

OCTOBER 14, 2014

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 Drexel, with Councilors Riggs, Ferguson, Steinbeck and Hagan present along with City Attorney Fogo, City Manager Coleman, City Clerk Davidson, WSCU Liaison Ballesteros, Parks & Recreation Director Ampietro, Police Chief Robinson, Finance Director Collins, Community Development Director Westbay, many citizens and the press. A Council quorum was present.

Mayor Drexel welcomed the WSCU government class students who were in attendance.

**Consideration of Minutes:****Regular Session Meeting Minutes of September 23, 2014.**

Councilor Steinbeck moved and Councilor Riggs seconded the motion to approve the Regular Session Meeting minutes of September 23, 2014, as submitted.

Roll call vote, yes: Riggs, Ferguson, Drexel, Steinbeck, Hagan. So carried.

Roll call vote, no: None.

**Pre-Scheduled Citizens:**

**Pedestrian Crossings on Hwy 50/Tomichi Avenue – Cathie Pagano.** Mayor Drexel commented the interest in pedestrian crossings comes at a good time since the City is currently undergoing the Master Planning process. The petitions that were submitted show safety concerns. City Manager Coleman stated that Staff doesn't disagree with all of the concerns but Staff is looking at the entire multi-modal transportation planning process.

Cathie Pagano, arrived at the meeting and addressed Council. She stated there is an immediate safety concern on both the intersection of Main and Tomichi and in crossing Tomichi Avenue. There is nowhere to safely cross Tomichi between the traffic lights at New York and Spruce Streets. The highway expanses are very wide. The intersection at Main and Tomichi is the busiest in town and people have been hit at that location. She understands the Master Planning process, however there is an immediate safety need. The safety issues weren't addressed after they were identified in the adopted 2007 Master Plan. Discussion and citizen input ensued with the following citizen comments: William Spicer – the problem is south bound traffic on Main Street turning west onto Tomichi Avenue that needs immediate attention to make it pedestrian and bicycle safe; Molly Mugglestone – it's a walkable town, she witnessed the pedestrian accident at the Main St. intersection and the driver was very distraught, the driver was turning on a green light and drivers can't always see pedestrians; Nancy Pierce of Seasons Daycare – a lot of the daycare's town experiences are curtailed because she is afraid to cross Highway 50 with all of the children; Roanne Houck – stated she won't let her kids cross Highway 50 because of safety concerns and she would like to see a full traffic stop crosswalk across Highway 50; Heidi Magnus co-owner of the Firebrand Deli on Main Street stated she tells all of her employees making deliveries to look out for themselves because of the dangerous crossings; Dave Kozlowski – stated even when he has the right-of-way, he has been almost hit several times and gives the City a grade D or F in services offered to pedestrians, he would like to see bump-outs that would narrow the distance pedestrians would have to cross and he thinks the bump-outs would make the downtown more attractive as well; Jonathan Houck – identified himself as a citizen who commutes along with his family by bike and would like to see the green light timing extended on Spruce Street at Hwy 50, reminded Council this issue was addressed at the Denver Avenue light in the past; and decisions can be made by Council outside of the Master Planning Process.

Community Development Director Westbay and City Traffic Consultant Bill Fox addressed Council. Director Westbay provided Council with a memo in their packets concerning the Master Plan looking at continuity across the community. He reminded the citizens present to participate in the new Master/Comprehensive Planning survey and identify these issues. The City is looking at making the City pedestrian and bicycle friendly and safe. Mr. Fox, of Fox Tuttle Hernandez Transportation Engineers has worked extensively with bicycle and pedestrian issues. He would like to conduct a walkability audit and proposes a system-wide process. Mr. Fox explained that changes to vehicular traffic flow on state highways requires traffic counts and detailed "warrants" by the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT). The City needs pedestrian traffic counts and data to make changes such as crosswalk lights installation. One possibility is the installation of rectangular, rapid-flashing beacons at crosswalks but nothing can be done without CDOT.

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He doesn't believe full traffic stoppage crosswalk lights activated by a button will be warranted by CDOT. Another possibility is a pedestrian refuge median island but those can't be sized until the whole street configuration is determined.

Councilor Hagan asked what can be done in the interim. Possible solutions discussed include: no right turn on red, increasing the pedestrian crossing time, installing pedestrian crossing only with all vehicle traffic stopped on red lights, vehicle turning only on green arrows, decreasing the speed on Highway 50 to 30mph, and the elimination of parking spots to increase visibility of pedestrians. Mr. Fox reiterated that CDOT's function is to facilitate vehicle traffic movement. CDOT allows for pedestrian crossings at 3.5 feet per second. A narrower street will require CDOT permission.

