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**INUTES OF THE VERNAL CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING HELD APRIL 1, 2015** at 7:00 p.m. in the Vernal City Council room, 374 East Main, Vernal, Utah 84078.

**PRESENT:** Councilmembers Bert Clark, Dave Everett, Samantha Scott, Ted Munford and JoAnn Cowan and Mayor Sonja Norton.

**WELCOME:** Mayor Norton welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**INVOCATION OR UPLIFTING THOUGHT:** An invocation was given by Councilmember Bert Clark.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** The pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilmember Samantha Scott.

**APPROVAL OF CITY COUNCIL MINUTES OF** **MARCH 18, 2015:** *Councilmember Samantha Scott moved to approve the minutes of March 18, 2015. Councilmember Dave Everett seconded the motion. The motion passed with Councilmembers Cowan, Everett, Scott and Clark voting in favor. Councilmember Munford was not present for the vote.*

**JUNIOR LIVESTOCK SHOW REQUEST FOR FUNDS – JUSTIN AND KADEN HARRISON:** Kaden Harrison explained that he participates in the Junior Livestock Show and asked the Council to consider supporting the show in the same amount as in the past. Mayor Norton asked what kind of animal Kaden is raising. Kaden Harrison answered that he competes in the swine category. Councilmember Cowan asked what he has learned from this experience. Kaden answered that he has learned a good work ethic and to be responsible. Justin Harrison explained that there is a daily folio where the participants have to log their activities and chores, and a committee reviews those before awarding any prizes. Councilmember Clark asked when the Livestock Show will be held. Justin Harrison answered that it is scheduled for June 1st through the 4th and is one of the largest in the State of Utah bringing participants from all over. *Councilmember JoAnn Cowan moved to support the Junior Livestock show in the amount of $1500 and thanked them for bringing recognition to the community. Councilmember Bert Clark seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call vote:*

*Councilmember Munford not present for the vote;*

*Councilmember Cowan aye;*

*Councilmember Everett aye;*

*Councilmember Scott aye;*

*Councilmember Clark aye.*

**RED FLEET TREATMENT PROGRAM – TRINA** **HEDRICK:** Trina Hedrick, representing Utah Wildlife Resources, explained that Red Fleet Reservoir is scheduled for a restoration project which will include the treatment of rotenone to address the problem of the illegal introduction of walleye into the waterway. This species has now been detected escaping into the Green River and will cause problems with the endangered fish in that stream. After the reservoir is treated, it will be restocked with specific fish species. These illegally planted fish ruin the ecosystems and has become a world-wide problem. Ken Bassett asked if the specific illegal species in Uintah County is the walleye. Trina Hedrick answered yes. Several options have been researched including screening the reservoir, however, a more permanent solution is needed to control the numbers. The only way to 100% remove the illegal fish is to use rotenone which is an EPA approved pesticide. Councilmember Clark asked if this application will also destroy any mussels in the lake. Trina Hendrick stated there is not any positive signs of mussels which would require a higher dosage of the pesticide that is not acceptable. The parks crew will continue to inspect water craft during high usage periods. Trina Hendricks noted that Red Fleet Reservoir is a secondary drinking water source for the City, so no drinking water will be available after September 30 for a short period of time. The pesticide will be gone within a few weeks and the reservoir will be restocked with fish possibly in November. A committee was formed to help decide what species of fish to put back into the reservoir and will include both warm water and cold water fish. Councilmember Clark asked if the pesticide will hurt any wild game. Trina answered that the pesticide is not easily ingested by mammals, and it is anticipated that there will be no impact to wild animals that might drink the water. Signs will be posted to prevent any exposure to humans. Ken Bassett reminded the Council that the City usually only uses Red Fleet for drinking water in the months of May and June when the springs are too muddy. However, this application will affect anglers and recreational boating in the fall. Councilmember Norton asked that a link to this information be placed on the City’s website. Councilmember Munford asked what will happen if Red Fleet water is needed due to the drought conditions expected this year. Ken Bassett stated that the drinking water source for the City is Ashley Springs, and if the springs dry up, then Red Fleet would be needed. The City would then coordinate with DWR. The Council thanked Trina for her presentation.

