

**M**INUTES OF THE VERNAL CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING HELD  
NOVEMBER 18, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. in the Vernal City Council room, 374 East Main,  
Vernal, Utah 84078.

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

**WELCOME:** Mayor Sonja 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 Dave Everett.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 4, 2015 REGULAR MEETING:**  
*Councilmember Bert Clark moved to approve the minutes of November 4, 2015. Councilmember Samantha Scott seconded the motion. The motion passed with Councilmembers Munford, Cowan, Everett, Scott, and Clark voting in favor for a unanimous vote.*

**ASPHALT MANAGEMENT PROJECT REPORT - ERIC MAJOR, PE, UINTAH TRANSPORTATION DISTRICT:** Eric Majors and Michael Holley, representing the Uintah Transportation District, explained the road chip and seal projects that were completed County-wide. A program was implemented two years ago for road maintenance which includes roads in the cities. The philosophy is that \$1 dollar spent on maintenance saves \$10 on road repairs if maintenance is not done. With that knowledge, it is important to know that spending money on maintenance is beneficial. The Uintah Transportation District completed approximately \$500,000 of chip and seal and overlay work in Vernal City. The entire budget for maintenance was \$6 million dollars which was \$1 million dollars less than expected. This included 83 miles of crack sealing and 14 miles of road resurfacing. Councilmember Clark asked when the roads are prioritized, if the City roads are included on that list. Eric Major answered yes, all the roads are considered. Michael Holley stated that the asphalt on the roads immediately begins to oxidize which causes deterioration. If a seal is placed on the roadway quickly, the roadway lasts longer. The City submits their priorities which are then added to the asphalt management system and are rated by the District. A map of the streets that were chipped and sealed or treated by an overlay was presented. Eric Major explained that a gilsonite modified sealer was placed on 500 South which costs considerably less than other sealants which then stretches the budget and works well to rejuvenate the asphalt. Michael Holley stated that is a good treatment in areas with curb and gutter. Councilmember Bert Clark verified that as road projects are completed, that the irrigation drain lines are covered to prevent the chips and sealers from entering the pipes. He explained that Highway 40 was chipped in the rain causing contaminants to be washed into the irrigation drain lines. Michael Holley stated they changed the specifications this year to help prevent that issue. He noted that if Vernal City has any streets they would like to be included on the priority list for projects this year now is the time to submit them. Councilmember Cowan thanked the District for their willingness to include the City on the priority list. Michael Holley stated the District Board will consider new requests at their next Board meeting.

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**RECOGNITION TO SADIE NORTON FOR AWARD OF SCHOLARSHIP:** Ken Bassett explained that Sadie Norton is the code enforcement official for the City. The American Association of Code Enforcement awarded her a scholarship to attend training in Florida after she submitted an essay. She not only received the scholarship, she was also recognized as the top essay writer. Sadie Norton stated the conference was a great experience, giving her the opportunity to meet other code enforcement officers on a national level. The Council and Mayor congratulated Sadie and thanked her for representing Vernal City so well.

**PUBLIC HEARING: REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF REZONE REQUEST AT 379 NORTH 500 WEST, VERNAL, UTAH FROM TREVOR CARTER / RANDALL & LORI MILLS FROM R-1 RESIDENTIAL TO R-4 RESIDENTIAL – WITHDRAWN:** Mayor Norton explained that this public hearing will not be held as the applicant withdrew his application for a rezone. Ken Bassett stated that letters were sent out to the neighbors and the withdrawal of the rezone request completely closes the file.

**ESSENTIAL AIR SERVICE OPTIONS FOR VERNAL REGIONAL AIRPORT:** Ken Bassett explained that the airport has been without commercial airline service for several months. Great Lakes Airlines out of Denver submitted an application in May to provide EAS service. They purchased airplanes from SkyWest Airlines, but the FAA increased the standards for pilots which created a shortage of trained pilots so they have not been able to provide airline service. The FAA decided to rebid the essential air service for Vernal and Moab and received two bids. The first bid was from Boutique Airlines out of San Francisco with an airplane that will only seats nine people which is significantly different from previous carriers. The other proposal was from Via Airlines out of Florida who was willing to provide a 30 passenger plane. The proposal from Boutique Airlines would travel to Salt Lake City while Via Airlines proposed service to Denver. A letter of support for the proposal from Via Airlines was submitted by the County to the FAA. However, it was later determined Via Airlines is not authorized to fly commercial flights, only charter flights, so their proposal is a non-responsive bid. The County Commission is planning on traveling to Denver to speak with FAA regarding the EAS service. One concern is if the area does not stay within the provisions of the EAS the airport could lose the EAS funding. Ken Bassett noted it is a critical issue for the economy to have airline services. Councilmember Cowan explained that a few years ago a plane crashed and the FAA determined the pilot did not have enough flying hours so they increased the requirement. A Scout Leader asked if SkyWest Airlines would come back. Mayor Norton stated that they went to a larger plane that is not allowed to land at our airport until the runway is expanded. The airport is presently making headway on the runway expansion. Ken Bassett stated the terminal will be built and opened in 2017.

**REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF STIPEND FOR BOARD MEMBERS OF ASHLEY VALLEY SEWER MANAGEMENT BOARD:** Ken Bassett explained that the Utah State Legislature in 2015 amended the fiscal procedures policies for special service districts which requires them to obtain permission from other local government entities if they pay a stipend for service to elected officials. This requirement may apply to anyone receiving a stipend from a special service district if they fall under an interlocal agreement. In this case, Councilmembers Bert Clark and Dave Everett represent Vernal City on this Board and receive a stipend for

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serving. Councilmember Clark noted that the Sewer Management Board is unique from the other special service districts as their funds do not come from mineral lease taxes. Councilmember Bert Clark moved to approve the stipend for Board members of the Ashley Valley Sewer Management Board. 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 OF A MUNICIPAL SALES AND USE TAX - ORDINANCE NO. 2015-22:** Ken Bassett gave the Council the history behind the optional municipal sales and use tax allowance by the State Legislature. The legislation in 2006 was extremely complicated and there were 15 cities that suffered from that legislation. Additional legislation was passed in 2008 to give these cities the opportunity to correct what happened in 2006 by adopting an optional sales tax of .2%. Councilmember Cowan stated this tax will not generate a lot of funds this fiscal year. Ken Bassett agreed as this tax will not go into effect until April. The City departments have been asked to cut their budgets to help with the shortfall of funds this year. Councilmember Cowan stated the residents expect safe roads, police services etc. although there is not as much tax being collected. After further discussion, Councilmember JoAnn Cowan moved to approve Ordinance 2015-22 to impose an additional .2% municipal sales and use tax. Councilmember Dave Everett seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call vote:

*Councilmember Munford.....nay;*  
*Councilmember Cowan.....aye;*  
*Councilmember Everett .....aye;*  
*Councilmember Scott.....aye;*  
*Councilmember Clark.....aye.*

The motion passed with a majority vote.

**ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:**

Council Dinner

Mayor Norton explained that in order to cut back on expenses the Council will host a pot luck dinner this year on December 11<sup>th</sup>.

**CLOSED SESSION:** Councilmember Bert Clark moved to convene into closed session to hold a strategy session to discuss pending or reasonably imminent litigation and reconvene into open session when the discussion is concluded. 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;*

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*Councilmember Clark.....aye.*

**RECONVENE INTO OPEN SESSION AND ADJOURN:** The Council reconvened into open session. There being no further business, Councilmember Ted Munford moved to adjourn. Councilmember Samantha Scott 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

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