

MINUTES of the public meeting of the Uintah County Commission held **May 13, 2025** in the Commission Chambers of the Uintah County Building at 147 East Main, Vernal, Utah. The meeting commenced at 3:00 pm.

PARTICIPANTS: Commissioners Sonja Norton, John Laursen, and Willis LeFevre.

ATTENDANCE: Mike Wilkins, Tammie Mecham, Gennie Bird, Skyler Cargile, Melanie Silcox, Max Haslem, Dean Baker, Travis Campbell, Wendi Long, Amber Toler, Mike Kelsey, Gregg Galecki, Sonya Ray, illegible, Brenda McDonald, Ryan Mattson, Mike Cook, and Matt Cazier.

Minutes recorded by Tai Duncan.

WELCOME: Commissioner Laursen welcomed everyone to the meeting.

PRAYER offered by Brenda McDonald.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE led by Gennie Bird.

1. APPROVAL OF WARRANTS – Mike Wilkins, Clerk-Auditor

Warrants dated May 8, 2025 in the amount of \$299,099.54 with nothing specific to note.

Commissioner Norton moved to approve the warrants for May 8, 2025 as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

2. TAX MATTERS - none

3. ELECTION AGREEMENT WITH CITIES & DISTRICTS FORM APPROVAL - Mike Wilkins, Clerk-Auditor

Working with Loren Anderson, Civil Attorney, the agreement to provide election services for the districts and municipalities has been updated for this year. The County will send ballots, count ballots and provide canvass reports to the entities. These agreements include an estimated cost that will need to be finalized after we have all the specific details for the entity. The cost will vary for each entity depending on how many individuals file and who will be participating as well as the number of voters within that entity's boundaries. The agreement was sent out for input. Mike asked for approval as to form and then the agreement with each entity will be done separately.

Commissioner LeFevre moved to approve the Election Agreement form as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

4. RECREATIONAL TRAILS PROGRAM GRANT CONTRACT APP-003582 VERNAL VIA FERRATA - Gennie Bird, Purchasing & Grants

This is a grant award agreement from the Utah Division of Outdoor Recreation for the Recreational Trails Program grant, awarded in 2024 for the Vernal Via Ferrata project. The contract was delayed pending cultural and environmental clearances. The grant amount is \$200,000.00 matched with the Utah Outdoor Recreation Grant, UORG, for \$200,000.00. Access Utah, the non-profit, provided additional match money of \$241,550.00 for a project total of \$641,550.00. This is a pass-through grant with no County contribution. The project must be completed by the end of summer next year. Loren has reviewed and approved the contract, and it was sent to Commissioner Laursen for electronic signature. Gennie requested approval of the contract and authorization for electronic signatures. Commissioner LeFevre inquired about the source of the grant money. Gennie stated it comes from the UDOR through a competitive grant program. Matt Cazier, Community Development, believes the RTP funds are federal grants, which explains the study requirements. Commissioner Laursen noted the grant likely originates from taxes or fees such as state park entrance and use fees and vessel and vehicle registration fees. Commissioner LeFevre had concerns the grant is funded through tax payer dollars.

Commissioner Norton moved to approve the RTP Grant Contract APP-003582 as presented. Motion passed: Commissioner Norton and Commissioner Laursen, aye and Commissioner LeFevre, nay.

5. SURFACE LEASE WITH AMERICAN GILSONITE: Skyler Cargile and Gregg Galecki, American Gilsonite

Loren led the discussion while Skyler and Gregg were available for questions. For clarification, this is in fact an easement not a surface lease. The easement grants American Gilsonite the right to access and use the property (approximately 107 acres) in Ignacio for their existing wells and related structures, which have been in operation since 1958. While the easement covers the entire 107 acres, the prescriptive use is specifically for operating their wells. Any other use or additional infrastructure would require further approval from the Commissioners. Brenda McDonald, Recorder, raised a concern about the 107-acre description potentially granting unrestricted access. Gregg reiterated that the easement's intent is solely for well operations. Many of their well locations are fenced but they are scattered across the 107 acres and an exact description of them and the access to them will be difficult to create. Loren suggested adding a description referencing the location of the wells on the property. He also noted there are other uses on this property as well such as an existing grazing lease. Commissioner Laursen proposed referencing the water wells as licensed by the Utah Division of Water Rights for clarity without needing a detailed list of the 19 wells. Loren agreed to Commissioner Laursen's suggestion and will make those changes in order to have it signed and completed today.

