MARCH 10, 2015 **CITY OF GUNNISON COUNCIL** **7:00 P.M.**
REGULAR SESSION MEETING MINUTES

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, Acting City Manager Ampietro, City Clerk Davidson, WSCU Liaison Stefano Ballesteros, some citizens and the press. City Manager Coleman was absent. A Council quorum was present.

Consideration of Minutes:

Regular Session Meeting Minutes of February 24, 2015.

Councilor Steinbeck moved and Councilor Hagan seconded the motion to approve the Regular Session Meeting minutes of February 24, 2015, as submitted.

Roll call vote, yes: Ferguson, Drexel, Steinbeck, Hagan. Motion carried.
Roll call vote, no: None.
Roll call vote, abstain: Riggs, she was absent from that meeting.

Unfinished Business: None.

Pre-Scheduled Citizens:

Gunnison Basin Water Plan Input & Comments: UGRWCD General Manager Frank Kugel and District 8 Board Member George Sibley. Mr. Kugel informed Council Mr. Sibley was unable to attend but Bill Nesbitt, Gunnison Water Board Member is present. Mr. Nesbitt gave Council several documents including an aerial photo map of the state, a summary of the latest proposal on the Governor's Headwaters Plan and an article on a ballot title that the Colorado Water Congress is challenging in the Colorado Supreme Court. That ballot issue could have great consequences to water rights in the state. Mr. Nesbitt informed Council that water at the confluence of the East and Taylor Rivers in Almont affects approximately 35 million people. Mr. Kugel then discussed the following topics with Council: Judge Patrick appointed former State Senator Gail Schwartz, who now lives in Crested Butte, to the District Water Board effective in June; the District Water Board now includes 2 former state legislative representatives, Gail Schwartz and Kathleen Curry; the Upper Gunnison District grant program was very successful last year; the Gunnison Basin is at 84% snowpack, the Taylor Park basin is at 98% and Taylor Reservoir is a good level; the next couple of months are predicted to be warmer with more precipitation; and a water right decree for a 2nd fill storage in Taylor Reservoir is in negotiations and is pending in Water Court. Mr. Nesbitt then reviewed the process that has occurred in the development of the state-wide water plan. It has been an 8-year effort. The Gunnison Basin Implementation Plan draft is complete, and all Basin Plans have to be submitted to the Colorado Water Conservation Board by April 17, 2015. Mr. Nesbitt then briefly reviewed potential water shortages by the year 2050. There are three primary demands on water – domestic, agriculture and industry. The local water philosophy in the 1990's was "not one drop", and now it is "better to be at the table and not on the menu". The Gunnison Basin faces demands on water from the Front Range, downstream compact states, and requests from the Yampa River Basin in the northern part of the state. A short discussion ensued about seven basic questions developed by the Basin Roundtable to evaluate proposed transmountain diversion projects. Council discussed concerns about the City's water rights and conservation efforts, the value of water to Gunnison Valley visitors and second home owners, and the use of Federal Project water for marijuana grow operations. Council thanked Mr. Kugel and Mr. Nesbitt for their presentation.

New Business: None.

Ordinance and Resolutions:

Resolution No. 4 Series 2015; Re: Set May, 2015 Election as a Mail Ballot Election.

Councilor Ferguson introduced Resolution No. 4, Series 2015, and then read it by title only.

Councilor Ferguson moved and Councilor Riggs seconded the motion that Resolution No. 4, Series 2015, **A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GUNNISON, COLORADO, DIRECTING THE CITY CLERK OF THE CITY OF GUNNISON TO CONDUCT THE REGULAR MUNICIPAL ELECTION, SCHEDULED FOR MAY 12 2015, AS A MAIL BALLOT ELECTION AND TO SET GUNNISON CITY HALL AS THE VOTING PRECINCT PHYSICAL VOTING CENTER FOR SAID ELECTION,** be introduced, read, passed and adopted this 10th day of March, 2015.

Roll call vote, yes: Ferguson, Drexel, Steinbeck, Hagan, Riggs. So carried.
Roll call vote, no: None.

City Attorney Kathleen Fogo: City Attorney Fogo informed Council she and City Manager Coleman have been working on the issues at the Mountain Meadows Mall. The City Manager has been in contact with the owners of the property. She and the City Manager will outline the City's options with Council at the March 24th Council meeting.

City Manager: Ken Coleman: was absent from the meeting.

