

January 26, 2021

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

5:30 P.M.

The City Council Regular Session was called to order at 5:32 p.m. on Tuesday, January 26, 2021, remotely and in Council Chambers located at 201 W. Virginia Avenue in Gunnison, Colorado, by Mayor Jim Gelwicks. Mayor Pro Tem Jim Miles, City Manager Russ Forrest, and City Clerk Erica Boucher were physically present in Council Chambers. Councilor Mallory Logan, Councilor Diego Plata, Councilor Boe Freeburn, City Attorney Kathy Fogo, Finance Director Ben Cowan, Electric Superintendent Will Dowis, Public Works Director David Gardner, GIS Technician Lisa Starkebaum, Police Chief Keith Robinson, and Parks and Rec Director Dan Vollendorf, attended the meeting remotely. The press attended remotely. There was a Council quorum.

Citizen Input: Mayor Jim Gelwicks called for Citizen Input twice, both to anyone in Chambers and for residents attending remotely. No citizens came forward to speak.

Action Items:**Consent Agenda:**

Councilor Miles moved and Councilor Freeburn seconded the motion to approve the Consent Agenda, which included the following items: (1) Excusing Councilor Logan from the January 12, 2021, Regular Session meeting; (2) the purchase of Kubota 4R3T mini-excavator for a price not to exceed \$59,524.66; (3) the purchase of John Deere 310SL electric backhoe replacement for a price not to exceed \$103,504; and (4) the purchase of 310SL backhoe replacement for a price not to exceed \$59,922. No items were removed from the Consent Agenda.

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

Roll call, no: None.

Approval of the January 12, 2021, Regular Session meeting minutes. Councilor Plata moved and Councilor Miles seconded the motion to approve the Regular Session meeting minutes of January 12, 2021. Councilor Plata noted an incorrect word in the minutes. City Clerk Boucher confirmed that she would correct the word "rotator" to "router" in the Region 10 Update section of the January 12, 2021, minutes.

Roll call, yes: Miles, Gelwicks, Plata, and Freeburn. So carried with correction.

Roll call, no: None.

Roll call, abstain: Logan.

Investment Advisory Board Appointment. Finance Director Ben Cowan stated that he advertised for the Investment Advisory Board Appointment in multiple places, but did not receive any applicants. Director Cowan reached out to Mr. Tom Stoeber, who Mr. Cowan has worked with previously in conjunction with the Fire District Pension Board. He has been a thorough and reliable staffer in that position. He is a respected CPA in town. Mr. Stoeber submitted a letter of interest.

Council Chambers received a call from Dispatch informing Council that Mr. Peter Caloger, who was scheduled to appear on the agenda for the Land Preservation Board Appointment, had been trying to access the Regular Session remotely, but had been unable to do so. The City Clerk stated that she would call Mr. Caloger at the beginning of the next agenda item.

Mr. Stoeber thanked Mr. Cowan for mentioning the Advisory Board to him and stated that he has a good working relationship with the Fire District Pension Board. Mr. Stoeber would be happy to serve. Council did not have any questions for Mr. Stoeber and thanked him for his willingness to serve. Councilor Miles moved and Councilor Plata seconded the motion to appoint Mr. Tom Stoeber to complete the two-year term for Mr. Kirk Mueller through December of 2021.

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

Roll call, no: None.

Gunnison County Land Preservation Board Appointment. Mayor Gelwicks stated that Council received two letters of interest for the Gunnison County Land Preservation Board appointment. First to address Council and state her interest for serving on the Board was Barbara Frase. Through Zoom access, she shared her professional background and stated that she has been involved in different aspects of conservation easements for multiple decades. She wants to help.

As the City Clerk called Mr. Caloger, staff stated that Mike Pelletier oversees the Board, which meets

quarterly and as needed. The Board's focus is conservation easements throughout the County and distributing small amounts of funding. Second to address Council was Peter Caloger, who called in. Mr. Caloger stated that he would like to be a part of the Board to help balance out the need for open space and space for affordable, residential housing. Both items benefit the public. A 40-year resident, Mr. Caloger, like Ms. Frase is retired, and owns and operates a parcel of land in Saguache County. He has served on the Gunnison County Sage Grouse committee for 12 years. He spends a lot of time on land issues from the land-user's perspective.

Councilor Freeburn moved and Councilor Logan seconded the motion to appoint Barbara Frase to the Gunnison County Land Preservation Board to complete the four-year term of Bruce Noble through December 2021.

Mayor Gelwicks thanked both qualified candidates for applying.

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

Roll call, no: None.

Reappointment of Councilor Logan to the STOR Committee. Councilor Freeburn moved and Councilor Miles seconded the motion to reappoint Councilor Logan to the STOR Committee.

