



**GRAND COUNTY  
COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING**

**Grand County Council Chambers  
Held virtually on Zoom  
Moab, Utah**

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**MINUTES  
30 JUNE 2020**

The Grand County Council met in a special meeting on 30 June, 2020. Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, the meeting was streamed/attended electronically. It was also broadcast on YouTube and saved there for future viewing. Council members in attendance were Chair Mary McGann, Gabriel Woytek, Evan Clapper, Greg Halliday, and Jaylyn Hawks. Curtis Wells arrived at 3:05 and Rory Paxman arrived at 3:25. Also in attendance were County Council Administrator Chris Baird, Assistant County Council Administrator Mallory Nassau, and Clerk/Auditor Quinn Hall. Chris Baird (County Council Administrator) and Quinn Hall (Clerk/Auditor) were present at the Anchor Location.

3:00 p.m.

**Call to Order** - Chair McGann called the meeting to order at 3:05

**Citizens to Be Heard**

Marc Horowitz thanked the council for recommending against illegal fireworks.

Lori McFarland expressed concern that we'll make laws that are difficult to enforce with regard to masks.

**Council Member Disclosures**

Mary McGann – none.  
Greg Halliday – none.  
Jaylyn Hawks – none.  
Evan Clapper – none.  
Gabriel Woytek – none.  
Curtis Wells – none.

**Discussion Items**

- A. Discussion on the possibilities of restructuring Building Inspection, Planning and Zoning, and Active Transportation and Trails as divisions under a department titled "Grand County Community Development Department". (Council Administrator Baird)

Chris began the discussion about restructuring some departments at the county. Chris noted the county's organization is flat and noted a more vertical structure would be better. The county could,

at this point, alter and restructure for more efficient organization. As a county we should have departments and divisions instead of just divisions.

Zacharia noted he agrees with Chris that some added verticality to county organizational structure would increase efficiency.

Chris suggested retitling the position of planning and zoning and removing some responsibilities from that position. A department head could be selected later.

Bill Hulse noted that he's somewhat against restructuring as proposed. Bill suggested that adding a level may take away some effectiveness from the organization. Bill noted his department is pretty busy under the current system and he's hesitant to take on any more.

Chris discussed ways that the lack of middle management creates a significant workload for the administrator's office.

Zacharia noted that any one current division manager is likely too busy to also serve as a head of a department.

Curtis noted that organizational restructuring is likely as we move forward. It makes sense to have planning and engineering in the same department. We are providing a service to the public and streamlining that process has value. Perhaps Active Trails and Transportation could be under another department – Sand Flats or even Roads.

Evan noted there may be budget issues – especially this year, and would like to see some more well-developed timelines.

Chris noted that changing job descriptions now leaves the county better options for future restructuring. Funding is an issue at this point – so we'll have to restructure within our means

Jaylyn agreed the structure is flat and that economic development should be shifted to another department. Perhaps we could put Active Trails and Transportation under the Travel Council.

Mary suggested we look at the entire county – and not shuffling just one or two departments.

Chris would like to see the job description and title approved today – the possible reorganization could be worked out later.

- B. Discussion on the possibilities of restructuring and re-titling the “Moab Area Travel Council” to “Grand County Economic Development Department”, and expanding the duties of such department to include diversified economic development activities alongside the establishment of tourism, recreation, and film. (Council Administrator Baird)

Chris noted in relation to reduced staffing and fewer funds available we'll need to make some change in the departmental structure and likely diversify and expand the role of the Travel Council. The Travel Council could have a broad, more diversified role.

Elaine suggested she'd be happy to diversify and expand the role of the Travel Council. Governor's Office of Economic Development considers tourism an important role.

Curtis noted the benefits of building out the role of an economic development department. Suggested that economic development and diversification is a large role and would like to see a more comprehensive plan with regards to any future role or expansion of duties for the Travel Council.

Chris pointed out that we're not likely to solve any major problems at this point – the county simply doesn't have the staff or the funds to make a large diversification push at this time, but we have some obligation to move forward as well as we're able based on limited funds.