**PUBLIC HEARING: FY2015 BUDGET REOPENER #1 – ORDINANCE NO. 2015-07:** Ken Bassett presented the FY2015 budget reopener to the Council. He noted that with the downturn in the economy in the Uintah Basin, The City departments need to be cautious of revenues and expenses. The sales tax revenue for December was 125% of what was collected last year, and January was the same as last year. No data is available yet for March as there is always a lag to get the sales tax funds. The revenue for FY2015 is $10,527,000 compared to $10,424,000 that was projected. Ken explained that there is also $260,000 of expenses associated with the airport through December, 2014 that was not budgeted. Uintah County has asked the City to participate with the convention center, and will move the airport expenses to the Transportation District. Councilmember Clark asked if the $260,000 is in addition to $63,200 budgeted. Ken Bassett answered yes, for a total of 320,000 in expenses for the airport. Next year the City will pay $200,000 for the convention center instead of the airport. Councilmember Clark asked if the fuel costs have decreased. Ken Bassett answered those line items have been adjusted down based on the year-to-date expenses. The Public Works Committee is also recommending replacing a vehicle that was destroyed in a fire at the public works yard. There will be some proceeds from the insurance company, however, that will not cover the cost of replacing the vehicle. Councilmember Munford noted that it is cheaper to buy a new vehicle using the State contract bid than buying a used vehicle. Ken Bassett stated the cost for this vehicle will come out of the equipment fund. The only other large item is the cost to replace the billboards at a cost of $5000. There was some discussion regarding the leases for the billboards. Mayor Norton opened the public hearing for the FY2015 budget reopener #1. There were no public comments and the hearing was closed. *Councilmember JoAnn Cowan moved to approve Ordinance No. 2015-07 approving budget reopener #1 for FY2015 as presented. Councilmember Ted Munford seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call vote:*

*Councilmember Munford aye;*

*Councilmember Cowan aye;*

*Councilmember Everett aye;*

*Councilmember Scott aye;*

*Councilmember Clark aye.*

**REQUEST FOR APPROVAL TO AMEND THE VERNAL CITY MUNICIPAL PLANNING & ZONING CODE – CHAPTER 16.10 – BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT – ORDINANCE NO. 2015-05 (2ND READING)**: Allen Parker reminded the Council that this ordinance would replace the Board of Adjustment, that serves as the appeals and variance board of the City, with one individual who has special training on a contract basis. Councilmember Clark asked if the hearing officer would have access to an attorney. Allen Parker answered that the hope is the position will be filled by an attorney. Ken Bassett stated this individual would be a representative of the City, and any legal issues would be heard by the City Attorney. Allen Parker explained that the City does charge a fee for a variance hearing or an appeal. Councilmember Clark stated the fees may need to be adjusted to pay the attorney costs. Councilmember Ted Munford asked if there had been any input from the community on this ordinance. Ken Bassett answered only the public hearing at the last Council meeting. Allen Parker noted the Planning Commission reviewed as well, with no comments from the public. Ken Bassett explained that with this change, it will be easier to have immediate review of an appeal. Councilmember Bert Clark asked the staff to send a letter to those that have served on the Board of Adjustment thanking them for their service. *Councilmember Bert Clark moved to accept Ordinance No. 2015-05. Councilmember Dave Everett seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call vote:*