Councilor Logan stated that she has enjoyed serving on the STOR Committee and is proud of the work the committee has accomplished related to recreational tourism throughout the Rocky Mountains. She acknowledged how well this committee collaborates with multiple agencies and jurisdictions throughout the region.

Roll call, yes: Plata, Freeburn, Miles, and Gelwicks. So carried.

Roll call, no: None.

Roll call, abstain: Logan.

Resolution No. 1, Series 2021: *A Resolution Of The City Council Of The City Of Gunnison, Colorado, Supporting the Construction of the Ohio Avenue Multimodal Project, the Expenditure of \$393,750 as a 50% Grant Match for the Multimodal Transportation Options Funding, and Authority to the City Manager to Enter into an Intergovernmental Agreement with the State Of Colorado to Provide 50% of the Funding for the Ohio Avenue Multimodal Project.*

Councilor Freeburn introduced and read Resolution No. 1, Series 2021 aloud by title only. Councilor Plata moved and Councilor Miles seconded the motion to adopt Resolution No. 1, Series 2021.

Public Works Director David Gardner reminded Council that the City did a lot of public outreach for the Ohio Avenue project and the application for a \$393,750 grant from the State of Colorado. The grant requires a 50% match bringing the total expenditure amount for the project to \$787,500. Public Works Director Gardner stated that the project includes bike and pedestrian lanes, a four foot barrier to separate pedestrian and motor vehicle travel lanes, and many path amenities, such as lighting and benches. CDOT requires a Resolution as part of the application and a local government IGA. The City is also seeking funding from School Routes to School (SRTS), which is scheduled to be awarded in April or May. If the City is awarded the SRTS funding, then the project can be extended beyond Main Street to Spruce Street. Staff will begin to put out RFPs for the project. The sources of the matching funds are the Recreation Improvement Fund for \$383,750 and \$10,000 from Western Student Government Association.

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

Roll call, no: None.

Parks and Recreation Semi-Annual Report and Update on IOOF Park. Parks and Recreation Director Dan Vollendorf presented the department's semi-annual report to Council. The last report was given on October 13, 2020. Highlights of the report were:

- The ability of the Community Center to be open and programs to be operational during COVID;
- Seven full-time positions have been filled;
- Iceskating and hockey tournaments are occurring on both the indoor and outdoor rinks, with no spectators. LiveBarn is providing live and on demand online broadcasts of youth hockey games;
- The new ice melt building is functioning well overall, but the amount of condensation build-up will need to be addressed this summer;
- The Resiliency Project continues to provide positive outreach in the community through their activities and projects, which include podcasts and winter luminaries;
- Tami Maciejko was hired as the aquatics director. The Gunnison High School swim team is using the pool through the reservation system and the pool will host a few swim meets this winter;
- The Senior Meals program continues to be strong, serving 92 meals a day on average. Senior Coordinator Gillis spearheaded outreach assistance to get seniors registered on the County's

online vaccine interest form.

- Nordic programs are expanding due to partnerships with Gunnison and CB Nordic, Met Rec;
- Cranor Ski Hall recently open with Public Health Order restrictions in place.

Director Vollendorf transitioned to an update on IOOF Park. He shared 3D drawings of the area. The department used the funding it received through the CDOT Revitalizing Main Street to purchase landscaping items and amenities for the Park that will be installed in the spring. The IOOF Park Redevelopment Bid Package will be going out soon and the department expects a few responses. It was also noted that a natural gas fire pit will be installed at IOOF Park. A brief discussion occurred about a few of the specifics of the project, including a water source and tapping into a natural gas line to have a fire pit installed. Council may receive feedback on that addition as it relates to carbon emissions. The fire pit will likely be operated on a dial or timing system controlled by Parks and Recreation. Once the improvements are installed at IOOF, the Park will require winterization and snow removal. A small raised stage is still planned for the park. The Parks and Rec Advisory Committee is meeting in the first quarter of the year. Mayor Gelwicks mentioned that Region 10 may have funding available to assist with senior meals and the Mayor is willing to help make that connection. Parks and Rec staff is expanding their communication with the immigrant community for recreational programs and senior outreach.

After-action Report on September 2020 Snowstorm. Police Chief Keith Robinson provided Council with a review of the September 8th snowstorm, during which 3000 City residents lost power, hundreds of trees were downed, and hazardous travel throughout the region was experienced. With management from City departments and great assistance from the Fire District, Gunnison County Electric Association, and Delta electricians all power was restored by September 11th. As part of the City's Emergency Management Plan, everyone involved in the event met afterwards to discuss what worked and identify areas for improvement. A few highlights of that discussion were:

- Identified the need to develop MOUs with other government agencies, both in and around Gunnison County, and create some service agreements with certain kinds of contractors;
- Public Works has purchased their own set of radios to improve communication;
- The amount of tree damage and overgrowth within City easements caused many power lines to fall. Public Works has already started addressing this issue by removing damaged trees and excess vegetation;
- The need for an assessment of current generators throughout City buildings to ensure that those buildings maintain power;
- Review the Emergency Operations Plan, streamline policies, and ensure that all departments have a Continuity of Operations Plan completed.

