

1 **M**INUTES OF THE JOINT VERNAL CITY COUNCIL AND UINTAH COUNTY  
2 COMMISSION, SPECIAL MEETING HELD ON JUNE 15, 2015 AT 3:30 P.M.  
3 IN THE UINTAH COUNTY CONFERENCE ROOM AT 147 EAST MAIN ST,  
4 VERNAL, UTAH.

5 **PRESENT:**

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7 Uintah County: Commissioners Bill Stringer, Mark Raymond and Mike McKee.

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9 Vernal City: Councilmembers Samantha Scott, Dave Everett, Bert Clark and JoAnn  
10 Cowan and Mayor Sonja Norton.

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12 Staff and Guests: Steve Evans, Laura Brummond and Kevin Yack with Uintah Basin  
13 Association of Governments, Mayor Dean Baker - Naples City, Jessica Bowden with  
14 Chamber of Commerce, Adam Massey - Special Service District, Ken Bassett and  
15 Roxanne Behunin - Vernal City, Nick Jarvis, Utah League of Cities and Towns.

16  
17 **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND APPROVAL OF SPECIAL MEETING:** *Councilmember*  
18 *JoAnn Cowan moved to approve the special meeting of June 15, 2015. Commissioner Mark*  
19 *Raymond seconded the motion. The motion passed with Commissioners Stringer, Raymond &*  
20 *McKee and Councilmembers Scott, Everett, Clark and Cowan voting in favor.*

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22 **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF MAY 11, 2015:** Commissioner Raymond asked that  
23 the direction for the truck route show east to west as the beginning point. With that correction,  
24 *Councilmember Bert Clark moved to approve the minutes of May 11, 2015. Commissioner*  
25 *Bill Stringer seconded the motion. The motion passed with Commissioners Raymond, Stringer*  
26 *& McKee and Councilmembers Scott, Everett, Clark and Cowan voting in favor.*

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28 **CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AGREEMENT:** Steve Evans, past-president of the Vernal  
29 Area Chamber of Commerce, updated the elected officials on the funding agreement for the  
30 Chamber. He noted that without the support of the local government entities, the Chamber would  
31 not be able to provide the needed services to the business community and visitors. He explained  
32 that a presentation was made to Naples City for funding as they provide services to businesses in  
33 their community as well. Also, a new director has been appointed - Mr. Joel Brown who was  
34 working for Anadarko. Commissioner Raymond thanked Mr. Evans for his years of service on  
35 the Board of Directors of the Chamber and his input on the new funding agreement. John  
36 Stermer, Uintah County Attorney, stated he has been working on this agreement, however, with  
37 the change in State law that requires additional transparency, an interlocal agreement would  
38 actually create another entity where the funds are transferred from government agency to  
39 government agency. He stated the agreement can also be drafted as an MOU with a justified  
40 donation going to a private entity which then eliminates the public meeting requirements for the  
41 Chamber of Commerce. Steve Evans stated the Chamber will do whatever is decided by the City  
42 and the County.

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44 **VERNAL CITY APPROVAL:**

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45 After further discussion, *Councilmember JoAnn Cowan moved to use an MOU to enter into an*  
46 *agreement with the Chamber for funding purposes. Councilmember Bert Clark seconded the*  
47 *motion. The motion passed with Councilmembers Cowan, Clark, Everett and Scott voting in*  
48 *favor.*

49  
50 Adam Massey explained that the Chamber of Commerce is actually a 501C-6 organization which  
51 is a special category allowing for membership. The City and the County have the right to ask the  
52 Chamber to provide specific services, as well as the membership.

53  
54 **UINTAH COUNTY APPROVAL:**  
55 *Commissioner Mark Raymond moved to use an MOU to enter into an agreement with the*  
56 *Chamber of Commerce for funding purposes. Commissioner Bill Stringer seconded the motion.*  
57 *The motion passed with Commissioners Raymond, Stringer and McKee voting in favor.*

58  
59 Mayor Dean Baker stated that Naples City is interested in participating and will discuss the  
60 funding at their next meeting.

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62 **AIRPORT UPDATE:**  
63 Commissioner Mark Raymond explained they have been in constant contact with Great Lakes to  
64 get a firm date on when they will start air service to Vernal. Unfortunately they are still unable  
65 to give a start date, but are optimistic that they will be able to start providing service next week.  
66 There was some discussion regarding the requirements for pilots. Commissioner Raymond  
67 explained Sky West exercised their termination clause in their contract to provide air service to  
68 Vernal once the FAA denied the request for them to use jets in Vernal.