*Councilmember Munford aye;*

*Councilmember Cowan aye;*

*Councilmember Everett aye;*

*Councilmember Scott aye;*

*Councilmember Clark aye.*

**ARCHES HEALTH INSURANCE RENEWAL:** Ken Bassett explained that normally the City does not receive insurance renewal rates from the insurance carrier until later in the budgeting process. In this case, Arches felt they had enough information to give a renewal quote which is a 5% increase in premium. The Administrative Committee reviewed the renewal rate and concluded it is a reasonable increase as compared to an industry-wide increase of 10% – 12%. Another concern is if the City moves around too much going from one insurance company to another, it is hard to find credible coverage. The City did receive a commitment from Arches not to increase the renewal rate more than 13%. Councilmember Cowan asked if there had been any serious medical issues affecting the rate. Ken Bassett stated not that he knew of for last year. He noted that with this increase, an employee paying for family coverage will have an increase from $198 to $207 a month with a slight increase in dental rates with PEHP as well. Councilmember Munford asked if the City needed to stay with PEHP for the dental insurance as there are limited providers. Ken Bassett stated there are not a lot of dental insurance companies that have many of the dentists on board. He stated the staff will look into it. After further discussion, *Councilmember Ted Munford moved to approve the health insurance renewal rate with Arches. Councilmember JoAnn Cowan seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call vote:*

*Councilmember Munford aye;*

*Councilmember Cowan aye;*

*Councilmember Everett aye;*

*Councilmember Scott aye;*

*Councilmember Clark not present for the vote.*

**REQUEST FOR APPROVAL TO AMEND THE VERNAL CITY PERSONNEL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES AMENDING CHAPTER 10.01 - HARASSMENT - RESOLUTION NO. 2015-05:** Ken Bassett explained that the City needed to update the harassment policy, changing it from “sexual and gender” harassment to “harassment”, regardless of what kind it might be. This policy will reflect the fact that the City wants a harassment-free work environment and what will be done if it occurs. Councilmember Cowan agreed it is critical to have this policy. *Councilmember Cowan then moved to approve Resolution 2015-05. Councilmember Dave Everett seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call vote:*

*Councilmember Munford aye;*

*Councilmember Cowan aye;*

*Councilmember Everett aye;*

*Councilmember Scott aye;*

*Councilmember Clark aye.*

**REQUEST FOR APPROVAL TO REPLACE PICK-UP TRUCK IN STREETS DEPARTMENT**: Ken Bassett reminded the Council as discussed earlier, that a vehicle in the street department was damaged in a fire and recommended it be replaced using the State bid. The estimated cost to replace this vehicle is $30,400. Mayor Norton asked if the insurance will help with the cost. Ken Bassett stated the insurance payment will be around $6,000 - $7,000. *Councilmember Bert Clark moved to approve purchasing a new truck for the street department. Councilmember Samantha Scott seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call vote:*

*Councilmember Munford aye;*

*Councilmember Cowan aye;*

*Councilmember Everett aye;*

*Councilmember Scott aye;*

*Councilmember Clark aye.*

**ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**:

Building permits:

Councilmember Bert Clark asked if the building permit fees were waived for the Christian Church. Allen Parker stated that project was only a demolition so the fees are minimal as it is a simple process. Ken Bassett noted that the City cannot waive fees for churches. Councilmember Everett reminded the Council that the City could not waive the fee for the American Legion either.

Councilmember Cowan asked for a more comprehensive report from the code enforcement officer.

Councilmember Bert Clark asked about the big metal building north of Councilmember Cowan’s home. Allen Parker stated that the property owner was within the requirements of the City so it had to be approved. He stated the Planning Commission will be reviewing the code to mitigate that type of structure in the future.

Councilmember Bert Clark asked the staff to look into the large hole on 100 North and 500 West next to B’s convenience store. Allen Parker explained that is going to be their storm water retention pond. Councilmember Clark stated it looks dangerous. Allen Parker stated he would discuss alternatives with PEG Development.

Mineral Lease Funds:

Councilmember JoAnn Cowan stated that Commissioner Bill Stringer reported that mineral lease funds are down 36%. Mike Davis stated he will look at it. The payments were down 19% in January, and February may be lower.

**ADJOURN:** There being no further business, Councilmember Bert Clark moved to adjourn. Councilmember Ted Munford seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote and the meeting was declared adjourned.

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Mayor Sonja Norton

ATTEST:

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Roxanne Behunin, Deputy Recorder ( S E A L )