

February 12, 2019

**CITY OF GUNNISON COUNCIL  
REGULAR SESSION MEETING MINUTES**

5:30P.M.

The City Council Regular Session meeting was called to order at 5:31 P.M., by Mayor James Gelwicks with Councilors Mallory Logan, Jim Miles, Bob Drexel, and Leia Morrison present along with Western Liaison Max Oldham, City Attorney Kathy Fogo, City Manager Russ Forrest, Finance Director Ben Cowan, and City Clerk Erica Boucher. Additional City staff present were Court Clerk Melissa McLeod, Senior Planner Andie Ruggera, Community Development Director Anton Sinkewich, Public Works Director David Gardner, GIS Technician Lisa Starkebaum, and Police Chief Keith Robinson. Additional Public Works staff present were Electric Supervisor Will Dowis, Streets and Alleys Supervisor Greg Summers, and Streets and Alleys employee Tom Williams. J Wenum, Brandon Diamond, Nick Gallowich, and Chris Parmeter of Colorado Parks and Wildlife were present. Carlie Kenton and Alysa VandenHeuvel of the Gunnison Arts Center were also there. 25 interested citizens were present to hear Citizen Input and presentations. The press was present. A Council quorum was present.

**Citizen Input:**

Erik Shanks of Western Colorado University's Club Sports Council approached Council to give an update on their recent activities. Mr. Shanks informed Council that Club Sports Council is hosting its first figure staking event on Friday, February 15<sup>th</sup>. The Council also experienced a successful Rail Jam event at Cranor Hill and Super Bowl canned food drive.

Hunter Edberg, a second year Master in Environmental Management (MEM) student at Western Colorado University, approached Council to speak about his work with Solarize Gunnison County and the study released by Sustainable Development Strategies Group (SDSG) which examines MEAN, one of the City's energy providers. Through his research for the SDSG report, Mr. Edberg concluded that some of the City's policies inhibit the expansion of small- and wide-scale solar energy development and that current policies do not make it cost effective for resident to transition towards solar energy. He specifically identified the City's net metering policy. He stated that other energy providers, GCEA for example, have a 1:1 production/consumption net metering policy that operates on an annual basis. The City of Gunnison is not currently practicing a 1:1 production/consumption and reimburses customers on a monthly basis. He recommended that Gunnison move to a 1:1 kWh production/consumption ration and transition to an annual reimbursement. Mr. Edberg asked that Council review and examine its current policies to encourage more small-scale and wide-scale passive solar energy production. He also suggested that Council review Chapters 1, 4, and 6 of the SDSG. Mayor Gelwicks encouraged Mr. Edberg to attend the Comprehensive Plan Community Input Meeting on February 25<sup>th</sup> and to participate in the City's creation of a sustainability policy.

Steve Schechter is an electric rate and net metering rate customer of the City. He is very supportive of the development of passive solar. He would like to see the City show more support for it as well and revise policies to encourage residents to develop and use passive solar, such as a 1:1 production/consumption. Mr. Schechter recommended that Council and staff participate in more educational opportunities on solar energy. Mr. Schechter expressed a desire to see more transparency from the City and its contract with MEAN. He would like to have more communication and clarity from the City after board meetings and overall opposes the City's contract with MEAN. He encouraged Council and the City to work with other municipalities and energy providers that offer clean energy. He thanked Western students for their work on the SDSG report and for the opportunity to speak before Council.

Edward Morrison asked for clarification as to why the City has a policy in place which seems to state that the City will pay a 1:1 production/consumption net metering ratio on a yearly basis, but is not directly practicing that policy. Council stated that they would follow up with staff on his question and get clarification.

Richard Stenson thanked Council, staff, and the community for paying attention to the issue of solarizing Gunnison. He offered his support and expertise on passive solar energy. He also stated that the ordinance on net metering is lacking clarity. He suggested that a local and global focus on solar energy could be an economic generator and would be well supported throughout the community.

City Manager Forrest stated that the City has engaged Dr. Abel Chavez of Western and two MEM students to help develop a sustainability policy for the Comprehensive Plan and encouraged those in the audience to attend the Community Input Meeting on February 25<sup>th</sup> at the Gunnison Elementary School. He also stated that the community will have nearly a year to give feedback to the City on the Comprehensive Plan.

Council Drexel stepped out of the Regular Session meeting at 5:48 p.m. to take a phone call and was not available to vote on the action items.

**Council Action Items:**

**Approval of the January 22, 2019 Regular Session meeting minutes:** Councilor Miles moved to approve the January 22, 2019, Regular Session meeting minutes and Councilor Morrison seconded the motion. There was a

note that Councilor Logan should abstain from the vote due to her absence from the January 22, 2019, Regular Session meeting.

Roll call, yes: Miles, Gelwicks, and Morrison. So carried.

Roll call, abstain: Logan.

Roll call, no: None.

**Excuse Councilor Logan from the January 22, 2019 meeting:** Council Morrison moved to excuse Councilor Logan from the January 22, 2019, Regular Session meeting and Councilor Miles second the motion.

