

GRAND JUNCTION CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP SUMMARY
November 29, 2021

Meeting Convened: 5:32 p.m. Meeting held in person at the Fire Department Administration Building, 625 Ute Avenue, and live streamed via GoToWebinar.

Meeting Adjourned: 8:32 p.m.

City Councilmembers present: Councilmembers Abe Herman, Phil Pe'a, Randall Reitz, Dennis Simpson, Anna Stout, Rick Taggart, and Mayor Chuck McDaniel.

Staff present: City Manager Greg Caton, City Attorney John Shaver, Utilities Director Randi Kim, Water Services Manager Mark Ritterbush (virtual), Senior Assistant to the City Manager Greg LeBlanc, Management Analyst Johnny McFarland, City Clerk Wanda Winkelmann, and Deputy City Clerk Janet Harrell.

Mayor McDaniel called the meeting to order.

Agenda Topic 1. Discussion Topics

a. Strategic Plan Discussion

The City Council attended a strategic planning session on August 19 and 20, 2021. The purpose of the session was to identify key components of Grand Junction's 2-year strategic plan, including mission and vision for the strategic plan, along with designating priority areas for strategic goal development. The information gathered at the planning session informed the writing of the final strategic plan. The strategic plan will be specifically designed to align with the One Grand Junction Comprehensive Plan.

Sheryl Trent with SBrand Solutions provided an update on the strategic plan. It is designed to be a communication tool with the community, new Council, etc. It is a two-year window for this Council and extends into the future as a living document. The goal is a document that Council could reach consensus on and adopt as a resolution. The strategic plan goals are tied into the Comprehensive Plan.

Discussion ensued regarding the strategic plan being a reflection of this Council's priorities for the next two years, removal of the chart/graphic on page 8, the deadline for changes, the value of discussing the document as a Council, a draft with new comments incorporated into the document due to City Council by Tuesday of next week, action steps and tactical goals, and the targeted audience for the plan is the community.

The next steps are for Council to receive a new draft with comments incorporated from Ms. Trent, and then the Council will meet to edit and finalize the document.

b. Long-Term Water Supply and Infrastructure Planning

The primary water supply for the City of Grand Junction is the Kannah Creek watershed on the Grand Mesa. Water infrastructure associated with the Kannah Creek watershed includes a system of 19 reservoirs, two water supply pipelines that convey water from the Juniata Reservoir and Kannah Creek to the City, and the Grand Junction water treatment plant. The Kannah Creek water supply is sufficient to meet projected average water demands for the City's service area through 2039. Challenges associated with the Kannah Creek watershed and associated infrastructure include aging infrastructure; potential risks associated with drought, climate change, wildfires, or malevolent acts; and the capacity of the system to meet future water demands.

In 2018, staff initiated water supply planning activities to address operational reliability, risk resiliency, and long-term water supply needs for the City. In addition, planning efforts included a review of the City's portfolio of water rights, which also include significant water rights on the Colorado and Gunnison rivers, to determine how they could be best utilized by the City or other partners through a water marketing study co-funded by a \$200,000 grant from the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation. In an April 23, 2021 memorandum to Council, staff provided an update on the progress of the water supply planning efforts.

Utility Director Randi Kim and Matt Bliss with DiNatale Water Consultants provided an update on the water supply planning activities completed to date and requested input from the Council on the shortlist of viable options identified for further development.

Discussion ensued regarding options for future water supply, the different districts serving Grand Junction residents and the agreements involved, the Ute water plan, use of Gunnison River water, utilization of the City's water rights, water available for marketing (Colorado River and Gunnison River), options for further development, and redundancies included in the budget for Kannah Creek and Purdy Mesa.

Next steps include further development of recommended options, identify funding and grant opportunities, and follow up at a future Council workshop.

A break was called at 7:44 p.m. The meeting resumed at 7:51 p.m.

c. ARPA Committee Member Discussion

The City is expected to receive approximately \$10.4 million of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds and is allowed to retain \$3.9 million for sales tax losses in 2020 (lodging tax losses were approximately \$1 million). This would leave \$6.5 million to be spent according to Federal criteria.

Council members have each reviewed the 35 applications received for the American Rescue Plan Advisory Committee (ARPAC) and selected five nominations. These nominations are based on experience, expertise, or interests in the community that pertain to the use of the American Rescue Plan State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds. The intent of the ARPAC is to advise City Council by providing a menu of options and recommended actions for the use of ARPA funds.

Of the 35 applications, the City Council nominated a total of 21 applicants (several applicants were nominated by more than one Councilmember but only one received support from four members of Council). Because there was not strong support for a slate of twelve among the nominations, the Agenda Committee has proposed that each Councilmember reconsider the applications and propose an additional seven committee members (for a total of 12 names from each Councilmember). The intent of the additional names is to provide clearer expression of Council's support among the nominations by having more names from each member.

Discussion ensued about the sales tax losses and the suggested practice of waiting to spend ARPA funds in case the Federal criteria is expanded to include additional uses. Staff was asked to determine if lost lodging tax revenue (\$1 million) must be directed back towards the identified purposes of the tax.

By January 6, City Council will submit seven additional names of applicants from the 21 applicants noted above.

Agenda Topic 2. City Council Communication

Mayor McDaniel noted that a City leadership social gathering is scheduled for Thursday night. Several other events are also being held that evening, such as the Grand Junction Economic Partners (GJEP) holiday party and the lighting of the menorah.

Councilmember Stout stated that there is a ribbon cutting on Saturday for Homeward Hounds, a program that provides temporary shelter for people experiencing homelessness with their pets. Ten Pallet Shelters have been erected at HomewardBound's North Avenue location. The ceremony is being held at 4:30 p.m.

Councilmember Taggart reported that a proposal will be presented to Council for public markets. A feasibility study is being developed to gauge the viability of bringing vendors of agricultural goods together in one location instead of multiple farmer's markets.

Agenda Topic 3. Next Workshop Topics

City Manager Caton stated the December 13 workshop topics are:

- Richmark Presentation: Former City Market building on 1st Street
- Board and Commission Interview Process

Agenda Topic 4. Other Business

There was none.

Adjournment

The workshop adjourned at 8:32 p.m.