

1. 4:30 P.M. Special Joint Vernal City Council & Uintah County Commission Meeting

Documents:

[CC06-24-19.PDF](#)

[SPECIAL JOINT CITY-COUNTY PACKET FOR 2019-06-24.PDF](#)

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, June 24, 2019 at 4:30 p.m. in the Vernal City Planning and Zoning Conference Room, 2nd Floor - 374 East Main St, Vernal, Utah.*

A G E N D A

4:30 P.M.

STANDING BUSINESS

1. ACKNOWLEDGMENT & APPROVAL OF SPECIAL MEETING
2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF APRIL 29, 2019

SCHEDULED PUBLIC BUSINESS

1. DISCUSSION ABOUT TRANSPORTATION TAX (UTAH CODE 59-12-2219)
2. DISCUSSION REGARDING MINERAL LEASE RECEIPTS
3. DISCUSSION ABOUT STATE LEGISLATURE'S TAX REFORM COMMITTEE
4. UPDATE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS: UINTA BASIN RAILWAY, JORDAN COVE (COOS BAY) AND RURAL CO-WORKING AND INNOVATION CENTER GRANT

ADJOURN

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

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MINUTES OF THE VERNAL CITY COUNCIL AND UTAH COUNTY
COMMISSION SPECIAL MEETING HELD APRIL 29, 2019 at 4:30 p.m. in
the Uintah County Conference room, 147 East Main, Vernal, Utah 84078.

4 **PRESENT:**

5 **VERNAL CITY:** Councilmembers Dave Everett, Samantha Scott and Mayor Doug
6 Hammond. Councilmember Travis Allan joined the meeting.

7 **UINTAH COUNTY:** Commissioners Brad Horrocks, Bart Haslem and Bill Stringer.

8 **STAFF:** Quinn Bennion, Roxanne Behunin, Wendy Long, John Stermer, Sylvia
9 Wilkins and Leesha Colthorp.

10 **GUESTS:** Sonja Norton, Pam Cinch, Cheryl Meir, Dan Dilsaver, Josh Bake and Doug
11 Brown.

12 Commissioner Bill Stringer declared the meeting can begin and will formally approve this
13 special meeting when the Vernal City Council has a quorum present.

14 **DISCUSSION ON AIRPORT MANAGEMENT:**

15 Cheryl Meier, Director of the Uintah Transportation District, explained that the Board members
16 of the District have approved that notice be sent to the City and the County to change
17 management of the airport from the District back to the County. Commissioner Bill Stringer
18 stated he understands that the agreement with the District has a termination clause requiring up
19 to a year's notice to end their management of the airport. However, the notice has not been
20 received yet. Cheryl Meier stated the clock does start ticking once the letter is sent.
21 Commissioner Stringer stated that the County and City could accept management back sooner
22 than a year, however there are a lot of items that will need to be discussed and ironed out before
23 that can happen. Mayor Hammond stated that with the budget restraints, the City cannot jump
24 quickly. Cheryl Meier stated that they are also having budget constraints, although they have
25 budgeted to manage the airport for this year. No funds can be transferred to the County, only the
26 City. She noted that the District is prepared to negotiate and agree upon a plan that is beneficial
27 for all entities. There was some discussion regarding the transfer to the City so there would be
28 no problems with County funding. John Stermer stated that the City does have a 25% interest in
29 the airport so they are more involved than any other entity besides the County. There was some
30 discussion regarding basic rules for mineral lease funding. Commissioner Brad Horrocks asked
31 when the City's budget year would begin. Quinn Bennion answered July 1st. Commissioner
32 Brad Horrocks clarified that the City makes a payment to the conference center in lieu of paying
33 for the airport. Quinn Bennion answered yes, that agreement was for five years, and starting
34 with the July 1st budget will be the 5th year. John Stermer stated that one of the issues is the
35 bonds from the District. He stated that the City and County do not want to be straddled with a lot
36 of debt from the airport. Cheryl Meier stated that there are projects that might not be finished yet,
37 and that could be part of the negotiation to relinquish the airport. Dan Dilsaver commented that
38 the District would keep the projects as that is their focus - not operations. Commissioner Bill
39 Stringer stated that the County cannot entertain this request until all aspects are outlined such as

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40 airport status change, liability, day to day expenses etc. Commissioner Bart Haslem asked if the
41 operation of the airport returns to the County, can the District still work on projects such as the
42 crossway runway, new terminal etc. Cheryl Meier stated that the Board would have to discuss
43 that issue. She stated that in the future, once the transfer happens, if the airport has the need for a
44 project and it is on the project list it would go through the process as other projects. There was
45 some discussion on how to address the different budgeting cycles to move the operation of the
46 airport back to the City and County. John Stermer stated one the letter is received requesting the
47 move then the timing and financial obligations can be worked on. He noted that there will have
48 to be deliberations on budget, personnel, liability etc. Councilmember Dave Everett stated that
49 from the City's perspective, the only money available is what is obligated for the conference
50 center and it is hard to budget for next fiscal year without specific numbers. Quinn Bennion
51 stated that the City would need annual operations costs. Commissioner Stringer stated that this
52 issue will need to be worked out for the benefit of the community throughout the next few
53 months.

