

AUGUST 28, 2012

CITY OF GUNNISON COUNCIL  
REGULAR SESSION MEETING MINUTES

7:00 P.M.

The City Council Regular Session meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M., by Mayor Houck with Councilors Drexel, Harriman and Seymour present, along with City Attorney Fogo, City Manager Coleman, City Clerk Davidson, Community Development Director Westbay and WSC Liaison Nickerson. Councilor Nesbitt arrived at 7:03 P.M. A Council quorum was present.

**Consideration of Minutes:****Regular Session Meeting Minutes of August 14, 2012.**

Councilor Harriman moved and Councilor Drexel seconded the motion to approve the Regular Session Meeting minutes of August 14, 2012, as submitted.

Roll call vote, yes: Drexel, Harriman, Houck. Motion carried.

Roll call vote, no: None.

Roll call vote, abstain: Seymour. He was not present at the meeting.

**Pre-Scheduled Citizens:** None.

**Unfinished Business:**

**Contract for Service in the Amount of \$1,000 with Corrie Knapp for Gunnison Sage Grouse Listing Impact Analysis Study.** City Manager Coleman explained that discussions with both the University of Alaska and the County had failed to resolve issues with the Contract. City Attorney Fogo reviewed the Contract and determined there is no reason that the Contract could not be made directly with Ms. Knapp. The Contract outlines specific deliverables to the City from Ms. Knapp and her analysis. There are two changes to the Contract that was included in their packets. The results will be published in a peer-review publication and the timeline is extended to April 30, 2013. Ms. Knapp reviewed the Contract and agrees to those changes.

Councilor Drexel moved and Councilor Seymour seconded the motion to approve the Contract for Service in the amount of \$1,000 with PhD Candidate Corrine Noel Knapp to conduct a Gunnison Sage Grouse Listing Impact Analysis Study and to authorize the Mayor's signature on said Contract.

Roll call vote, yes: Harriman, Houck, Seymour, Nesbitt, Drexel. So carried.

Roll call vote, no: None.

**New Business:**

**Action on Contract for Professional Services with Stolfus & Associates, Re: Gunnison Rising Highway Access Plan.** Community Development Director Westbay informed Council the provisions of the next two Contracts for Professional Services are essentially identical. The costs and the professional services provided are different.

Councilor Harriman moved and Councilor Nesbitt seconded the motion to approve the Contract for Professional Services with Stolfus & Associates in the amount of \$134,585 and to authorize the Mayor to sign said contract.

Roll call vote, yes: Houck, Seymour, Nesbitt, Drexel, Harriman. So carried.

Roll call vote, no: None.

**Action on Contract for Professional Services with Fox Tuttle, Re: Gunnison Rising Highway Access Plan.** Community Development Director Westbay informed Council that Fox Tuttle is working to protect the City's interests in the Highway Access Plan development process.

Councilor Nesbitt moved and Councilor Harriman seconded the motion to approve the Contract for Professional Services with Fox Tuttle in the amount of \$46,500 and to authorize the Mayor to sign said Contract.

Roll call vote, yes: Seymour, Nesbitt, Drexel, Harriman, Houck. So carried.

Roll call vote, no: None.

A short discussion on the Highway Access Plan development ensued. City Manager Coleman reminded Council that CDOT's focus to move traffic quickly on their highway and the City's desire to focus on moving traffic and preserving the community's character within our City limits are somewhat different. CD Director Westbay stated that the Access Plan development process will be very open. The community will be invited to give input in the process.

**Ordinance and Resolutions:** None.

**City Attorney Kathleen Fogo:** Provided Council with basic information on the broadband/mesh-web project discussions that have taken place. She is examining election requirements and it looks like the City's participation in the public/private partnership would require a vote of the electorate. Councilor Nesbitt inquired about setting up a special district but the City Attorney stated that didn't pertain to this type of project where residents would pay for the service that they requested. Attorney Fogo will continue gathering information on a potential ballot question.

**City Manager:** Ken Coleman informed Council of the following: street improvements continue and paving on Reed Street started this week; street painting, including cross-walks and long-line striping, has started; and the CDOT contractor has started work on the Highway 135 and Spencer Street project. The project will include placement of new stop light poles and lane reconfigurations on both the east and west approaches to the intersection. Other items discussed included: the Colorado Water Conservation Board will be meeting in Berthod, Colorado, on September 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>, and will be conducting the final review of the City's grant application for the work on the VanTuyl Ranch river corridor; 2013 Budget discussions are underway with Staff meeting all day on Friday, September 7<sup>th</sup>; the annual Community Center and pools cleaning/maintenance is taking place this week and they had a successful dog swim this past weekend before they drained the pools; he has contacted Tammy Scott regarding the Gunnison Getaway Program Challenge Grant application and she will be coming to Council after the Committee reviews the application; the WSCU President's Advisory Board Meeting is after Labor Day; and the Habitat for Humanity land dedication is taking place on Saturday, September 8<sup>th</sup>.

