

# NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

**TO THE RESIDENTS OF UINTAH COUNTY AND VERNAL CITY:** Notice is hereby given that the Vernal City Council and the Uintah County Commission will hold a special joint meeting on *Monday, July 18, 2016 at 3:30 p.m.* in the *Uintah County Conference Room, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor* - 147 East Main St, Vernal, Utah.

## A G E N D A

**3:30 p.m.**

### STANDING BUSINESS

1. ACKNOWLEDGMENT & APPROVAL OF SPECIAL MEETING
2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF JUNE 20, 2016

### SCHEDULED PUBLIC BUSINESS

1. ATV JAMBOREE - COMMISSIONER STRINGER
2. RADIATION VACATION (WELLNESS WAGON) VAN - COMMISSIONER STRINGER
3. BASIN TRANSIT AUTHORITY – COMMISSIONER STRINGER

### ADJOURN

\*NOTE: In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, individuals needing special accommodations during this meeting should notify Ken Bassett at 374 East Main St, Vernal, Utah 84078, telephone: (435) 789-2255.

**MINUTES OF THE JOINT VERNAL CITY, NAPLES CITY AND UINTAH COUNTY COMMISSION SPECIAL MEETING HELD JUNE 20, 2016 at 3:30 pm in the Vernal City Conference room, 374 East Main, Vernal, Utah.**

4 **PRESENT:**

5 **UINTAH COUNTY:** Commissioners Mark Raymond, Mike McKee and Bill Stringer.

6 **VERNAL CITY:** Councilmembers Samantha Scott, Bert Clark, Ted Munford and Mayor  
7 Sonja Norton. Councilmembers Dave Everett and Travis Allan were excused.

8 **STAFF:** Ken Bassett and Roxanne Behunin.  
9

10 **WELCOME:** Commissioner Raymond welcomed everyone to the meeting.  
11

12 **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT & APPROVAL OF SPECIAL MEETING:** Councilmember Bert  
13 Clark moved to approve and acknowledge this meeting. Commission Mark Raymond seconded  
14 the motion. Commissioners McKee, Stringer and Raymond and Councilmembers, Munford,  
15 Scott and Clark voted in favor for a unanimous vote.  
16

17 **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF APRIL 18, 2016:** Councilmember Bert Clark moved to  
18 approve the minutes of April 18, 2016 with one correction. Commissioner Bill Stringer  
19 seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.  
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21 **PROGRAM UPDATES:**  
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23 **VERNAL REGIONAL AIRPORT:** Commissioner Mark Raymond explained that runway  
24 improvements are continuing with considerable headway being made. The drainage has been  
25 completed and the contractor is working on the elevations. Mayor Norton questioned if the  
26 payment is being received timely from the FAA. Commissioner Raymond answered that it took  
27 longer at first, and now the reimbursement is faster. Mayor Norton asked if the piping is  
28 sufficient for the storm water. Commissioner McKee stated the design is for a 10-year flood, if  
29 the storm is larger, there will be some water collection. This design was what was required by  
30 the federal government. Ken Bassett stated that the County Attorney is asking for a change to  
31 the Interlocal Agreement for the management of the airport that affects the engineering payment.  
32 Commissioner McKee agreed and stated that there are two provisions in the contract that need  
33 clarified. The Uintah Transportation District assumed all financial responsibility, with the  
34 County paying GDA Engineering and then being reimbursed by the District. A better process  
35 would be for the District to pay the expenses and pass the information over to the County to  
36 request funding from the FAA. Councilmember Clark asked if the terminal building remodel  
37 was completed. Commissioner Stringer stated they are still working on the bathrooms and  
38 landscaping. Commissioner McKee noted that the current air travel carrier is the most premier  
39 service they have had. Commissioner Stringer stated they need to improve being on-time, as  
40 they had equipment malfunctions over the holiday which caused flights to be canceled. The

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41 hope is that the enplanements will increase with both the Salt Lake City flight and Denver flight.  
42 Also, the travel cost to other destinations can be cheaper if flown out of Vernal.