Roll call, yes: Morrison, Miles, and Gelwicks. So carried.

Roll call, abstain: Logan.

Roll call, no: None.

**Ordinance No. 1, Series 2019, Second Reading:** *An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Gunnison amending Sections: 2.3 Designated Housing Types; 2.4 Principle Use Table; 2.6 Base Zone District Dimensional Standards; 3.3 Residential Use Standards adding Cluster Development Housing Standards; 3.7 Commercial Use Standards; and 4.4 Off-Street Parking and Loading with the City of Gunnison Land Development Code.* Councilor Logan introduced Ordinance No. 1, Series 2019 and asked that it be read by title only by the City Attorney. The City Attorney read Ordinance No. 1, Series 2019 by title only. Councilor Logan moved to approve Ordinance No. 1, Series 2019 and Councilor Morrison seconded the motion.

Mayor Gelwicks asked for the Planning and Zoning Commission to do an additional review of multiple units/ADUs in the R-1 district with emphasis on retaining the appearance of single family structures with possible detached and attached garages. This request to review structures in R-1 does not affect passage of Ordinance No. 1, Series 2019 because this ordinance does not address the R-1 district. After a brief discussion, Council directed the Planning and Zoning Commission to complete an additional review of the R-1 district.

Roll call, yes: Morrison, Logan, Miles, and Gelwicks. So carried.

Roll call, no: None.

**Small Business Development Center (SBDC) request.** Currently, the SBDC is lacking a physical location to operate out of and as a SBDC consultant Councilor Logan expressed favor for housing in the SBDC in the Gunnison County Chamber of Commerce. She stated that this would be an appropriate location for the SBDC to offer their services out of and an effective way to keep this regional organization in the Gunnison Valley. It was confirmed that the SBDC would have to hire a director. The SBDC has received \$20,000 in financial commitments thus far and is working to gather \$50,000 by the end of the year. The Mayor suggested allowing the Chamber to modify their contract with the City in order to contribute \$5,000 to support the SBDC annually so long as the general functioning of the Chamber of Commerce remains high. Councilor Morrison moved to authorize the Chamber of Commerce to reallocate \$5,000 in 2019 to host the SBDC regional office and then doing so in future years on an annual basis. Councilor Logan seconded the motion.

Roll call, yes: Morrison, Logan, Miles, and Gelwicks. So carried.

Roll call, no: None.

Mayor Gelwicks noted that there is letter before Council addressed to the SBDC stating Gunnison's support of keeping the SBDC in Gunnison. Councilor Morrison emphasized the importance of maintaining the SBDC in Gunnison for strategic priorities and because of Gunnison's central location. Councilor Logan moved to sign a letter of support to maintain the West Central SBDC in Gunnison. Councilor Morrison seconded the motion.

Roll call, yes: Logan, Miles, Gelwicks, and Morrison.

Roll call, no: None.

Councilor Drexel returned to the meeting.

**ICELab Discussion and Update.** City Manager Russ Forrest introduced John Norton to Council. John Norton gave Council a summary of the work that the Gunnison-Crested Butte Tourism Association (TA) completed in 2018 and discussed how the Gunnison-Crested Butte Tourism Association recently absorbed the ICELab@Western, which will maintain its own name and location at Western. With the ICELab moving under the leadership of John Norton as well as the TA's continuing work with the Sustainable Tourism and Outdoor Recreation Committee (STOR) and commitment to developing and diversifying the valley economy, a new organization evolved to encompass and acknowledge each of these keys players in developing the Valley's economy and tourism. The TA has emerged and rebranded itself as the Tourism and Prosperity Partnership (TAPP). TAPP is committed to diversifying and developing the local economy in a sustainable manner through leadership on the Sustainable Tourism and Outdoor Recreation Committee, support for Western Colorado University, and the creation of entrepreneurial opportunities (e.g. ICELab). Even though a new organization has recently been created much of the work the organizations were previously doing will continue under the umbrella of TAPP. For example, the ICELab is preparing to launch a Capulet and Accelerator program in March and still is offering communal work space. Recreational signage will continue to emerge throughout the Valley, and a focus on tourism and developing prosperity will remain at TAPP's forefront. Mr. Norton mentioned that the ICELab@Western is looking to hire a new director after the departure of its previous director. Overall, Mr. Norton is positive and optimistic about the direction and future of TAPP. Council thanked him for his update.

**Gunnison Arts Center Discussion.** Executive Director Carlie Kenton came before Council to give an update on the Gunnison Arts Center and its programs, contribution to the community, and use of City funding. Executive Director Kenton highlighted the Center's variety of programs that are offered throughout the year to a wide range of residents. Overall, the Center has received positive feedback from their participants based on survey results and continually look for new ways to expand their offerings and increase their participation numbers. Ms. Kenton also noted that having the Arts Center in Gunnison adds to the economic vibrancy of the City as art patrons spend \$24/person on non-event related items when events are taking place. Furthermore, Ms. Kenton stated that 11% of the Art Center's budget comes from City grants and funding. These funds are used to support the Summer Concert Series and to help offer free and low cost educational programs for younger residents. Council asked Ms. Kenton a few follow up questions about serving Gunnison's Limited English Proficiency (LEP) residents and the high school population as part of Gunny Hang-outs. Council thanked Executive Director Kenton for her informative presentation, time, and dedication to offering arts in the community.