Zacharia noted the Travel Council is likely the division best prepared to take on expanded roles in the short term – but in the long term the county should look at a more comprehensive restructuring and organizational plan that would give more support to economic diversity. Zacharia pointed out that often it's the city, not the county, that drives economic development.

Rory supports the Travel Council – but suggested that eventually we could make a larger, better department for economic development.

Jaylyn noted the Travel Council is pretty busy already, and agrees with Curtis that we need a more well-defined plan to direct the county.

Chris agreed a more comprehensive strategy is needed – but that we need to move quickly to receive some potential grants.

Gabriel feels good about the changes, and agrees that taking this further will require more personnel and funding in the future, but the potential for growth is there.

Elaine noted that her office, at full staff, could likely facilitate the grant writing duties of economic development at this time.

Chris noted perhaps the better way to think about it is to create an economic development department that includes the Travel Council, versus creating an economic development department under the Travel Council.

### **General Business- Action Items- Discussion and Consideration of:**

- C. Discussion and consideration of notifying the South Eastern Utah Health Department of Grand County's preferred COVID-19 phased guideline status and/or other requests regarding COVID-19 mitigations possibly including mandatory face coverings (Councilmember Wells, and Council Chair McGann)

**Presentation:**

Chair McGann shared figures and stats regarding potential COVID transmission rates and noted that wearing masks to prevent COVID-19 is effective and protects people. State buildings require masks.

Greg noted his family has had experience with COVID-19, and feels the masks and social distancing are good practice.

Gabriel feels strongly we need to do everything we can to slow the spread, and the best way to keep it from spreading is to wear masks.

Rory suggested businesses may be further hurt by any mask requirement. Concerned that people wearing masks won't do it properly.

Evan would like to support businesses by staying open – and perhaps masks could help businesses stay open.

Jaylyn suggested that in a perfect world folks would just wear masks as a common courtesy. Jaylyn noted mask wearing would likely save lives statewide, and cut infection and spread of COVID-19.

Bradon Bradford noted the differences between the Yellow and Green phases at the state level. Bradon noted the state would likely not make a decision for several days.

**Motion by** Evan Clapper to submit a letter to the governor requesting that Grand County be allowed to make face coverings mandatory in public areas in Grand County.

**Motion seconded by** Greg Halliday

**Discussion:** Rory wondered what the penalty would be for not wearing a mask. Curtis asked if we should include the move from yellow to green in the motion. Mary suggested we address that at the next meeting. Curtis suggested there is a potential problem with mask wearing and reduced oxygen levels. Curtis is not comfortable with mandatory masks. Jaylyn suggested the lack of a firm resolution in front of the council might be problematic. Gabriel noted that there is some flexibility with different mask requirements.

**Roll Call Vote:** Mary McGann, yes. Evan Clapper, yes. Curtis Wells, no. Jaylyn Hawks, yes. Gabriel Woytek, yes. Rory Paxman, no. Greg Halliday, yes.

**Motion Passes 5-2** Wells and Paxman opposed.

- D. Approving amended job description for the “Community and Economic Development Director” position to remove economic development duties, re-title [TBD], reclassify the pay Grade from 20 to 18, and authorize recruitment. (Chris Baird, Council Administrator)

**Presentation:**

Chris explained the changes in title and duties.

**Motion by** Curtis Wells to approve amended job description for the “Community and Economic Development Director” position to remove economic development duties, re-title to “Planning and Zoning Director” and reclassify the pay Grade from 20 to 18, and authorize recruitment.

**Motion seconded by** Evan Clapper

**Discussion: none at this time**

**Motion Passes 7-0**

**Closed Session(s)** (if necessary)

**Adjourn**

Chair McGann adjourned the meeting at 5:20 pm.

GRAND COUNTY COUNCIL:

ATTEST:

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Mary McGann, Chair

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Quinn Hall, Clerk/Auditor