

MINUTES OF THE VERNAL CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING HELD
MAY 4, 2016 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, Travis Allan and Mayor Sonja Norton.

WELCOME: Mayor Sonja Norton welcomed everyone to the meeting.

INVOCATION OR UPLIFTING THOUGHT: An uplifting thought was given by Councilmember Dave Everett.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: The pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilmember Samantha Scott.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF APRIL 20, 2016 REGULAR MEETING: *Councilmember Bert Clark moved to approve the minutes of April 20, 2016. Councilmember Samantha Scott seconded the motion. The motion passed with Councilmembers Munford, Allan, Everett, Scott, and Clark voting in favor for a unanimous vote.*

ROCKY MOUNTAIN POWER PRESENTATION – KATHY HOFFMAN: Kathy Hoffman representing Rocky Mountain Power, introduced Brandon Anderson, local operations manager and George Hubbert, Director to the Council. Ms. Hoffman explained that every year she updates the Council on what they are doing in the community. Rocky Mountain Power contributes to the Boy Scout breakfast, the Uintah School District Foundation Storytelling Festival, Holly Days, the Dinosaur Roundup rodeo and the Energy Summit. They are also members of the Chamber of Commerce. Ms. Hoffman stated that Rocky Mountain Power focuses on specific areas each quarter of the year to help communities. For the first quarter the focus was on education, the second civic community organizations, the third quarter is culture and arts and the last quarter is health, welfare and service foundations. Information on the programs offered through Rocky Mountain Power is given to the Chamber and placed in their newsletters. Further Ms. Hoffman stated they are concerned with safety and use local media to get the word out how to be safe around the power lines. Councilmember Bert Clark asked who needs to call before digging. Brandon Anderson answered whoever is doing the digging has to call. Kathy Hoffman explained the features of their free mobile app. Mayor Norton asked about their recovery work in Davis County after the recent storm. George Hubbert explained that they pulled crews from other areas to help mobilizing 41 tree trimming crews and 21 lineman. Kathy thanked the Council for allowing them time for this presentation.

JUNIOR LIVESTOCK SHOW PRESENTATION: Cindy Birchell, from Jensen, reminded the Council that the City helps sponsor the Uintah Basin Junior Livestock show every year. The funds are used for prizes. Children are allowed to show two animals competing in showmanship, knowledge of science, and medical terms. Around 400 youth are expected to participate in the show this year scheduled for June 6th through the 9th. Mayor Norton asked how many participants are from outside the area. Cindy Birchell stated about half, and with the County Fair that week a lot of families will be staying longer. After further discussion, *Councilmember Bert*

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Clark moved to support the Junior Livestock Sow in the amount of \$1125 this year. He explained that because of the decline in the economy the amount is less than in the past and hoped that would be supportive enough. Councilmember Dave Everett seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call vote:

Councilmember Munford.....aye;
Councilmember Allanaye;
Councilmember Everettaye;
Councilmember Scott.....aye;
Councilmember Clark.....aye.

ATV/OHV JAMBOREE IN JULY PRESENTATION – ORLAN ANDERSON: Mr. Orlan Anderson explained that Uintah County is working on diversifying the local economy, and part of that plan is to market Buckskins Hills for shooting and motorized sports. A written resource guide is being developed, and once that is done, people will be invited to help plan venues. There is a lot of outside interest for ATV / OHV riders to come to the area so a small jamboree event is being planned for the end of July. There will be trail rides on Little Mountain, Red Mountain and the Monument along Dino Highway to see the bones. He asked the City to consider helping with the staging by allowing riders to unload at the hotels and ride along designated routes to the trails each day. He stated that a map will be prepared for riders to get to the trail heads. Evening events will be at the Western Park. The estimated number of participants is 300 which will bring around \$180,000 into the community. Further, Mr. Anderson stated that ‘At your Leisure’ TV production will be involved and will produce a commercial for Uintah County. Councilmember Bert Clark asked if both 4-wheelers and side by side vehicles will be allowed. Orlan Anderson answered yes. He stated there will be guides for each ride. The jamboree will be called the Outlaw Jamboree building on the local history of Butch Cassidy and the trails will be named after outlaws. The State of Utah is onboard, and they are working on getting permits for BLM land. Ken Bassett asked if the ATV’s comply with state requirements. Orlan Anderson stated that 90% will be street legal, however there are smaller ones that it is not feasible and must be within visual distance of an adult. The consensus of the Council was this would be a great event. Ken Bassett asked Mr. Anderson to make sure the Police Department is aware of the routes once the maps are prepared. Mayor Norton suggested the Streets Department put up signs. Orlan stated it would help if there were temporary signs. The Mayor and Council thanked Mr. Anderson for his time and effort in organizing this event.