City Manager Coleman then told Council about the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee's initial plans for a Bike Safety Rodeo to be held this fall. It will be held on Saturday, September 8<sup>th</sup>, from 9am to Noon at Lake School. They have received financial commitments from faith-based organizations, the Kiwanis Club, Gunnison Trails, and other community organizations. The projected total budget is \$2,200 for t-shirts, printing, refreshments, flyers and other items. BPAC anticipates this will be an annual spring event before the kids get out of school and onto their bikes for the summer.

Councilor Nesbitt moved and Councilor Drexel seconded the motion to authorize the expenditure of up to \$803 from the Additional Contract for Services line item to assist with funding the Bike Safety Rodeo to be held on Saturday, September 8<sup>th</sup>.

Roll call vote, yes: Nesbitt, Drexel, Harriman, Houck, Seymour. So carried.

Roll call vote, no: None.

**Acting City Manager:** Community Development Director Steve Westbay – Semi-Annual Departmental Report. Director Westbay started his report by stating they have had a very productive past six months, largely due to his great staff. He then reviewed the following items that his department has worked on in the past six months: the Bicycle Friendly Community Silver Award; the draft *Pedestrian and Non-Motorized Transportation Plan*; sign code revision; this spring and summer's fire bans and the wildfires on Ohio Creek and Soap Creeks; City's *Emergency Operations Plan*; CWCBC River Restoration Grant; FEMA floodplain map revisions; 13 development applications including 4 conditional use applications, a text amendment; 3 exempt subdivisions, and 2 license agreements; the BLM Sage Grouse CCA; VanTuyl Ranch annexation; and continuing LDC revisions. Director Westbay then informed Council of the following upcoming projects: the Gunnison Rising Highway Access Plan; a PUD amendment to increase commercial square footage in the Gunnison Rising Commercial Mixed-Use District; the Household Hazardous Waste Program scheduled for September 29<sup>th</sup>; and the Habitat for Humanity building project in West Gunnison. Director Westbay reported on a publication from the National Association of Home Builders that has indicated residential construction, particularly multi-family residential units, should increase in the next year, especially in metropolitan areas.

City Manager Coleman added the entire CD Staff is to be commended for the positive and receptive atmosphere they provide in working with applicants and citizens. It's not often easy to maintain when having to enforce regulations.

**City Clerk:** Gail Davidson reminded Council that the work session meeting scheduled for November 6, 2012, falls on election night. She stated that since it is a work session, if they want to cancel the meeting, it does not have to be done by resolution. Council concurred to cancel the work session meeting on November 6<sup>th</sup>.

**WSC Liaison:** Adam Nickerson reported on the following: Residence Life Orientation was held last week and it was very successful; the first SGA meeting of the year will be held tomorrow night at 7pm at the University Center and the public is invited to attend; the Weekend of Welcome event will be held downtown on September 1<sup>st</sup>; the first football game of the year is in Texas and the first home game will be against Adams State on September 15<sup>th</sup> during Homecoming; fencing around the new soccer/lacrosse field on Adams Street is taking place; the fence is required by the NCAA and no alcohol will be allowed on the field; the mountain sports team is gearing up and their first mountain bike race will be this weekend; and the cross county and soccer teams are also gearing up with their first meets. City Manager Coleman asked Adam to get the word out on the City's internship program to Western students.

**Non-Scheduled Citizens:** None.

**City Council Discussion, Meeting Reports, Items for Work Session:**

Prior to the individual reports, Mayor Houck brought up requests he has received from several parents concerning the need for crosswalks across Denver Street between 11<sup>th</sup> and Main Streets. It is difficult for children to safely cross Denver while walking to the Community School. There have been changes in demographics since the schools were built and there is increased traffic on Denver. There needs to be a safe way to funnel pedestrian traffic to the north side of Arthur Avenue by Lake School where the kids can then walk to the schools on 11<sup>th</sup>. He feels the need for more crosswalks is a health, safety, and welfare issue that has to be addressed. He has been told by Police Chief Robinson that sidewalks were needed by any painted crosswalks to direct walkers' movement in a safe manner. Discussion ensued. City Manager Coleman informed Council that Staff has been discussing the requests for additional crosswalks. There are associated costs for painting and signing crosswalks. The City also has a transportation plan in place to direct the flow of not only vehicle but pedestrian traffic. He indicated that the Police Chief, Public Works Director and he will re-examine each intersection for possible additional crosswalks. He will then report back to Council next week.

