



# Collaborative Mayor (City Council) / City Manager Relationships *Creating Strong Partnerships Leads to Strong Organizations*

*Presented by  
Mayor Anna Stout and City Manager Greg Caton  
City of Grand Junction*

# Building Relationships

- Developing Strong Partnerships
- The Right Tool for the Job
- Creating Mutual Support
- Tailoring Communications
- Managing Challenges
- Use of Humor
- Authenticity/Vulnerability



# Developing Strong Partnerships

- Define roles
- Agree on channels of communication
- Identify opportunities for success
- Utilize best practices of similar cities
- Hold weekly strategy sessions
- Participate in Council onboarding



# The Right Tool for the Job



- Based on roles, which can achieve the goal?
- Shared challenges and goals
- Achieve goals but use different approaches



# Creating Mutual Support

- Show support at City Council meetings
- Identify opportunities for community/civic presentations
- Prepare talking points for community events, newsletter articles, presentations
- Conference attendance
- Award presentations



# Tailoring Communications

- Regular weekly meetings
- Media Today
- Council Briefings
- Memos
- Access via cell phone
  - Text
  - Hands free
  - Email





## EDITORIAL

### Calming waters around OM Pool

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*Pratt*

ANN SECCOMBE  
*Grand Junction*

DUKE BRADSHAW  
Grand Junction

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# Use of Humor

- Diffuses challenging situations
- Shared frustration lightens the load
- Illustrates humans behind decisions





# A Place for Authenticity/Vulnerability

- Connection to Community
- Invested in Council/Manager Form of Government
- Exhibit Servant Leadership
- Presence in Community
  - Events
  - Civic organization membership





# THANK YOU



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