PUBLIC HEARING: A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE VERNAL CITY TAXABLE WATER REVENUE BONDS, SERIES 2016 IN THE AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$400,000 FOR WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS AND RELATED MATTERS. Ken Bassett reminded the Council of the funding through the Community Impact Board for the radio read meters and the sewer lining project. The last step for the funding is to hold a public hearing. The first hearing is for the water system improvements for a loan in the amount of \$280,000. The total project is twice that much with the other half being a grant. Councilmember Ted Munford asked how the loan payments would be made. Ken Bassett stated the loan will be paid through the utility fund using water fees. Mayor Sonja Norton asked if

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there are any bonds that will be paid off. Mike Davis, Finance Director, stated he added a debt service list in their packets, and there will be a few paid off in five years. Ken Basset explained the first payment on this project will be due in 2018. Mayor Norton opened the public hearing for the 2016 water revenue bonds. There being no comments the hearing was closed.

PUBLIC HEARING: A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE VERNAL CITY TAXABLE SEWER REVENUE BONDS, SERIES 2016 IN THE AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$750,000 FOR SEWER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS AND RELATED MATTERS: Ken Basset explained this project is to reline portions of the main sewer line. The actual loan is \$653,000. The reason the bond numbers are higher is the bond attorneys do not want to go through this process again if the bids come in higher. Mayor Norton opened the public hearing for the sewer revenue bonds. There being no comments, the public hearing was closed hearing.

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE \$280,000 TAXABLE WATER REVENUE BONDS, SERIES 2016 TO FINANCE WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS AND RELATED MATTERS - RESOLUTION NO. 2016-06: Mayor Sonja Norton reminded the Council they just discussed this project and the Resolution authorizes the bonds for the water project. *Councilmember Dave Everett moved to approve Resolution No 2016-06. Councilmember Travis Allan seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call vote:*

- Councilmember Munford.....nay;*
- Councilmember Allanaye;*
- Councilmember Everettaye;*
- Councilmember Scott.....aye;*
- Councilmember Clark.....aye.*

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF \$653,000 TAXABLE SEWER REVENUE BONDS, SERIES 2016 TO FINANCE SEWER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS AND RELATED MATTERS - RESOLUTION NO. 2016-07: Councilmember Clark noted that this resolution authorizes the sale of sewer revenue bonds. Ken Bassett explained that the State of Utah buys the bonds using mineral lease funds to finance that purchase. The loan is for 30 years at zero interest. *Councilmember Bert Clark moved to approve Resolution No. 2016-07. Councilmember Travis Allan seconded the motion. Motion passed with the following roll call vote:*

- Councilmember Munford.....aye;*
- Councilmember Allanaye;*
- Councilmember Everettaye;*
- Councilmember Scott.....aye;*
- Councilmember Clark.....aye.*

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF APPEALS HEARING OFFICER: Ken Bassett explained that some time go the State Legislature changed how land use appeals are heard. If a rezone request is denied, the property owner has the opportunity to appeal that denial. In years past,

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the City had a Board of Adjustment to hear the appeal. However, they rarely met so it was an awkward situation. Now the City will use an appeals officer who will hear the appeal, similar to an administrative law judge. If the property owner appeals the decision of the appeals officer then it goes to District Court. With the change to an appeal officer, the Council needs to appoint someone. State law requires someone familiar with land use issues who can conduct a hearing. The Mayor and staff are recommending Mike Drescel, local attorney who sat on the Planning Commission, be appointed as the appeal officer, and he does have interest in doing this. A contract can be extended to him which will indicate payment for services rendered. Councilmember Ted Munford agreed he would be a great choice. Mayor Norton asked if an appeal officer could be used for personnel appeals. Ken Bassett stated he thought it had to be a board, and State law allows small cities to have the Council serve in that capacity. Councilmember Bert Clark noted that the appeal hearing officer cannot be on the Planning Commission. Ken Bassett agreed. Mayor Norton asked if the appeal officer needed to live in the City. Ken Bassett answered no. *Councilmember Ted Munford moved to pursue a contract with Mike Drescel as the appeal hearing officer for land use issues. Councilmember Samantha Scott seconded the motion. The motion passed with Councilmembers Munford, Scott, Allan, Clark and Everett voting in favor.*

