

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, Police Chief Robinson, Finance Director Collins, WSCU Liaison Ballesteros, WSCU Intern Bensko, a couple citizens and the press. A Council quorum was present.

**Consideration of Minutes:**

**Regular Session Meeting Minutes of January 13, 2015.** City Clerk Davidson informed Council she has amended the Mayor's report on page three of the minutes to reflect that Mt. Crested Butte reported the ski area had four, 6,000+ skier days over the holiday season.

Councilor Ferguson moved and Councilor Steinbeck seconded the motion to approve the Regular Session Meeting minutes of January 13, 2015, as amended.

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

Roll call vote, no: None.

**Unfinished Business:** None.

**Pre-Scheduled Citizens:**

**Gunnison Library District Update – Director Nancy Trimm.** Director Trimm came forward and addressed Council. She discussed the following items: she thanked Council for their 2015 support of the Library's CAFÉ Program and they average 24 participants each class night; programming has increased in Gunnison including 4,500 children participating locally; programs included the start of an afterschool a "tinkering club"; staff has been hired for adult programs; the Gunnison Library saw approximately 90,000 visits in 2014; there were 27,000 computer log-ins in both Gunnison and Crested Butte, and there was an increase of 16% in Wi-Fi use; both e-books and e-audio books use has increased substantially; there is substantial growth in library card holders; both libraries are now open on Sunday afternoons from 1pm to 5pm; the Library is developing a new logo and new branding in 2015; the Library website will be revamped; 9 computers were replaced in Gunnison in 2014; an on-line language-learning program from "Mango Languages" is now available; patrons can now check out a one-time use, free museum pass for up four people that is good at the local museums; and the Library budget has improved somewhat over previous years. A brief discussion on Library volunteers ensued. Council thanked Ms. Trimm.

**New Business:**

**Action on 2015 Continuing Challenge Grants and Contracts for Service.** City Manager Coleman stated this is the annual disbursement of budgeted funds. Finance Director Wendy Collins informed Council she has not received a couple of the signed grants back at this time.

Councilor Riggs moved and Councilor Ferguson seconded the motion to approve the 2015 Continuing Challenge Grants and the Memorandum Agreements for Contracts for Service in the amounts listed on January 22, 2015, memo from Finance Director Wendy Collins and Planner Andie Ruggera, to authorize the Mayor to sign said Agreements, and to release the budgeted 2015 funds for the programs.

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

Roll call vote, no: None.

**Action on Farm Project Lease.** This item was discussed at last week's Council Work Session meeting. City Manager Coleman explained how he developed the rental fees as listed in the Lease utilizing the lease per acre mounts paid to the City by Parker Pastures for the VanTuyl Ranch acreage. City Attorney Kathy Fogo helped develop the Lease document. Timothy DeLory, of Headwater Farms LLC, came forward and addressed Council. Mr. DeLory stated he is comfortable with the proposal. A short discussion on what could be grown on the property ensued. Mr. DeLory stated he is agreeable with providing educational opportunities to school classes. He

will mainly grow produce. He sells to local restaurants, through the “Local Market” store and at the summer’s Farmers’ Market in Gunnison and maybe in Crested Butte. Council asked several questions and Mr. DeLory stated he will install fencing to keep the deer out and will install temporary hoop houses and possibly some temporary storage sheds. He has business liability insurance and he will welcome volunteers but will also employ a couple of individuals as well. He has talked with Westerns’ Jonathan Coop and Jeff Snellen about involving classes through the Environmental Studies classes. WSCU Liaison Ballesteros stated this is a great hands-on opportunity for students and invited Mr. DeLory to talk with Student Government about any involvement from the University. Council wished Mr. DeLory good luck with his venture.

Councilor Ferguson moved and Councilor Riggs seconded the motion to execute the Farm Project Lease Agreement with Headwater Farm, LLC, and Timothy DeLory, individually, and to authorize the Mayor to sign said Lease Agreement.

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

Roll call vote, no: None.

**Action to Confirm Hiring of Finance Director Benjamin Cowan.** City Manager Coleman informed Council that per Section 3.12 of the Gunnison Home Rule Municipal Charter, Council’s role in the hiring process of the Finance Director is to confirm the hiring of the candidate if they so choose.

Councilor Steinbeck moved and Councilor Hagan seconded the motion to confirm the hiring of Benjamin Cowan as the City of Gunnison Finance Director.

