

MINUTES of the public meeting of the Uintah County Commission held **April 21, 2026** in the Commission Chambers of the Uintah County Building at 147 East Main, Vernal, Utah. The meeting commenced at 3:00 pm.

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

ATTENDANCE: Mike Wilkins, Danny Harrell, Melanie Silcox, Caleb Hall, Robin O'Driscoll, Gennie Bird, Michael Cook, Danette Brooks, Matt Cazier, Deanna Baum, Jess Hermann, Joel Brown, Angela Hawkins, Leon Batanian, Jhoane Robinson and Carl Robinson.
Minutes by Sheri Allen.

WELCOME: Commissioner Laursen, Chair, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

PRAYER by Matt Cazier.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE by Willis LeFevre.

1. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** April 14, 2026, April 15, 2026 work session and April 20, 2026 special meeting

Commissioner Norton moved to approve the minutes for April 14 and 15, 2026 and April 20, 2026. Motion passed unanimously.

2. **APPROVAL OF WARRANTS** – Mike Wilkins, Clerk-Auditor
Warrants dated April 16, 2026 in the amount of \$1,657,563.39. Payments of note are \$500,000.00 to Uintah Care Center, \$25,000.00 to Vernal City for the Airport and \$480,594.27 to Vernal City for the FAA grant for the airport.

Commissioner LeFevre moved to approve the warrants as presented by Mike Wilkins. Motion passed unanimously.

3. **TAX MATTERS:** None

4. CEDAR BEAR AWARD RECOGNITION -

Commissioner Laursen recognized Cedar Bear Naturales as the Small Business Association (SBA) 2026 Utah Rural Small Business of the Year. Cedar Bear Naturales was named the SBA 2026 Utah Rural Small Business of the Year, recognizing the company for its business success, community contributions, and ongoing commitment to creating quality jobs, fostering local growth, and supporting the next generation of business leadership. Co-founded by Carl and Jhoane Robinson, Cedar Bear began operations in Roosevelt in 1998 and relocated its manufacturing facility to Ballard, Uintah County, in 2007, where it continues to operate today. For over 30 years, the company has operated in the Uintah Basin, specializing in manufacturing its liquid herbal nutritional products. Carl Robinson is noted as a pioneer in the dietary supplement industry, having built the first company to offer totally alcohol-free, concentrated, effective, and great-tasting herbal products—a feat many believed was impossible. While other companies have since tried to copy Cedar Bear's success, none have achieved the potency and effectiveness of the original products. Building on Carl Robinson's innovative process and formulation, the company uses more than 200 botanicals to produce products for the Cedar Bear brand and for other companies through its bulk and private label division. These plant-based products, manufactured in Ballard, are distributed nationwide and to overseas accounts, extending the reach of this rural Utah business across the country and beyond. Cedar Bear is a certified woman-owned business and has received statewide recognition, including the Utah Manufacturers Association 2024 Women in Manufacturing Award and the 2025 Environmental Leadership Award for its clean, low-impact manufacturing practices. As a family-founded company, the Robinsons find these recognitions, along with the SBA Rural Small Business Award, especially meaningful, not only for the

company but also for the community that has supported its growth. At its core, Cedar Bear was built on a passion for creating pure, simple, and effective botanical products that support health and well-being for people and their pets while contributing to a healthier community and a stronger rural economy.

Carl Robinson, a clinical herbalist and co-founder of Cedar Bear, discussed his company and its proprietary, alcohol-free herbal product process called "TincTract," which uses glycerin and was developed over 40 years ago. He highlighted his clinical background, working with various medical professionals. Carl also explained his rationale for locating the 30-year-old, legacy-based manufacturing company in rural Vernal/Uintah County, citing a personal love for the outdoors and the "down to earth" nature of the people. While acknowledging the challenge of hiring in a smaller population base, he stated that the benefits of the location have "more than offset how hard it's been."

Jhoane Robinson, co-founder and majority owner of Cedar Bear, shared her vision for the company. She discussed her journey, noting she took the reins of running the company three years ago. Her focus is to achieve the original goal of getting the Cedar Bear brand on the shelves of every store and in the cupboards of every home, which includes focusing on getting into stores nationally. Jhoane emphasized that as an officially woman-owned and run business, one of their goals is to be inspirational, as well as to help people with their health by enabling them to help themselves.