Commissioner LeFevre moved to approve the easement as presented with the recommended correction. Motion passed unanimously.

6. UTAH CYBER CENTER - SLCGP MOU 002 - Patch Management Addendum - Ryan Mattson, IT. This is the second amendment to the memorandum of understanding with the State Cyber Center, a division of the State providing various cybersecurity programs. This sixth project offers patch management services at no cost until April 8, 2029. The cyber center leverages the collective buying power of state entities, and the grant covers the costs. The MOU outlines management procedures, requiring the County to go through the cyber center for specific administrative tasks. Ryan requested authorization for himself to sign the amendment, as Crystal Clark, IT Director, is away.

Commissioner Norton moved to approve the MOU amendment with the cyber center as presented authorizing Ryan Mattson's signature. Motion passed unanimously.

7. CONTRACT FOR SPECIAL ENTERTAINMENT AT THE FAIR - Melanie Silcox, Western Park

This contract is for the Thursday night concert at the County Fair on August 14th. Concerns from the work session regarding security language and ticket pricing have been addressed. The contract now specifies that Search and Rescue will handle security that night, and the ticket prices are correctly listed as \$35 for reserved and \$25 for general admission. The total contract cost is \$31,000, which includes a buyout for the band's meals before arrival and after departure; excluding green room provisions of water, iced tea, and pizza. Discussion then focused on rain insurance. Melanie contacted Johnny Miller at UCIP (Utah Counties Indemnity Pool) and then she contacted his recommended company but they have not returned her calls. However, Johnny also noted Vortex as a reputable company though he could not offer an opinion on the fairness of the quote they provided. A policy was quoted for \$4,889 to cover rainout for the three main entertainment nights: Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, with payouts triggered by 0.1 inches of rain as measured by WeatherWorks Doppler. The payout amounts were \$40,000 for Thursday, \$20,000 for Friday, and \$10,000 for Saturday, based on estimated costs of entertainment for those nights. Saturday being lower as the entertainment is actually paying the County. The insurance cost is above the \$31,000 entertainment contract but within the overall concert budget. A motion for the rainout insurance is not required.

Commissioner LeFevre moved to approve the special entertainment contract in the amount of \$31,000 as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner LeFevre moved to approve the County Fair rain-out insurance with Vortex as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

8. ORDINANCE #05-13-2025 O1: amending Ordinance #12-14-2024 O1, which established the Commission meeting schedule for 2025, to change the time when work sessions shall be conducted: beginning June 4th, work sessions shall be at 10 am - Loren Anderson, Civil Attorney

As discussed, work sessions will be held at 10 am instead of 12 pm, noon, on Wednesdays beginning June 4th. No other changes will be made to the Commission meeting schedule.

Commissioner LeFevre commented this change is partly due to his schedule. Several of the boards he sits on also hold meetings at noon on Wednesdays. Commissioner Laursen added the scheduled time of noon for work sessions did not see an increase in turnout.

Commissioner Norton moved to approve Ordinance #05-13-2025 O1 as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

9. CONSIDERATION OF AGREEMENT WITH NAPLES CITY FOR JUSTICE COURT PROSECUTION

The Naples City Police Chief Nathan Simper had contacted Loren regarding the expired interlocal agreement regarding Justice Court Prosecution. The new agreement largely mirrors the old one, with the County handling prosecution for Naples City citations. The payment remains \$40,000 per year, paid in two \$20,000 installments. The new agreement is for a five-year term, expiring December 31, 2029. Resolution #05-13-2025 R1 formally adopts this agreement. Commissioner Laursen added the Attorney's office handled 226 cases for Naples City in 2023 and 227 in 2024.

10. RESOLUTION #05-13-2025 R1: Interlocal agreement for Municipal Prosecution Legal Services

Commissioner LeFevre moved to approve Resolution #05-13-2025 R1 as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

11. PUBLIC COMMENT –

There were no comments from the public. Commissioner Laursen noted there are others selling Rodeo tickets but they are scams. The official distributor is Purple Pass and the tickets are less than \$50. Please be mindful of where you are purchasing your rodeo tickets.

ADJOURN: The meeting adjourned at approximately 3:36 pm.


JOHN LAURSEN, CHAIR


MICHAEL W. WILKINS, CLERK – AUDITOR