Council took a break and returned at 6:50 p.m.

**Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) Bears and Trash Presentation and Discussion.** J Wenum, Area Wildlife Manager of CPW, thanked Council for inviting CPW to come and speak about increasing interactions between bears and humans, especially during the months prior to hibernation. Three CPW District Managers took turns to speak about the natural and adapted behaviors of bears particularly regarding their need for food for survival. First, CPW District Manager Brandon Diamond spoke about the biological nature and needs of bears and explained why gaining as many calories as possible in the fall is so important for the animals and how that need has led to increased interactions between bears and humans. Second, District Manager Nick Gallowich discussed CPW's four categories of bears. They are nuisance, depredating, dangerous, and plain ol' bears. He also informed Council about the variety of ways that CPW can deter or put an immediate stop to bears entering into human populated areas in search of food. Third, CPW District Manager Chris Parmeter shared with Council that the CPW has a limited toolbox available to them to handle bears coming into towns; therefore, the best preventive measure a community has is having humans change their actions and behaviors in ways that will discourage bears from seeking foods in human populated areas. For example, if people don't overfill their outdoor trash containers, bears will not come into town looking for an easy meal. District Manager Parmeter also discussed two success stories of decreasing interactions between humans and bears. The examples were from Lake City, CO and Durango, CO. Parmeter summarized the two most impactful actions humans can take to reduce negative interactions with bears. One is education to modify human behavior and the second is regulation such as wildlife protection ordinances at the state and local levels. Council and Mr. Wenum had a brief discussion regarding local issues with bears after the district managers included their presentation. Both Council and CPW support working together and with other agencies to educate locals and visitors about best practices for discouraging intrusive and potentially destructive bear behaviors in town.

**Trash Discussion.** Public Works Director David Gardner, Streets and Alleys Supervisor Greg Summers, and GIS Technician/administrative assistant Lisa Starkebaum approached Council to present their PowerPoint outlining the issues regarding refuse and recycling collection in the City. Some of the biggest and repeated issues are overfilled trash cans and dumpsters. When trash cans and dumpsters are overfilled, it creates an opportunity for wildlife to get into the trash and often results in trash being scattered on the streets and in the alleys. Also when trashcan lids cannot be closed, the process of collecting the refuse becomes very time-consuming for staff. Additionally, repeated offenses of overfilled cans will result in the breakdown of trash cans and equipment. Another struggle for refuse employees is when trash and recyclable items are co-mingled or containers are filled with snow, ice, or water. The health and safety of refuse employees is also a concern because at times they have to enter into the refuse truck to complete a pick-up. Also vehicles parked in front of dumpsters or trash cans is troublesome as that collection is unable to be gathered. Overall, the revenues collected from refuse (\$579,500) and recycling operations does not cover its operational costs (\$777,366). Public Works Director Gardner also suggested that the City remove itself from the business of collecting recycling from commercial businesses as it is extremely time-consuming, the City rates are not competitive, and it prohibits the Streets and Alleys department from resolving other Public Works work orders.

City staff acknowledges that more education should be done in a continuing effort to get residents to adjust their behavior regarding refuse. City staff made the following recommendations to Council. They are: 1) having the City remove itself from commercial recycling; 2) eliminate the small 38-gallon trash cans; 3) require residents to store their trash can out of the alley, in a garage, inside a fence and out of the way of the refuse truck and away from electric meters; 4) begin to charge fines and/or discontinue serve until the residents abide by City rules; 6) do to more education to the public about refuse and recycling collection; and 7) create a steering committee to follow up on education, develop/revise policies, examine rates, and address overall issues related to refuse and recycling. Council supported the creation of a steering committee comprised of City staff, County staff, Western, CPW, and others who are deemed appropriate. Council asked that the committee come before Council in the future with recommendations.

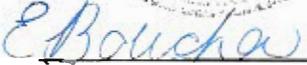
Police Chief Keith Robinson gave his semi-annual Police Department report. He spoke directly to the Police Department's seven Strategic Statements. For each item, he gave a progress update or informed Council of what actions the Police Department are taking to reach that strategic goal. Chief Robinson also highlighted the work that Officer Rob Whiting, as the Community Resource Officer, does in the schools and confirmed that the

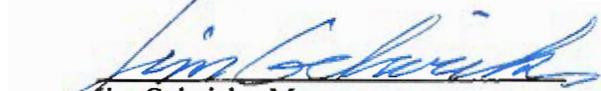
City now has a full-time Victim Services Advocate, Kathleen Felix.

Western liaison Max Oldham excused himself from the Regular Session meeting at 7:40 p.m.

Council and City Staff gave reports.

With no further business, Mayor Gelwicks adjourned the Regular Session meeting at 8:39 p.m.

(seal)  
  
Attest:  
  
Erica Boucher, City Clerk

  
Jim Gelwicks, Mayor