In closing, Jhoane and Carl addressed the question of what Cedar Bear brings to the Uintah Basin, stating it brings diversity to the economy. They highlighted that Cedar Bear is not another oil company, nor is it just agriculture or another retail service-oriented business; they are in manufacturing, which aligns with a current major emphasis nationally and within the state of Utah.

5. PUBLIC HEARING: 2026 Budget Amendment

Mike Wilkins, Clerk-Auditor, proposed to amend the 2026 Uintah County budget for the departments that require adjustments to the following funds and departments:

Fund 10 General Fund

GIS	\$4,000.
Fund Balance	(\$4,000.)
Grant Funds	\$4,722,200.
SS4 Grant	(\$17,100.)
OHV Trails Grant	(\$389,500.)
Revitalization	(\$416,600.)
Rural Grant Part A	(\$129,900.)
UCORE Grant	(\$8,800.)
Ashley Valley Water Shed Grant	(\$3,760,300.)
Economic Development	\$11,000.
Weber State Wildcat Sponsor	(\$11,000.)

Fund 11 Municipal Fund

Sheriff	\$13,800.
Bullet Proof Vest Grant- Revenue adjustment	\$18,500.
Fund Balance	(\$32,300.)
Liquor Law Enforcement	\$94,500.
Liquor Control Grant	(\$94,500.)

Fund 27 B- Road

B Road- 500 N \$2,000,000.
Fund Balance (\$2,000,000.)

Fund 43 Municipal Bldg. Authority

MBA- Master Plan Grants \$140,000.
MBA- CIB Grants (\$70,000.)
Wester Park Match Funds- Master Plan (\$35,000.)
Buckskin Hills Match Funds- Master Plan (\$35,000.)

Fund 46 Capital Projects

Capital Projects \$1,105,000.
Fund Balance (\$1,105,000.)

Fund 52 Uintah Care Center

Uintah Care Center \$100,000.
Fund Balance (\$100,000.)

Fund 55 Western Park

Western Park- Museum of Uintah County \$2,800.
Western Park- Museum of Uintah County (\$2,800.)

Commissioner Laursen opened the public hearing for any public comment. No public comments were made.

Commissioner Laursen closed the public hearing for public comment.

6. RESOLUTION #04-21-2026 R1: Budget Amendment - Mike Wilkins, Clerk-Auditor

Commissioner LeFevre moved to approve Resolution #04-21-2026 R1 as presented by Mike Wilkins. Motion passed unanimously.

7. ORDINANCE #04-15-2026 O1: Fee Schedule Amendments - Loren Anderson, Civil Attorney
Loren Anderson, Civil Attorney, presented Ordinance #04-15-2026 O1, which amends the County Fee Schedule found in County Code 3.30.010. This amendment affects two departments. The Recorder's Office, due to recent state legislation, requested three changes.: general recording fee increase from \$40 to \$45; plat for subdivision fee increase from \$50 to \$55, with the addition of a redaction fee of \$10. These changes are requested to take effect on May 6th, which complies with state legislation and the County Code requirement of a 15-day waiting period. Western Park requested the description for a 10' x 10' booth rental be amended. Previously it stated \$15 "per day," the text will be updated to remove "per day," making the fee \$15 for the duration of the event. The Commission was asked to approve these changes within the County Fee Schedule.

Commissioner Norton moved to approve Ordinance #04-15-2026 O1 as presented by Loren Anderson. Motion passed unanimously.

8. OHVR CONTRACT for APP-005229 BUCKSKIN HILLS ENDURO TRAINING COURSE - Gennie Bird, Purchasing & Grants
Gennie Bird, Purchasing & Grants, requested the approval of a grant award contract. Uintah County

was awarded an OHVR (Off-Highway Vehicle Recreation) grant from the Division of Outdoor Recreation for the construction of an enduro course at the Buckskin Hills Recreation Complex, in the amount of \$382,064. The project includes a half-mile obstacle track with progressive skill lanes and rider amenities designed to support safety and structured off-road training. The completed facility will feature a perimeter fence, a three-lane course, a pavilion, and a vault restroom. The County match is \$22,654.70. The majority of the match, over \$22,000, consists of employee labor to install the perimeter fence and volunteer in-kind contributions for consulting and engineering services. The cash match is \$280 for signage. The project was presented by Mike Cook, Community Development, who has been working on this for a few years. Mike presented to the State last month, and the County received 100% of the requested funding. Thanks were given to Angela Hawkins, Public Information Officer, for preparing the presentation.