Acting City Manager: Parks & Recreation Director Dan Ampietro: informed Council that Management Staff met with City Manager Ken Coleman via a conference call this morning. The public meeting for the Parks & Recreation Master Plan was held and the survey information has been compiled. A needs assessment report is in the works, and projected costs of capital projects are being developed. There will be another meeting on the Parks & Recreation Plan needs assessment on April 24th. Other topics presented by Director Ampietro included: there will be a pickleball tournament this weekend at the Western Fieldhouse and the Community Center with 49 participating teams; the Midget B hockey tournament will take place this weekend, and the annual Brent Carlson hockey tournament in two weeks will signal the closure of the rink for the season; Cranor Hill will close at the end of this weekend; the Ski-Mo uphill/downhill race last Saturday at Cranor Hill wasn't well attended, but it was the first year and there were still some good athletes participating; the plans for the Senior Addition to the Community Center should complete next week; he attended the Mayors'/Managers' meeting last week with Mayor Pro Tem Ferguson and they heard the One Valley Prosperity Project presentation; tree trimming in Legion Park is complete; and the Gunnison PeeWee hockey team did well in their tournament.

City Clerk: Gail Davidson: informed Council the Youth City Council students met last week with Police Chief Robinson and Sgt. Joe Englemann of the Police Department, and they had an interesting discussion on the current issues of "use of force" by police departments that has been in the media recently. In other news, preparation for the upcoming May 2015 regular municipal election continues. Candidate petition packets will be available starting this Friday, March 13, at 8:00 A.M. in her office.

WSCU Liaison: Stefano Ballesteros: informed Council that Western recruiting season is underway. A preview day was held for high school students last Friday. The students took tours and had a variety of activities on campus. Western recruiters have a tent set up at CBMR to target springbreak skiers who might be interested in attending Western. Mayor Drexel noted the track team and hockey team did well, and seven Western wrestlers will be going to Nationals.

Non-Scheduled Citizens: Chip Cuprisin, addressed Council. Mr. Cuprisin asked why water use in marijuana growing is a concern. Greenhouses could be taxed higher. Instead of worrying about the Gunnison Sage Grouse, we need to be concerned with the greenback cut throat trout. Councilor Riggs clarified the use of water from a federally-owned water project being used for marijuana cultivation could be an issue. Mayor Drexel stated it is a legal issue. The Feds have built-in legal conflicts regarding water use, banking regulations and other marijuana business-related issues. A brief discussion ensued. Council thanked Mr. Cuprisin for attending.

City Council Discussion, Meeting Reports, Items for Work Session:
Councilor Riggs: reported she attended the Community Builders Task Force's One Valley-One Prosperity Project Launch Party last Wednesday. Over 200 people were in attendance, and they received good feedback from people from all over the valley. Attendees were asked what they valued, and those responses will be included in developing a valley-wide vision. The Project's chalkboard is at the IOOF Park today for people to give their comments and feedback. The chalkboard will be moved to other locations around the valley in the coming weeks. Lastly, she will be attending the RTA meeting on Friday.

Mayor Pro Tem Ferguson: reported he too attended the One Valley Prosperity Project launch party as well. It was a diverse group with differing philosophies and values that was present. He attended last week's Mayors'/Managers' meeting with Parks & Rec Director Dan Ampietro. County Community Development Director Russ Forrest made a presentation on the One Valley-One Prosperity Project. Mayor Pro Tem Ferguson then informed Council he attended the Chamber breakfast meeting this morning. They enjoyed breakfast pizza from Mario's to thank the Chamber's G-Force events volunteers. The Chamber will be celebrating its 90th anniversary this year, and they will have lots of happenings, as well as a new logo.

Councilor Steinbeck: reported she attended the Gunnison Valley Regional Housing Authority meeting last week. The Authority Board continues to work on housing projects and are setting the standards for Anthracite Place, the 30-unit workforce housing unit in Crested Butte. She will be attending the Women's tea at Western State on March 17th, celebrating Women's History Month.

Councilor Hagan: reported he also attended the One Valley-One Prosperity launch event last week. The attendees had a high level of participation in the event. He attended the Gunnison Trails meeting last night, and Spencer Gordon made a presentation on the "natural ice" skaters on Blue Mesa. Mr. Gordon volunteers and plows the skating circuit for the lake skaters. He would like to see a big event for natural ice skaters at Blue Mesa and would like to have private funding for that event. At the Trails meeting, Dave Wiens spoke about universal signage for all trails in the Valley. Lastly, Councilor Hagan stated he visited Sedona, Arizona, and they have a very defined vision for tourism in their community. That vision includes people who assist tourists with information in the downtown area and a strict sign code for local businesses.

Mayor Drexel: reported he attended the Region 10 meeting two weeks ago and they received the check for a late loan payment that was 20 years in the making. He will follow-up and get information on water usage for marijuana grows and Federal regulations from a speaker he heard at a recent meeting. He will email that information to Council.

Adjournment: Mayor Drexel called for any further discussion, and hearing none, adjourned the meeting at 8:21 P.M.

Mayor

Gail A Davidson
City Clerk