Councilor Riggs asked about the implementation of the 2007 Master Plan recommendations including bulb-outs for narrowing the streets for pedestrian crossings. We need to address the immediate safety concerns and determine what we can do to fix the problem.

Councilor Steinbeck suggested the use of volunteer crossing guards to facilitate pedestrian safety. It is a possible short term solution.

Councilor Ferguson stated he crosses Tomichi on almost a daily basis and he uses the sign-marked crosswalk at Wisconsin Street rather than the light at Tomichi and Main. It is too dangerous. He sees the need to put all of the pieces together to come up with a solution that doesn't impact other locations adversely. He asked that Council implement plans identified as a priority.

Council asked Mr. Fox and Staff to continue with the Master Planning process and to make recommendations on the solving the immediate safety concerns. Mr. Fox stated he can ask CDOT to look at the light sequencing at Main and Tomichi to alleviate the crossing time problem. He will also look into the cost and installation of the rapid flash pedestrian crossing signs but reminded Council that CDOT will have to be involved since they are state highways. Council thanked all of the citizens and Mr. Fox for their input.

**Unfinished Business:** None.

**New Business:**

**Presentation of 2015 City Budget.** City Manager Coleman informed Council the 2015 Budget being presented is a balanced budget. The sales tax revenue projections are more optimistic and are based on past trends. The compensation plan is one of the largest portions of the Budget. The plan implementation has been on-going for almost a decade and, the City is getting closer to full implementation. The Budget includes the computer technician position and the buy-down of the reserve funds as directed by Council. Further information is being gathered on Parks & Recreation Department revenue projections. The Budget will be a Council meeting agenda item until it is adopted in early December. The City Manager thanked Finance Director Collins for all of her work on the budget. Director Collins thanked Management Staff for all of their input and from her Department staff. City Manager Coleman stated the budget was developed to meet the best interests of the community. A brief discussion ensued on the Capital Plan projects and an increase in the City Council travel line item. Council thanked the Finance Director.

**Ordinance and Resolutions:**

**Ordinance No. 9, Series 2014, Re: Amending City Animal Code, 1<sup>st</sup> Reading.** Councilor Riggs introduced Ordinance No. 9, Series 2014, and it was read by title only by the City Attorney.

Police Chief Robinson stated that no changes were made to the Ordinance since the discussion at last week's Work Session meeting.

Councilor Riggs moved and Councilor Hagan seconded the motion that Ordinance No 9, Series 2014, **AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 5.0 OF THE GUNNISON MUNICIPAL**

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**CODE RELATING TO ANIMALS**, be introduced, read, passed and ordered published on first reading this 14<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2014.

Roll call vote, yes: Ferguson, Drexel, Steinbeck, Hagan, Riggs. So carried.

Roll call vote, no: None.

**Ordinance No 10, Series 2015, Re: Amending City Residency Requirements to Register to Vote in November 4, 2014, General Election.** Councilor Ferguson introduced Ordinance No. 10, Series 2014, and it was read by title only by the City Attorney.

City Clerk Davidson informed Council she was contacted by the Gunnison County Election Technician that there was a discrepancy between the State's residency requirement of 22 days, that the County follows, and the City of Gunnison's Charter-set residency requirement of 32 days. City Attorney Kathy Fogo, working with the Assistant County Attorney and the Colorado Secretary of State Elections Office, developed an emergency ordinance, allowed by City Charter to allow for the change in City residency requirements. Ordinance No. 10 is that ordinance. The ordinance actually allows for more potential voters to register to vote as it is less restrictive. An emergency ordinance only requires one reading and then publication. It becomes effective upon adoption by the Council.

Councilor Ferguson moved and Councilor Steinbeck seconded the motion that Ordinance No. 10, Series 2014, **AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GUNISON AMENDING THE RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS OF SECTION 2.14 OF THE CITY OF GUNNISON MUNICIPAL HOME RULE CHARTER, FOR THE COORDINATED GENERAL ELECTION TO BE HELD ON NOVEMBER 4, 2014.**

Roll call vote, yes: Drexel, Steinbeck, Hagan, Riggs, Ferguson. So carried.

Roll call vote, no: None.