43

44 STORM WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN: Commissioner McKee explained that at the last  
45 meeting this project was not communicated well to the Cities. The County did approach the  
46 Community Impact Board for funding and received an 80% grant 20% loan funding package for  
47 storm water management in the County. As this project moves forward, the canal companies  
48 will be heavily involved, and the County Commission is committed to a strong open process.  
49 Councilmember Munford asked what happened as the Commission was clear that this project  
50 would not go forward unless the Cities joined the County. He asked what changed.  
51 Commissioner McKee stated that initially the County was not going to move forward without  
52 support from Vernal City and Naples City. After looking at the project and discussing the storm  
53 water needs with the canal companies, it became apparent that the project was still necessary.  
54 Councilmember Ted Munford stated it makes it difficult for the Council to know what will  
55 happen and to trust what is being presented. Commissioner McKee answered that the  
56 Commission, at that time, had no intention to move forward. Councilmember Clark asked if this  
57 still needed to be presented to the irrigators. Commissioner McKee stated that if the irrigators  
58 choose not to participate then a totally different plan will be needed. The irrigators will put in \$2  
59 million dollars to make the canals accessible. Councilmember Bert Clark asked if additional  
60 property will be needed for a wider right-of-way. Commissioner McKee stated the plan is only  
61 for the canals, no additional property. He stated the project will utilize the canals for storm  
62 water, not pipe the canals. Mayor Norton noted that the City simply could not afford the  
63 project, and there was no detailed information to move forward. Councilmember Ted Munford  
64 asked if this project will stop at the border of Uintah County and is there potential it will flood  
65 Vernal City. Commissioner McKee stated that the Cities will get a pretty strong benefit from this  
66 project. Commissioner Raymond agreed. Commissioner Bill Stringer stated that the Commission  
67 had lively discussions on this issue and came to an understanding to apply for the funding as the  
68 CIB loan was an opportunity that possibly would not be available later. There are still  
69 significant pieces missing from this project and the public, including Vernal City, will be  
70 informed as information becomes available. He noted that what is missing is the impact this  
71 project will have and the legalities, as the attorneys raised significant issues that have to be  
72 addressed. Also, there may be more expenses, especially for operational costs. Councilmember  
73 Munford asked the Commission to keep the Council informed, and possibly the City can help  
74 with the project in other ways as this is a challenging problem to address. Commissioner Stringer  
75 answered that the City and taxpayers want to be involved. They may be excited about the  
76 prospects or may be opposed until they know what is involved. Councilmember Bert Clark stated  
77 that the City does not want more indebtedness or fees that would have to be passed on to  
78 residents. Commissioner Stringer stated there may be an opportunity to create a cost savings for  
79 sewer, or have residents not use culinary water for irrigation. However, there does need to be  
80 some value. The Mayor and Council expressed their appreciation for the information.

81

82 CEMETERY: Mayor Norton asked if any projects are being planned for the cemeteries.  
83 Commissioner Mike McKee stated overall the comments for the cemeteries have been positive.  
84 Commissioner Bill Stringer noted they did have a water break this year, and areas of the  
85 cemetery dried out while that line was being fixed. Grass was installed in some areas which then  
86 caused problems with headstones and maintenance. The Dry Fork Cemetery is the most trouble

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87 free as there is no grass or water. Councilmember Bert Clark asked if personnel were available  
88 on Memorial Day to help people find the gravesites. Commissioner Stringer answered yes.  
89 Councilmember Bert Clark also if markers had been installed for the water faucets.  
90 Commissioner Stringer answered he would check on that. He noted that they have cut back  
91 overtime which is a challenge when preparing for big holidays. There was some discussion  
92 regarding using community service workers to help with maintenance. Mayor Norton stated she  
93 did receive complaints that grave decorations were removed early. She suggested signs be  
94 posted at the entrance to the cemeteries notifying visitors when decorations need to be removed.  
95 Councilmember Bert Clark stated that overall the cemeteries look nice. There was some  
96 discussion regarding alternating the Commissioner corner in the newspaper with the City.  
97

98 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: Commissioner Mike McKee explained that tomorrow at least  
99 10 tech companies will be traveling to Uintah County with the idea of looking at the talent pool  
100 in the area to hire people to work remotely. This allows workers to live here and still work for  
101 companies on the Wasatch Front. UBATC and USU can provide specialized training if the  
102 people here are willing to train for these jobs.  
103

