

MINUTES of the special commission meeting of the Uintah County Commission held **September 24, 2026** in Commission Chambers of the Uintah County Building at 147 East Main, Vernal, Utah. The meeting commenced at 10:30 a.m.

PARTICIPANTS: Commissioners John Laursen and Sonja Norton. Willis LeFevre is excused.

ATTENDANCE: Mike Wilkins, Margie Shewell, Koy Nielson, Maury Bergman, Ryan Mattson, Gennie Bird, Wendi Long, Jo Gardner, Robert Wilkins and Dan Mortensen
Minutes by Leasha Williams

PRAYER: Koy Nielson

PLEDGE: Gennie Bird

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

1. **PURCHASE OF PROPERTY** - Sonja Norton, County Commissioner
Commissioner Laursen stated that the special meeting was called due to the lack of a work session this week. The Commission is considering the purchase of a 0.23-acre parcel (Parcel #050330016, located at 491 East 400 South) formerly owned by the Wiseman family. The county has sought to acquire this property for 15 to 20 years to serve as a stormwater catch basin and mitigate flooding from Western Park during heavy rains. The negotiated purchase price is \$204,000, matching the county assessor's valuation. Existing structures on the property will be removed. Because the seller's hold period is expiring soon, the item was brought forward for public input before being formally addressed at Tuesday's commission meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT -

Joe Gardner inquired about the intended use of the property and expressed concern regarding whether converting it to a catch pond would elevate water levels and impact neighboring homes. Commissioner Laursen and Commissioner Norton clarified that the primary objective is to prevent stormwater runoff from flooding nearby basements and streets by directing overflow into the city's storm drainage system. They emphasized that proper engineering will be conducted, likely incorporating a controlled release mechanism, to minimize any adverse impact on surrounding properties. This will be further discussed in the commission meeting next Tuesday.

ADJOURN: The meeting adjourned at approximately 10:41am.


JOHN LAURSEN, CHAIR


MICHAEL W. WILKINS, CLERK – AUDITOR