**City Attorney Kathleen Fogo:** City Manager Coleman informed Council he contacted DOLA, and the Cities of Castle Rock and Pueblo to learn about their experiences with Urban Renewal Authorities (URAs). A decision can't be made this evening since there is no detailed plan to act upon. The City can't speak to a general request. In discussions with others, it appears that development of agricultural land using an URA is problematic. The designation of blight is difficult. City Attorney Fogo then reviewed the process for forming a URA. Items discussed included: The process is outlined in C.R.S. 31-25-62; the URA would be the entire City limits; there has to be a finding of "blight" of the property involved; all of the owners involved would have to agree concerning the blight status; there are up to 11 taxing districts involved in the proposed Gunnison Rising property; each taxing district would have to agree to the designation in writing; the trigger to start looking at forming a URA is the submission of a petition, signed by 25 registered electors; the formation process involves full public input opportunities; and the process doesn't have to go to a vote but has to have public hearing process.

Councilor Riggs stated she has talked with a lot of citizens who are not in favor of a URA formation. They have asked her about the provisions of the existing Annexation Agreement and why development is not paying its way as currently outlined.

City Manager Coleman stated the City needs a more detailed proposal and a signed petition to start the process. If those are received, the City then does a financial impact analysis that is given to the County. There will be special counsel costs associated with the process.

Gunnison Rising representative Dick Bratton addressed Council. The reason they're asking for a URA formation is the cost of installing the infrastructure. Development of the property will be economic boost for the community. Other options could be the formation of a Metropolitan District and maybe the acquisition of USDA grants. The biggest concern he has heard about the formation of a URA is the impact on the School District property tax. Mr. Bratton stated they would only address commercial properties and not residential properties in the proposal, thus lessening the impact to the School District. Mr. Bratton thanked Council for hearing the proposal.

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**City Manager:** Ken Coleman informed Council of the following: the ditch system on the east side of the 300 block of N. Main Street is being improved; a new dispatcher has started work and the Communications Center is now fully staffed; and a used City vehicle auction is being planned and will be advertised. City Manager Coleman introduced WSCU intern Katie Bledsoe to Council. She will be shadowing him and learning about public administration. She is the second intern along with Jacob Weiss.

**Acting City Manager:** Parks & Recreation Director Dan Ampietro reported he will be bring a proposal to Council at the next meeting regarding increasing Community Center fees. The ice rink is open, the adult hockey leagues have started, and a youth hockey clinic was held last weekend.

**City Clerk:** Gail Davidson thanked Council, staff, the City employees, and our customers for their patience throughout the City Hall renovation project. It will be a great improvement to better serve our customers once it is finished.

**WSCU Liaison:** Stefano Ballesteros reported the students are gearing up for mid-terms.

**Non-Scheduled Citizens:** None.

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

**Councilor Hagan:** reported he attended the RTA meeting on Friday where they discussed a possible ballot issue in the future. A late night bus to and from Crested Butte to Gunnison was discussed. It will assist the night workers in Crested Butte and Mt. Crested Butte with down-valley transportation. He and Councilor Riggs may be bringing back a proposal to Council for possible funding assistance with that project. Ridership numbers will be the issue.

**Councilor Steinbeck:** reported she attended a very interesting City Court session and felt the Judge and the Court staff did a great job. She then reported the Gunnison Valley Regional Housing Authority meeting was canceled due to lack of a quorum.

**Mayor Pro Tem Ferguson:** informed Council he has read the Local Marketing District/ Tourism Association marketing report and has gained information from other entities. He will be watching with interest as the reorganization process unfolds.

**Councilor Riggs:** informed Council she attended the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) meeting regarding the marketing report. The meeting was well attended. She thinks it would be appropriate for Council to provide additional comments to the BOCC regarding the report. The next meeting on the issue will be on October 28 at 9am. The TA, and LMD Board will meet with the BOCC. Councilor Riggs urged the Council that our interests need to be heard at that meeting. The City needs to maintain a level of involvement in the process. Mayor Drexel asked the item be included in next week's October 21 Council agenda for further discussion.

**Mayor Drexel:** reported he attended the WSCU Hall of Fame Banquet and, it was great seeing so many former athletes and coaches. He is discussing with Eva Veitch at Region 10 the possibility of transportation grants for senior transportation. He will be attending a Region 10 meeting on Thursday and, he hopes to continue discussions on senior transportation in Gunnison.

**Adjournment:** Mayor Drexel called for any further discussion, and hearing none, adjourned the meeting at 9:55 P.M.

  
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 Mayor

  
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 City Clerk