Staff has already started working on some of the items that Chief Robinson listed on the "After-the-Event" to-do list. It will be an on-going project and consistently evolving. Specific needs such as tree maintenance and generators will appear in future budgets and budget requests. It was mentioned that the congestion in alleys needs to be addressed. Chief Robinson stated that the Police Department is being more proactive and working with residents to ensure that City right-of-ways are cleared from debris and trash in case of emergencies and for overall access.

Ordinance No. 1, Series 2021, Second Reading: *An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Gunnison, Colorado, Authorizing the Renewal of the Existing Cable Franchise Agreement held by Spectrum Pacific West, LLC, locally known as Charter Communications; and Authorizing the Mayor and City Clerk to Execute, on behalf of the City of Gunnison, Colorado, the Cable Franchise Agreement.*

Councilor Plata introduced and read Ordinance No. 1, Series 2021 aloud by title only. Councilor Plata moved and Councilor Miles seconded the motion to adopt Ordinance No. 1, Series 2021, on second reading.

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

Roll call, no: None.

Councilor Logan moved and Councilor Miles seconded the motion to authorize the Mayor to sign the agreements with Spectrum.

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

Roll call, no: None.

Extension of Audit Engagement. Finance Director Cowan informed Council that every five years the Finance Department typically puts out a bid to hire a new audit firm to have a fresh set of eyes on the City's finances, procedures, and possible issues. Director Cowan requested a year extension

with McMahan and Associates, LLC because the City is in the middle of one of its largest capital projects in a decade that is subject to significant audit requirements. The City worked through many of those requirements with McMahan and Associates previously. If the City switches the audit firm, it will have to repeat many of those processes for the second year of the Federal Single Audit, known as the OMB Circular A-133 audit. That process is extremely time-consuming and staff extensive. Maintaining the current audit firm for one more year would be more efficient. This audit must be conducted remotely due to COVID-19 and much of the document scanning has already been completed and submitted to McMahan and Associates. Director Cowan mentioned that this firm sends a combination of the new and seasoned auditors to municipalities, which can help them better identify possible fraud or issues since they have some familiarity with the finances and processes. Finance will do a RFP for a new audit firm in 2021.

Councilor Logan moved and Councilor Freeburn seconded the motion to extend the audit engagement with McMahan and Associates for one additional year for the financial statements for the year ending December 31, 2020.

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

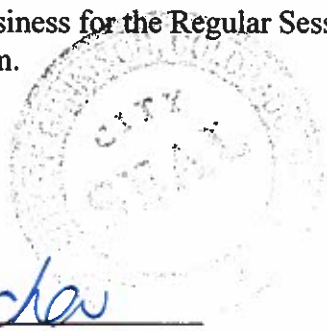
Roll call, no: None.

COVID-19 Update and Recovery. City Manager Russ Forrest noted that the County’s positivity rate for COVID-19 is around 12%; however, this amount does not include numbers from Western or the recent community testing event. There is no one in the hospital. He encouraged people to remain diligent and for people to sign up online through the vaccine interest form. Gunnison County is doing well with vaccine distribution and doses are being used. Frontline healthcare workers and seniors are getting vaccinated. Community leaders are having discussions about where community needs still exist. The County is out of funding for COVID-19 communication efforts; therefore, they may ask the City for financial assistance. Each councilor stated what information they have received from community residents. It was reported that communication to the senior population has been adequate and there is support for the free community testing events. Some downtown business owners are COVID-19 wary and some frustration that enforcement of public health orders had not been consistent amongst all businesses. The free testing events have been well run. It was noted that some doctor’s offices are frustrated that they cannot vaccinate their own critical patients, but they understand the need to also follow the County’s process. It was mentioned that some people have noticed fewer people wearing masks in the grocery stores and in Wal-Mart. There may be more sensitivity around COVID-19 up-valley than in Gunnison.

Staff and Council Reports. Staff and Council gave brief reports. City Manager Forrest informed Council that the final agreements with Tetra Tech, Filanc, and Hydro for the Wastewater Treatment Plant are nearly completed. In the future, a new improvement plan will be presented to Council related to the Lazy K Housing development.

Council discussed the parking of large vehicles and camping on City streets, which persists despite the recent passage of Ordinance No. 5, Series 2020. Council also spoke a bit about the flashing speed signs on Main Street and summarized the discussion items of any meetings they recently attended.

With no further business for the Regular Session, Mayor Gelwicks adjourned the Regular Session meeting at 7:19 p.m.



Attest:

E. Bouckle
City Clerk

Jim Gelwicks
Mayor