of any parcel, and the compensation to be paid; amending the Charter will only change the possible term of the lease. The long-term lease, if the Charter amendment is approved by the voters, will be subject to review and approval by the City Council and will include a specific covenant that the lease is only for the use and benefit of CDA.

Discussion ensued about the timing of this item and if it can be placed on a future ballot.

Councilmember Stout moved to direct staff to prepare an ordinance for the July 7 City Council meeting to place a Charter Amendment on the November 2021 ballot regarding the terms of lease for Colorado Discover Ability, seconded by Councilmember Pe'a. The motion passed unanimously via voice vote.

ii. Municipal Elections – Move from April to November

At the May 3 Workshop, City Council held a discussion about options for future elections. While the City of Grand Junction has contracted with Mesa County Elections for many years to conduct the City's April elections, the County Clerk has requested that the City move its regular municipal elections to November to coincide with their election cycle.

In order to do so, a Charter amendment would be required. To meet the required deadlines to participate in this November's election, an ordinance placing Charter Amendments to change the election date and extend the terms of Councilmembers from April to November would be included on the July 7 City Council meeting agenda.

Alternatively, the City could choose to run its own municipal elections.

Conversation was held regarding the cost for future elections, how the City's participation in November elections saves costs for other participating entities, and the election of the County Clerk in 2022.

Councilmember Herman moved to direct staff to prepare an ordinance for the July 7 City Council meeting to place a Charter Amendment on the November 2021 ballot regarding moving the municipal election from April to November, second by Councilmember Simpson. The motion failed with Councilmembers Herman, Reitz, Stout and Council President McDaniel voting no.

b. Approval of Strategic Plan Consultant: A Resolution Authorizing a Contract with S-Brand Solutions, LLC for Consulting and Facilitation Services

The Strategic Plan is a tool used by City Council to guide policy creation and to focus the efforts of the organization during the next two years. The Strategic Plan aids in the implementation of the Comprehensive Plan, directs the decision-making process, and provides high-level direction for the organization.

For the development of the upcoming 2021 Strategic Plan, staff solicited a request for proposals by consultants. There were 22 responses and a review committee of City Council and staff reviewed the proposals and selected a finalist, S-Brand, based on price, qualifications and relevant local government experience. The next step in the selection process is for City Council to approve the selection of S-Brand as the consultant for the development of the Strategic Plan.

Councilmember Reitz moved to adopt Resolution No. 51-21, a resolution authorizing a contract with S-Brand Solutions, LLC for consulting and facilitation services, seconded by Councilmember Simpson. The motion passed unanimously via voice vote.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:12 p.m.

Wanda Winkelmann, MMC
City Clerk

