

**GRAND JUNCTION CITY COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING**

**October 21, 2009**

The City Council of the City of Grand Junction convened into regular session on the 21<sup>st</sup> day of October 2009 at 7:00 p.m. in the City Auditorium. Those present were Councilmembers Teresa Coons, Tom Kenyon, Gregg Palmer, Bill Pitts, Linda Romer Todd, and Council President Bruce Hill. Councilmember Bonnie Beckstein was absent. Also present were City Manager Laurie Kadrach, City Attorney John Shaver, and Deputy City Clerk Juanita Peterson.

Council President Hill called the meeting to order. Councilmember Coons led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Citizen Comments**

There were none.

**City Manager's Report**

Laurie Kadrach, City Manager, presented the Third Quarter Financial Report for 2009 and explained why the 2009 tax revenues are comparable to 2006. There has been a decline in new construction activity, a loss of \$150 million in development projects, which has significantly impacted City revenues. The City has been seeking additional funding, specifically an increase in the 911 surcharge to be used for equipment replacement and technology upgrades at the Communication Center. City Attorney John Shaver has filed the paper work for this project. Funding through Senate bills and Federal and State grants are also being pursued. Ms. Kadrach introduced Elizabeth Tice as the lead staff person for grant funding.

Ms. Elizabeth Tice, City Auditor, presented an update on the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) which has been put into a brochure. On September 15, the City submitted their final known application. The City has been awarded \$1.9 million through ARRA; \$500,000 was a direct allocation and the rest was through the competitive bid process. \$1.3 for the COPS program and \$100,000 for the 800 mHZ system. Currently the City is awaiting word on the status of grant applications totaling \$25.1 million; funding for the two fire stations, 29 Road and the Persigo Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) project. The direct funding received by the City was the Justice Assistance grant, the Energy Efficiency grant and the additional funding for the Community Development Block Grant program. Other funding that has impacted the valley in addition to the direct funding is \$1 million of Section 8 Housing assistance, the \$1.4 million to the City in competitive awards, the direct funding to Mesa County for \$2.9 million, Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) funding for \$7.6 million, the airport received \$9.3 million and there has been \$10.4 million of additional

unemployment benefits paid to valley residents. Lastly, education received \$15 million; \$4 million to the college and \$11 million to the school district. That is a total of \$48 million for the valley.

Councilmember Kenyon asked if there was a way to know if the City will be successful in getting what has been requested. Ms. Tice responded that she believes the City has a good chance for the 29 Road grant and CNG project. The 29 Road project is a perfect fit for the funding criteria. However, the chances may be slim for the Fire Station grants.

Councilmember Kenyon asked who is involved with making the selection for the 29 Road grant. Ms. Tice responded that the decision is made at the federal level under the Department of Transportation.

Councilmember Coons asked if the City is competing for grants with the entire Country. Ms. Tice said yes, \$1.5 billion is allocated for the entire Country. The City is competing within the State for these grants as the funding must be allocated geographically, but Grand Junction is within the top five competitors. There are thirty projects in Colorado but only seven were endorsed by the Governor of Colorado.

City Manager Kadrach said the City feels really good about the work and applications that have been done. If not awarded the first time around, the opportunity could come back around and the City will be ready.

City Manager Kadrach advised that unemployment has declined to 8.2%. There are still concerns with the gap between the workforce and employment.

Relative to the Cash for Clunkers Program, Ms. Kadrach noted the auto industry has seen a serious reduction in sales however there was a spike in July and August due to the Cash for Clunkers program. There will likely be an increase in registration fees once the temporary tags for these car purchases expire.

Ms. Kadrach reported that natural gas prices are still just as volatile as was reported last time. There are those that say the supply is up so that will keep prices down and those that say since gas is being exported, the prices could go up. Bottom line, the situation is very volatile and not predictable. However the good news is that the major companies like Williams, Encana, and Chevron are still working and investing in this region. Red Cliff Mine is still going forward in the Loma/Mack area with their expansion. They are in the Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process. Once they get going, the expansion will employ 200-250 people and then once done they will hire more miners. If the Pinon Ridge Uranium Mill is approved, they are projected to begin construction in 2011 and costs for this will be \$130 million dollars which could positively

impact the community if supplies are purchased in the area, and there will also be a significant amount of positions open for employment.

Councilmember Kenyon asked if in the future he would like information on the proposed nuclear power plant in Green River to see if it is viable. City Manager Kadrich replied Staff will begin to track this as well.