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

Roll call vote, no: None.

**Fourth Quarter 2014 City Financial Update.** Finance Director Wendy Collins came forward and discussed the following items with Council: the report reflects the fourth quarter 2014 financials but some invoices are still out for 2014; some revenues, including some from the state, are still coming in for 2014; the General Fund is tracking at approximately 97% of revenues and expenditures; the fund is in good shape with \$4,391,508 in assets; in the Conservation Trust Fund (CTF), the payments from the Met Rec Board have changed and there were 5 payments in 2014, and this will even out to quarterly payments in 2015; cash on hand in the CTF is up slightly; the Fleet Internal Service Fund is close on both revenues and expenses; the Firemen’s Pension Fund had an increase to approximately \$100,000 from a 3% return and the fund is doing so well that benefits were increased by \$50.00 per payment; the Electric Division saw a slight decrease in revenues due to the high cost of purchased power, and revenues in that fund are tracking at 96% for the year; the Water Fund had some major capital improvements this year and revenues are tracking at 99%; the Wastewater Fund showed an increase in assets of approximately \$100,000 and revenues are tracking at 106% and the operating expenses are at 88% of projected; the Refuse Fund had increase in assets and revenues are on track; the Communications Fund showed a decrease in assets due to the purchase of equipment for the new Communications Center and revenues are down slightly; the Pool Fund revenues are down slightly and the memberships were increased in 2014 to help cover that decrease; cash reserves were utilized in the Pool Fund to pay for major repairs to the HVAC system, and operating revenues are down slightly at 92%; the Rink Fund saw the repair of the locker room roof and several upgrades to the rink; operating revenues at the rink are at 65% because the hockey season just got underway a couple of months ago but expenses are tracking at 90%; the Trails Fund spent what came in and the cash reserve is up slightly; and the remaining 1% sales tax for recreation improvements increased slightly with \$636,310 in cash assets available for use when the Parks & Recreation Master Plan identifies capital project priorities in the future. Council thanked Director Collins for her “final” financial report to Council.

**Ordinance and Resolutions:**

**Resolution No. 2, Series 2015, Re: Thanking Finance Director Wendy Collins for her City Service.** Councilor Ferguson introduced Resolution No. 2, Series 2015, and it was read in full by the Mayor.

Councilor Ferguson moved and Councilor Steinbeck seconded the motion to approve Resolution No. 2, Series 2015, **A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GUNNISON, COLORADO, RECOGNIZING AND COMMENDING WENDY K. COLLINS FOR HER SERVICE TO THE CITY OF GUNNISON**, be introduced, read, passed and adopted this 27th day of January, 2015.

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

Roll call vote, no: None.

All of City Council thanked Wendy for her service to the City and the citizens of Gunnison. Everyone wished her well in the future. Director Collins thanked Mayor Drexel, Mayor Pro Tem Ferguson, all of Council, City Manager Coleman and Police Chief Robinson for all of their support over the years.

**City Attorney Kathleen Fogo:** No report this evening.

**City Manager: Ken Coleman:** informed Council of the following items: the Community Center HVAC system still has problems although the engineers from Denver were in Gunnison last week; the roof patch on the gym box at the Community Center is holding and we will see what happens when snow falls on it; Ben Cowan is coming on board in February; Staff and the Attorney are meeting on drafting marijuana regulations and these will be forthcoming to Council in February; the Planning Commission will be discussing land use issues regarding marijuana facilities at their meeting tomorrow night; the City was not selected for the New Mobility West grant for a complete street project, so staff will now be talking with our traffic consultant, Bill Fox, regarding planning for that project; work on the Council Chambers audio-visual upgrade continues; and discussions on use of the senior addition are continuing. Staff would like a Council representative at those meetings. Due to his tenure with the City and his knowledge of the various senior groups, Mayor Pro Tem Ferguson will attend those discussions. City Manager Coleman then introduced his WSCU intern for this semester, Katie Bensko. Ms. Bensko introduced herself and informed Council she is a Political Science major and Business minor at Western and may participate in the “*Best & Brightest Program*” for Public Administration graduate students at CU Denver next year. Council welcomed Ms. Bensko.