69  
70 Commissioner Raymond stated that the attorneys are still working on an Interlocal Agreement to  
71 transfer the management of the airport to the Uintah Transportation Special Service District.  
72 Loren Anderson stated he is working on the agreement with Gayle McKeanchnie, attorney for  
73 the District, and Dennis Judd, attorney for Vernal City, and is close to a final draft. The hope is  
74 to have the agreement finalized by July 1<sup>st</sup>.

75  
76 **UBTA PRESENTATION - BUS ROUTE:**  
77 Commissioner Mark Raymond explained that a few years ago the decision was made to  
78 implement the Basin Transit System with UBAG managing the program. Laurie Brummond  
79 explained that both Duchesne and Uintah Counties pay for the program, and there are a lot of  
80 people traveling to Vernal. The program has had a slow growth with more use on the Vernal loop  
81 now that there is no fare being charged. Commissioner Mark Raymond stated the Vernal loop  
82 has a lot of use from the disabled or handicapped residents. Also, one unintended benefit is the  
83 area can show steps are being taken to improve air quality. Councilmember Bert Clark noted that  
84 the benches have helped a lot for patrons to have a place to wait for the bus. Commissioner  
85 Raymond stated more benches are needed and possibly organizations will be willing to purchase  
86 outside benches as their way of supporting this program. Councilmember Dave Everett asked if  
87 there are maps available for the bus routes. Kevin Yack answered that the map is on their

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88 Facebook page and web page. Jessica Bowden stated the Chamber of Commerce also has the  
89 maps and passes.

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91 **TRANSPORTATION SALES TAX - HB 362:**

92 Nick Jarvis, with Utah League of Cities and Towns, explained that House Bill 362 has two parts.  
93 The first section deals with gas tax reform changing the 25.4% tax to a 12% tax on the rack price  
94 of gas in the State. This change actually created a 4.9 cent tax increase with 30% of those funds  
95 going to local governments in the form of B & C road funds. Commissioner McKee stated that  
96 change is effective in January. Nick Jarvis stated that the second part of that bill is to allow the  
97 counties to levy an additional .25% tax after approval of the voters with the funds being split  
98 between the cities, county and any transit system in place. These funds have different rules and  
99 an expanded definition of transportation including trails, parking structure etc. The amount of  
100 money currently budgeted for the maintenance of transportation in the general funds for local  
101 governments must continue through 2020. Some counties want to place this issue on the ballot  
102 this year, and some are waiting to see if Salt Lake County will approve it this year. The  
103 Transportation Coalition has a handout and funds to help finance a campaign and will likely use  
104 those funds the year Salt Lake County puts this issue on the ballot. The transit system in the  
105 Basin is unique as it is in two separate counties. The questions concerning this tax is can those  
106 funds be used in the entire service area or only within the boundaries of the county where the tax  
107 has been approved by the voters. Several attorneys have weighed in on this issue and have  
108 different opinions. Commissioner McKee stated that a meeting was held with the Uintah County  
109 elected officials on this ballot issue, and although Uintah County does not gain a lot with this tax,  
110 the County is willing to put it on the ballot and let the voters decide this year. The County is also  
111 considering another provision on this ballot. Duchesne County has also indicated they will put  
112 this issue on the ballot this year. Laurie Brummond stated that UBAG will have to keep track of  
113 the tax funding per county. The current route does not include Naples City, however, they are  
114 thinking of expanding into that area. Mayor Dean Baker stated that would be a big factor for the  
115 voters of Naples to support this tax. Councilmember Cowan stated that getting taxpayers to sign  
116 on for a tax increase is tough and asked who would educate the public. Adam Massey stated that  
117 he understood that the entities involved cannot lobby for this tax. However, the Transportation  
118 District may be able to coordinate with the Transportation Coalition as it is in the best interest of  
119 the District to maintain roads and transportation. Councilmember Cowan asked if BTA or the  
120 Special Transportation District is prohibited from campaigning. Nick Jarvis stated that no public  
121 funds can be expended once the issue is on the ballot. Councilmember Cowan stated the Uintah  
122 School District had an ad hoc committee to help with their last bond issue. Adam Massey  
123 suggested that the Transpiration Coalition do a public presentation to explain the need for this  
124 measure to pass. He stated that the SSD Board can expend funds. Councilmember Dave Everett  
125 asked if this proposition does not pass, can it be placed on the ballot again. Nick Jarvis answered  
126 yes. Mayor Dean Baker asked what the deadline is to put it on the ballot this year. Nick Jarvis  
127 stated the counties must make a decision in August. Commissioner McKee stated it would be  
128 valuable to have the city's request that this be placed on the ballot.

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131 **ADJOURN:** There being no further business; Commissioner Mark Raymond moved to adjourn.  
132 Commissioner Bill Stringer seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote and  
133 the meeting was declared adjourned.

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Ken Bassett, City Recorder

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AWAITING FORMAL APPROVAL