Commissioner Norton moved to approve the OHVR contract APP-005229 Buckskin Hills Enduro Training Course as presented by Gennie Bird. Motion passed unanimously.

9. ACCEPTANCE OF RIGHT-OF-WAY GRANT UT106718159 from the BLM, realignment of the Mary Cashen Canyon Road - Mike Cook, Community Development

Mike Cook, Community Development, requested the approval of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) right-of-way grant for the reroute of the Mary Cashen Canyon Road. The road previously zigzagged across the east border of the Simplot property. Working with Simplot and the BLM, Simplot requested the County move the majority of the road onto BLM land. An application was submitted to relocate/realign the road. An existing road was already in place for most of the new alignment. Simplot constructed a small section on their property to facilitate the process. The relocation was approved by the BLM. The road is located a few miles northeast of Red Fleet, running from the bottom of Little Brush Creek Canyon to the Searle Ranch Road up on Diamond Mountain.

Commissioner LeFevre moved to approve the Right-of-Way Grant UT106718159 from the BLM as presented by Mike Cook. Motion passed unanimously.

10. LEON BATANIAN - REZONE REQUEST: From I-1, Industrial to A-4, Agricultural at 5220 S Hwy 88 & 5094 S Hwy 88, Randlett, UT, serial # 08:011:0084 & 08:011:0085 - Deanna Baum, Community Development

Deanna Baum, Community Development, presented the rezone application from Leon Batanian for properties located at 5220 South Highway 88 and 5094 South Highway 88 in Randlett. The properties are 9.87 and 4.94 acres, with the affected rezone area being approximately 7.4 acres. The current zoning is I-1 Industrial and the proposed zoning is A-4 Agricultural. The applicant is requesting to reverse a 2013 rezone that changed the property from Agricultural to Industrial. The current surrounding zoning includes A-4 Agricultural, MG-1 Mining and Grazing, Industrial, and Commercial. While some adjacent uses are industrial including a gravel pit to the south, there are also surrounding agricultural uses. The County's Future Land Use map designates these properties as Agricultural. The application was reviewed by the Planning Commission on Wednesday, April 15. The Planning Commission voted unanimously to recommend the rezone to Agricultural. The Commission is requested to approve the rezone application.

Commissioner Norton moved to approve the rezone request for Leon Batanian as presented by Deanna Baum. Motion passed unanimously.

11. 2026 UINTAH COUNTY FAIR CONTRACTS - Melanie Silcox, Western Park

Melanie Silcox, Western Park, requested approval on three Uintah County Fair contracts for the 2026 fair. Loren Anderson, Civil Attorney, has reviewed all the contracts.

a. United Truck and Tractor Pullers

The United Truck and Tractor Pullers event is scheduled for Friday, August 21st. The total cost is \$22,000, which covers the tractor pulls earlier in the day and the truck pulls later that night. This event will be free to the public.

b. All Star Monster Truck Family Tour

The All Star Monster Truck Family Tour event is scheduled for Saturday, August 22nd. The terms of the agreement state that the venue will retain all gate fees. The cost for the performance is \$40,000: payable as a \$4,000 deposit, with the remaining \$36,000 due upon completion of the event on Saturday night.

c. Utah Horse Pullers Association

The Utah Horse Pullers Association event is scheduled for Friday, August 21. It is a free event to the public, and the cost is \$7,000; covering everything that they do for that event.

Commissioner LeFevre moved to approve the 2026 Uintah County Fair contracts as presented by Melanie Silcox. Motion passed unanimously.

12. PUBLIC COMMENT: None

ADJOURN: The meeting adjourned at approximately 3:38 pm.



JOHN LAURSEN, CHAIR



MICHAEL W. WILKINS, CLERK – AUDITOR