**Acting City Manager: Police Chief Keith Robinson:** informed Council his semi-annual report is included in their Council packets. The report is primarily the 2014 year-end report for his department. Chief Robinson then discussed the following items: in personnel, sworn officer staff is at 14 officers as authorized; the two Records positions were brought from ¾ time to full time; Neighborhood Services has seen the moving of the parking enforcement office to the Law Enforcement Advocate position and the parking position is now being advertised; Communications saw three dispatchers leave and four came on-board to bring the department full staffed at the allotted 10 positions; the Police Officer Standards and Training (POST) Fund provided training in many areas for the staff; POST sponsored an “Ending Violence Against Women” training in Gunnison and several sworn and civilian employee were able to attend free of charge; Neighborhood Services and the PD saw 350 animal complaints and 28 vicious animal calls in 2014; no animals were euthanized through the department in 2014; the crime report statistics for 2012, 2013 and 2014 are included in the report and these are cases that are entered into the in-house system; and the CBI breaks down crime data into two categories, Part A - crimes against persons and Category B - crimes against society, that primarily result in arrests. Chief Robinson reviewed how statistics can be interpreted in many ways. The CBI statistics and the in-house statistics are reported in different ways. The public needs to be aware of these different interpretations when they read reports about crime reported in the City. Council asked about how suicides are reported and how the statistics are different due to increased patrolling and the employment of new officers on the street. Chief Robinson briefly reviewed the calls through the Communications Department and then reported that planning for 2015 community events is underway. Work on regulations regarding cannabis, idling vehicles, and nuisances is underway. Council thanked Chief Robinson for his report.

**City Clerk: Gail Davidson:** informed Council she attended the annual Gunnison Valley Observatory Board Meeting on Saturday and then the Youth City Council meeting on Sunday evening. The students met with Community Development Director Westbay and learned about the Comprehensive Plan's Community Analysis Survey results. City Clerk Davidson then reminded Council she is holding a pre-City Election Candidates Class on Thursday at noon in the Council Chambers. She has not had anyone RSVP for the lunch at this time.

**WSCU Liaison: Stefano Ballesteros:** informed Council there will be an indoor track and field event this Friday at the field house, and there is a hockey game again UCCS this weekend as well.

**Non-Scheduled Citizens:** None.

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

**Councilor Riggs:** reported the Community Builders Task Force's *One Valley Prosperity Project* had its kick-off and the contract with the Sonoran Institute were signed today. The first community meeting will take place March 4<sup>th</sup>. More information will come later. Councilor Riggs then brought up House Bill 1031 concerning the banning of powdered alcohol. She suggested the City look at banning it on a local level.

**Mayor Pro Tem Ferguson:** reported he attended the Gunnison Valley Observatory annual board meeting and retreat on Saturday. The organization is gaining focus and putting together a strategic plan to guide their future. He attended the Firemen's Pension Board meeting. The pension fund went from marginal to solvent over the years. The Fire Department hasn't been fully staffed for several years. There will be future discussions on combining the City and Fire District Departments. City Manager Coleman stated he too has had discussions with the departments and the District needs to make the proposal to the City for further discussions to take place. Mayor Pro Tem Ferguson then informed Council he attended the Chamber Board meeting this morning. That group made a By-Laws change that Ex-Officio and Advisory Board members are no longer voting members.

**Councilor Steinbeck:** reported the Gunnison Valley Regional Housing Authority meeting was postponed until February 5<sup>th</sup>. She will attend the WSCU President's Advisory Board meeting on Friday, February 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Councilor Hagan:** reported he attended the Parks & Recreation Master Plan presentation on Friday. The surveys distributed for that plan indicated that trails ranked very high as did community center recreation programming. He will also be attending the fireworks meeting later in the week.

**Mayor Drexel:** reported he too attended the Firemen's Pension Board meeting. He attended the Region 10 meeting last week and the consultant gave a presentation on the broadband project. Broadband development was given the highest economic development priority for the Region 10 area. Lastly, he had received an email from Dean Gunnison, who is the great-great-great-great grandson of Captain John Gunnison. Mr. Gunnison came to Gunnison and visited with the City Manager and the City Clerk during his visit. City Manager Coleman stated they had a good visit and Mr. Gunnison indicated he would like to return to the area and bring some of his other relatives.

**Adjournment:** Mayor Drexel called for any further discussion, and hearing none, adjourned the meeting at 8:50 P.M.

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Mayor

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City Clerk