104 EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT TRAINING: Councilmember Bert Clark explained that the  
105 emergency management training has been scheduled for the morning hours making it difficult  
106 for officials working full-time to get away to attend. He asked that in the future they consider  
107 scheduling training later in the day.  
108

109 CONFERENCE CENTER: Commissioner Mike McKee stated he appreciates the City's support  
110 of the conference center which is helping the economy. Today, an agricultural conference with  
111 higher education, students, and teachers are here for training at the conference center.  
112 Commissioner Mark Raymond noted the conference center is completely booked for June.  
113 Commissioner Bill Stringer thanked the City for allowing the street to be blocked during the  
114 County fair. Councilmember Clark agreed that it was more visible and freed up parking. Mayor  
115 Norton stated the Livestock Show had lower participation than in the past, however, the  
116 conference center is helping fill hotels and restaurants. Commissioner Stringer stated that the  
117 Assessor's conference was held here this year, and they could not remember the last time it was  
118 held in Vernal. People are excited to see the area as they do not know what is here. He noted  
119 that one problem when using both facilities is the drainage, and they may need to install bridges  
120 to help the pedestrian traffic. Ken Bassett stated the planner's conference was a wonderful  
121 success as well with the vast majority not having a clue how this area has changed over the  
122 years.  
123

124 BASIN TRANSIT AUTHORITY: Commissioner Mike McKee stated when the transit system  
125 was started there was significant State funding available. That funding is no longer available,  
126 and the potential tax to fund the transit system did not pass in Uintah County so that funding is  
127 not available. Duchesne County residents did pass the tax so they have a way to fund the system  
128 on the West side of the Basin. Mineral lease funds have dropped over \$1 billion dollars so  
129 another program cannot be funded with that money via the Uintah Transportation District. The  
130 bus system in Vernal is not heavily utilized, so that program may have to be dropped.  
131 Commissioner Mark Raymond noted that a specialized segment of the population uses the  
132 Vernal loop such as the disabled so they may be able to provide transportation to them through

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133 other means. The cost for the Vernal loop is \$240,000 a year. Mayor Norton asked if there is  
134 any grant funding available to help this special segment of the population. Commissioner  
135 Raymond stated they were not aware of any. Commissioner Bill Stringer stated possibly a Main  
136 Street route can be done with travel and tourism by charging the hotels for any stops. Ken  
137 Bassett asked how many buses are running. Commissioner Raymond stated there is one bus  
138 running at any given time that completes a loop in 45 minutes. Councilmember Munford stated  
139 it would be a wise choice to stop the bus since there is a legitimate reason. Commissioner Bill  
140 Stringer stated the funding would be redirected to provide transportation for special needs. Ken  
141 Bassett stated that as the City applies for funding for low income housing projects, one thing that  
142 does increase points is having a transit system. Commissioner Bill Stringer stated it is good to  
143 have this discussion so all the factors are known. He asked that Naples City be invited to the next  
144 meeting so this issue could be discussed with them.

145  
146 ATV JAMBOREE: Commissioner Stringer stated that the ATV Jamboree will be in Vernal  
147 and is under the sponsorship of the County. Specific hotels have been designated where the  
148 participants can park, unload and drive from there to the trail head. Trail leaders will help once  
149 they get to the trail. Ken Bassett stated the Council is supportive of this event, however the  
150 ATV's must be street legal. Commissioner Stringer stated they are using a permitting process  
151 similar to a parade, so even if the motorized vehicle is not street legal, it can be used for a  
152 specific purpose. Ken Bassett asked if the County would be passing an ordinance to allow with a  
153 permit. Commissioner Bill Stringer stated yes if needed. Commissioner Mark Raymond stated  
154 that at the Dinosaur monument there is a State road that has given authorization for one of their  
155 rides escorted by a park ranger.

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157 NEXT MEETING: After discussion, the consensus was to hold the next meeting on July 18,  
158 2016 at 3:30 pm.

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160 ADJOURN: There being no further business, Commissioner Mark Raymond moved to adjourn.  
161 Councilmember Ted Munford seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote  
162 and the meeting was declared adjourned.

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Kenneth L Bassett, City Recorder