**Councilor Nesbitt:** reported he attended the Chamber Board meeting this morning and they discussed the Gunnison Getaway Program. The Board gave Tammy direction to proceed with the Challenge Grant application. The Board also discussed TA By-law changes. The Chamber will be asking the City for increased funds in 2013. Only 40% of their revenue comes from memberships. The chamber will be conducting a fundraising golf tournament on September 7<sup>th</sup> and will be conducting a Business Fair on September 5<sup>th</sup> at the University. Councilor Nesbitt attended the Water Board meeting on Monday night and they discussed the following: Blue Mesa is 51% of full and will go down to 71' below the spillway; the Taylor River will be down to 100cfs after Labor Day; and the Board heard a cloud seeding presentation. That program is looking for two more seeding sites in our basin. It is a revenue leveraged program from States in the lower water basin. A short discussion on cloud seeding ensued. Councilor Nesbitt provided the Cloud Seeding reports to the City Manager and City Clerk for review by Council. The City Manager stated the discussion on cloud seeding program funding will take place during budget discussions. Mayor Houck thanked Councilor Nesbitt for his USAPCC sponsorship.

**Councilor Seymour:** reported he attended the Firemen's Pension Board meeting for Councilors Harriman and Drexel in their absence. He has the notes from that meeting. He attended the Library District Board meeting and they are in process of hiring their new director. They hope to have someone hired by the end of September. The TA is also in the Executive Director hiring process and they have extended an offer. The Planning and Zoning Commission is still working on the LDC review. Councilor Seymour then informed Council he now has a Monday-Wednesday evening class at WSCU. He will be unable to attend P&Z meetings on Wednesday evenings. He has asked Mayor Pro Tem Harriman if she would be available to attend those meetings as the Council representative for the next three months and she has agreed to do so.

Councilor Nesbitt moved and Councilor Drexel seconded the motion to appoint Mayor Pro Tem Harriman as the City Council representative to the Planning and Zoning Commission for a period of three months to accommodate Councilor Seymour's University schedule.

Roll call vote, yes: Drexel, Harriman, Houck, Seymour, Nesbitt. So carried.

Roll call vote, no: None.

Council thanked Mayor Pro Tem Harriman for her willingness to assist during this time.

**Mayor Houck:** gave a big "hats-off" to the USAPCC Local Organizing Committee, Events Manager John Messner, and all of the City Staff volunteers, for their work on the bike race events. He had great conversations with 9News reporters Greg Moss and Susie Wargin, and Race Executive Shawn Hunter and they had great things to say about Gunnison. The pass-through race day had great exposure for the Western State Colorado University campus. Mayor Houck also liked the bike movies presentation on the jumbotron downtown and thought that it might be a good idea for future movie or music events downtown. City Manager Coleman stated it was estimated we had as many people downtown this year as last but last year it seemed more compressed into the small area downtown. People viewing the race were more spread out this year. He talked to a lot of people who were very complimentary about the community. Gunnison was mentioned many times in the media world-wide. Mayor Houck then informed Council he attended the Oil & Gas Regulations discussion at the Board of County Commissioners meeting today. The County approved their regulations to maintain local control. He then mentioned he has had some problems accessing the City's website this past week. City Clerk Davidson stated she would look into the problem. The Mayor informed Council he and the City Manager met with a business person regarding creating interfaces on City services and amenities for use on smart phones. This is the new technology and the infrastructure is different than for websites. The City Manager stated they will be looking into it further. Of course, there will be a cost associated with that type of support services.

**Mayor Pro Tem Harriman:** reported she received good feedback on the 5am interviews that highlighted WSCU on 9News during the USAPCC race. The Housing Authority Board has arranged a meeting after next week's Mayors'/Managers' meeting in Crested Butte and they will start developing their By-Laws. The new Board is in-place and functional and they have made an offer to an individual for the Executive Director position. The Gunnison Valley Housing Foundation, the housing non-profit organization, had a successful fundraiser last weekend. She will attend the Senior Resources meeting on Thursday.

**Councilor Drexel:** informed Council of the following: the Region 10 Business Loan Fund is doing quite well with no loan defaults and they have money to loan to regional businesses; and Paul Gray, Executive Director of Region 10, has submitted his resignation effective at the end of the year. They will be looking for a new Director. Councilor Drexel then asked about the tall weeds along the fence lines on the VanTuyl Ranch. He has seen some thistle on the south end of the ranch. City Manager Coleman stated the City has mowed them once this year but, with the recent rains, we may have to do so again.

**Adjournment:** Mayor Houck called for any further discussion, and hearing none, adjourned the meeting at 9:01 P.M.

  
City Clerk

  
Mayor