

GUNNISON CITY COUNCIL

February 3, 2023

SPECIAL SESSION

11:00 A.M.

The Gunnison City Council Special Session meeting was called to order on Friday, February 3, 2023, at 11:00 a.m. by Mayor Diego Plata in Council Chambers, located at 201 W. Virginia Avenue in Gunnison, Colorado. Present in Council Chambers were Mayor Plata, Mayor Pro Tem Logan, Councilor Freeburn, Councilor Gelwicks, City Attorney Kathy Fogo, Acting City Manager/Finance Director Ben Cowan, City Clerk Erica Boucher and Police Chief Keith Robinson. Executive consultant Andrew Gorgey of Columbia Ltd. attended online. A Council quorum was present.

Council Action Items.

Authorization to Purchase Two Police Patrol Vehicles. Police Chief Keith Robinson approached Council to discuss if the police department should proceed with two gas engine police vehicles rather than the two hybrid vehicles that were ordered by the City. The original order for two hybrid vehicles, which was placed in 2022, was cancelled by Ford in September. The department was able to reorder the hybrid vehicles for 2023 as directed by Council in November. The Police Chief was informed on January 23, 2023, that the vehicles being outfitted in Denver were gas engines and not hybrids as ordered. The company presented the City with the option to purchase the two gas engine vehicles at a slightly discounted price per car. The department has already removed the equipment from the two vehicles that were to be replaced. Without these cars, the department is two vehicles short in its fleet, but also has three officer vacancies. Council asked a few questions about long-term costs and savings between gas and hybrid vehicles. The cars are traded out every ten years. If the vehicles are reordered they will not arrive before 2024.

The Police Department does a one-to-one vehicle to officer ratio. Without the other vehicles at this time, the greatest impact would be on large community events, like parades. The department currently has two or three hybrid vehicles in its fleet out of 15 marked cars. The nation-wide chip storage has resulted in the supply storage of hybrid vehicles because they cannot operate without the chip.

There was mention of how transitioning to hybrid vehicles was part of the City's Strategic Plan and considering that vehicles are on a 10-year replacement cycle, it may be worth the wait for the hybrids to arrive in 2024 rather than have two new gas engine cars be added to the fleet. There are two more hybrids on order that are scheduled to arrive in the summer of 2023. Because of staff shortage, the department has the ability to wait until the arrival of the other hybrids this summer.

Staff would like to gather some data on the long-term costs of hybrid and gas engine vehicles for comparison and future decision-making capabilities. Council directed staff to refuse the order and take no action on proceeding with gas engine vehicles. Council thanked Police Chief Robinson.

Executive Session. Mayor Pro Tem Logan moved to go into Executive Session to consider personnel matters, pursuant to C.R.S. §24-6-402(4)(f), specifically to discuss next steps for the City Manager position. Councilor Freeburn seconded the motion.

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

Roll call, no: None.

As the presiding officer, Mayor Plata opened the Executive Session on Friday, February 3, 2023, at 11:17 a.m. for the purpose of considering personnel matters pursuant to C.R.S. §24-6-402(4)(f), specifically to discuss next steps for the City Manager position. Present in the Executive Session were Mayor Diego Plata, Mayor Pro Tem Mallory Logan, Councilor Boe Freeburn, Councilor Jim Gelwicks, Acting City Manager Ben Cowan, City Attorney Kathy Fogo and Andrew Gorgey of Columbia Ltd. Mayor Plata cautioned participants to confine all discussion to the stated purpose of the executive session and that no formal action may occur in the Executive Session. He instructed participants that if, at any point in the Executive Session, any participant believed that the discussion was going outside the proper scope of the executive session, they should interrupt the discussion and make an objection. He asked the City Clerk to leave the room. She left Chambers.

Mayor Plata requested that the City Clerk return to meeting at 11:53 a.m. He attested that the meeting recording reflected the actual contents of the discussion at the Executive Session and was

in lieu of any written minutes to satisfy the recording requirements of the Open Meeting Law. The recording will be retained for a 90-day period.

Present in the Executive Session were Mayor Diego Plata, Mayor Pro Tem Mallory Logan, Councilor Boe Freeburn, Councilor Jim Gelwicks, Acting City Manager Ben Cowan, City Attorney Kathy Fogo and Andrew Gorgey of Columbia Ltd. For the record, Mayor Plata asked that if any person who participated in the Executive Session believed that substantial discussion of any matters not included in the motion to go into Executive Session occurred during the Executive Session, or that any improper action occurred during the Executive Session in violation of the Open Meetings Law, they should state their concerns. No one stated any concerns.

Mayor Plata closed the Executive Session at 11:54 a.m. and returned to the open meeting.

Councilor Gelwicks moved to direct staff to reopen the City Manager search with a revised salary range of \$190,000 to \$225,000, include that transitional housing is available, and that the search will be reopened within five (5) days. Mayor Pro Tem Logan seconded the motion.

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

Roll call, no: None.

With no further business, Mayor Plata adjourned the Special Session meeting at 11:57 a.m.



Mayor

ATTEST:



SEAL:



Clerk