### **CONSENT CALENDAR**

Councilmember Coons read Consent Calendar items and then moved to approve items #1 through #4. Councilmember Palmer seconded the motion. Motion carried by roll call vote.

1. **CDBG Subrecipient Contracts for Projects within the 2009 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program Year**

The Subrecipient Contracts formalize the City's award of a total of \$238,201 to various non-profit organizations allocated from the City's 2009 CDBG Program as previously approved by Council.

*Action: Authorize the City Manager to Sign the Subrecipient Contracts with Riverside Task Force, Inc. and the Western Slope Center for Children for the City's 2009 Program Year funds*

2. **Contract for Cemetery Building Construction**

This approval request is for the contract award for the construction of a Customer Service / Administrative Office and Maintenance Operations Facility at the City Cemetery. The new facility is an integral part of a big picture master plan for Park Operations Divisions. Moving forward at this time is multi beneficial:

- Take advantage of extremely competitive contractor bids as well as providing a large project to a local contractor
- Move the South West area City Park staff to the new facility
- Provide much needed grave spaces for future sales.

*Action: Authorize the Purchasing Division to Enter into a Contract with Vostatek Construction, Inc. for the Construction of a Shop/Office Building in the Amount of \$312,934.69*

3. **Purchase Playground Equipment for Melrose Park**

The redevelopment plan for Melrose Park has been in progress since the summer of 2008 when funds were earmarked in the 2009 Capital Improvement Plan. The 2009 budget included \$200,000 for restroom/shelter reconstruction and \$100,000 for playground replacement. Several months of community meetings and planning have taken place and a Great Outdoors Colorado grant has been awarded. The shelter/restroom project is almost completed, and replacement of the playground is the next phase of the redevelopment.

*Action: Authorize the City Purchasing Division to Purchase the Melrose Park Playground Equipment from 4 Corners Park and Playground, Inc. for a Total of \$163,850.37*

4. **Horizon Drive Association Business Improvement District 2010 Operating Plan and Budget**

Every business improvement district is required to file an operating plan and budget with the City Clerk by September 30 each year. The City Council is then required to approve the plan and budget within thirty days and no later than December 5. Horizon Drive Association Business Improvement District filed their 2010 Operation Plan and Budget. It has been reviewed by Staff and found to be reasonable.

*Action: Approve Horizon Drive Association Business Improvement District's 2010 Operating Plan and Budget*

### **ITEMS NEEDING INDIVIDUAL CONSIDERATION**

#### **Melrose Park Name Change to Rocket Park**

The 2009 redevelopment plan for Melrose Park has been in progress since the summer of 2008 with several months of planning and four community meetings. The community meetings and surveys resulted in a plethora of outstanding feedback from the neighborhood including the popular opinion that the official name of the park should be changed from Melrose Park to Rocket Park. The name, Rocket Park, would:

1. Provide name consistency and ease of recognition since the park is actually rarely referred to as Melrose Park, even by staff
2. Solidify the historical importance of the 30 foot high rocket structure that has been the focal point of Melrose Park since it was installed in the 1960's
3. Grant the neighborhood and surrounding community an opportunity to weigh in on decisions they feel are important to them

Rob Schoeber, Parks and Recreation Director, presented this item and introduced two of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board members, Lenna Watson and Yvette Carnine. Mr. Schoeber explained the request for the name change and redevelopment process, which has been in the works for a year. The majority of the public has called this park Rocket Park, hence the name change.

Lenna Watson gave an explanation on the process of the research of the name and how the process was done.

Council President Hill said the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board did not take this project lightly. He applauded the Parks Staff and Advisory Committee for their due diligence to make sure this was a sound decision.

Councilmember Kenyon asked how the City will continue to have an icon to make sure it is still known as Rocket Park.

Mr. Schoeber said the rocket is being repainted and will become a piece of art to be re-erected in a corner of the park. Mr. Schoeber then gave an update of the rest of the improvements to this park. The total phase should be completed by spring.

Councilmember Kenyon expressed his appreciation for the work done by the Parks and Recreation Department and the Advisory Committee to make everyone involved happy.

Lenna Watson thanked Council for giving the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board the opportunity to do this project.

Councilmember Palmer stated his grandchildren are also pleased about the name change to Rocket Park.

Resolution No. 83-09—A Resolution Renaming Melrose Park to Rocket Park

Councilmember Palmer moved to adopt Resolution No. 83-09. Councilmember Kenyon seconded the motion. Motion carried by roll call vote.

### **Non-Scheduled Citizens & Visitors**

There were none.

### **Other Business**

There was none.

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Juanita Peterson, CMC  
Deputy City Clerk