TRANSPORTATION OPTION SALES TAX ELECTION – RESOLUTION NO. 2016-08:

Mayor Norton reminded the Council that the optional sales tax that was on the ballot last year failed by 21 votes. The State Legislature changed the way the money would be split, leaving that decision now up to the counties. Ken Bassett explained that before the legislative change the tax split was .1% going to the transit authority, .1% to the cities and only .05% going to the county. The new split has .025% going to the transit, and the rest is divided 50/50 between counties and cities based on point of sale and population. The Council can request the County to put this issue on the ballot. One major difference now is the down turn in the economy. Councilmember Ted Munford stated he is opposed to this as the citizens do not need to pay another tax. Mayor Norton agreed this is not a good time to add a tax. Councilmember Samantha Scott asked if this issue is put on the ballot and fails, is there an option to do it again? Ken Bassett stated yes as long as the Legislature does not change the law again. After further discussion, *Councilmember Ted Munford moved to decline this Resolution and revisit this issue in February. Councilmember Travis Allan seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call vote:*

- Councilmember Munford.....aye;*
- Councilmember Allanaye;*
- Councilmember Everettaye;*
- Councilmember Scott.....aye;*
- Councilmember Clark.....aye.*

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF AGREEMENT WITH EIGHTH DISTRICT COURT FOR WORK CREW SERVICES:

Ken Bassett explained that this is a continuing agreement with 8th District Court to have the youth provide mowing of City properties including the T-rex, 500 North, 500 West, City Hall, the fire station, etc. *Councilmember Bert Clark moved to renew*

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the contract with 8th District Court. Councilmember Dave Everett seconded the motion, The motion passed with Councilmembers Clark, Everett, Scott, Allan and Munford voting in favor.

REQUEST TO AMEND THE VERNAL CITY PERSONNEL POLICIES & PROCEDURES MANUAL – SECTION 18.01.010 – UNAUTHORIZED USE – RESOLUTION NO. 2016-10: Ken Bassett explained that this change to the personnel policies is simply a housekeeping item to clean up the language to allow employees to use the community room following the same process as others so it becomes authorized. Mayor Norton asked if people are allowed to use the staircase to take photos after hours. Ken Bassett explained that is allowed when the custodian is here. Otherwise, another city employee has to agree to volunteer their time on a Saturday, and they are responsible to monitor what is going on. *Councilmember Samantha Scott moved to approve Resolution No. 2016-10. Councilmember Ted Munford seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call vote:*

- Councilmember Munford.....aye;*
- Councilmember Allanaye;*
- Councilmember Everettaye;*
- Councilmember Scott.....aye;*
- Councilmember Clark.....aye.*

PRESENTATION OF TENTATIVE FY2017 BUDGET & SCHEDULING OF PUBLIC HEARING: Ken Bassett explained that the tentative budget is just that - based on requests from the departments and reviewed by the Council Committees. Budget workshops will be held where the Council will meet with the departments before setting a final budget. Mr. Bassett then read his budget message. *Councilmember Dave Everett moved to adopt the tentative budget. Councilmember Bert Clark seconded the motion. The motion passed with Councilmembers Everett, Clark, Allan, Munford and Scott voting in favor.*

Councilmember Bert Clark moved to hold the public hearing for the budget on May 18th. Councilmember Ted Munford seconded the motion. The motion passed with Councilmembers Clark, Munford, Allan, Scott and Everett voting in favor for a unanimous vote.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Budget schedule:

The Council discussed their schedules to hold the budget workshop meetings. The first meeting was scheduled for Monday May 16 at 4 pm. Another budget meeting was scheduled for June 9th at 4 pm.

Road Conditions:

Councilmember Ted Munford asked the staff to look at 500 West Street between 500 South and 1000 South as there are lifts in the road. Ken Bassett explained that initially the City was considering overlaying this roadway, but the cost is too high so that project has been placed on hold.

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ADJOURN: There being no further business, Councilmember Samantha Scott moved to adjourn. Councilmember Ted Munford seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote and the meeting was declared adjourned.

Mayor Sonja Norton

ATTEST:

Roxanne Behunin, Deputy Recorder

(S E A L)