54
55 Councilmember Travis Allan joined the meeting.

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57 **ACKNOWLEDGMENT & APPROVAL OF SPECIAL MEETING:** *Councilmember*
58 *Samantha Scott moved to acknowledge and approve this special meeting. Councilmember*
59 *Travis Allan seconded the motion. The motion passed with Commissioners Horrocks, Haslem*
60 *and Stringer voting in favor and Councilmembers Everett, Allan and Scott voting in favor.*

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62 **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 25, 2019:** *Councilmember Dave Everett*
63 *moved to approve the minutes of February 25, 2019. Councilmember Samantha Scott seconded*
64 *the motion. The motion passed with Commissioners Horrocks, Haslem and Stringer voting in*
65 *favor and Councilmembers Everett, Allan and Scott voting in favor.*

66
67 **CONTINUED DISCUSSION ON AIRPORT MANAGEMENT:**

68 Pam Cinch asked how the \$1 million dollars that the airport will receive from the FAA will
69 affect the operation. Doug Brown explained that the airport has a one and five year plan and the
70 first allotment of funds will have to be used to pay back the entity that paid for equipment that
71 has already been purchased. Cheryl Meier stated that the District has been receiving
72 reimbursement funds from the FAA in small amounts. Commissioner Stringer stated that there
73 is a limit on what the funds can be used for. Sonja Norton asked if it can be used for
74 administrative costs later on. Doug Brown stated that it cannot be used for operations only for
75 capital items. After further discussion, Commissioner Bill Stringer stated the City and County
76 will continue to discuss this issue after the letter is received from the District.

77 **MONITORING AND COLLECTION OF TRT TAX:** Leesha Colthorp explained that there
78 are representatives from the recreation industry on the TRT Committee / Task Force and they
79 have been trying to track who has been paying this tax and who is delinquent. The State has
80 indicated that only one-third of the TRT tax has been collected for the entire State, and it is
81 definitely not being paid properly for Uintah County. She stated that this is affecting both the
82 Cities and the County. Commissioner Bill Stringer asked why the State Tax Commission is not

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83 more aggressive to get businesses to pay the tax. Leesha Colthorp stated the State does not want
84 to spend money on travel to conduct audits. However, they are receiving more pressure to get an
85 auditor out here. One option is when a business comes in to renew their business license the
86 entity can require that all their taxes be paid. She suggested the Cities and County coordinate
87 their efforts. John Stermer stated that technically these businesses are stealing if they are
88 collecting a tax and not submitting it to the State and there are things that can be done locally to
89 fix that issue. The consensus of the elected officials was to work with the TRT Committee to
90 develop an ordinance for compliance of the TRT tax. Dereck Hopper, Vernal Express editor,
91 suggested a story be placed in the paper announcing that the County was implementing a task
92 force to motivate businesses to pay the tax. Commissioner Stringer stated that the article should
93 say that the funds actually benefit them since it has to be used for tourism.

94 **BALANCE UTAH:** Commissioner Bart Haslem explained that he has been working on a new
95 program and it is moving faster in some areas than expected. The issue is that Uintah County
96 does not have enough work and the Wasatch Front has a lot of jobs, but not a lot of candidates to
97 fill those positions. There are a lot of cars on the road from people that are commuting to Salt
98 Lake City area making the roads congested and affecting the air quality and one of the main
99 problems is there is no affordable housing. The estimate is that 7000 people a day commute to
100 the Wasatch Front at a cost of \$81 a day. The program being worked on is to provide a
101 commuter plane from Vernal where there is affordable housing and transporting workers to the
102 Wasatch Front and back each day. There are currently 21,000 jobs in Salt Lake with 600 alone
103 at the airport. The preliminary figures show it will cost \$75 a day to commute this way and the
104 hope is to get tax incentives to lower that cost. This program could also work if Uintah County
105 booms, then workers from other areas could be transported here to work. The hope is to balance
106 the entire State providing jobs and workers. He noted that they have met with the Governor's
107 Office and UDOT and will be meeting with the airlines to pitch this program. The State of
108 Wyoming has a State run airline that does this very thing. Commissioner Bill Stringer stated that
109 this is not a new idea. It is happening everywhere using trains or subways. Commissioner Bart
110 Haslem stated that there would have to be a commitment of 100 seats to make this work.
111 Councilmember Travis Allan asked if there would be any seats open to the public.
112 Commissioner Haslem answered that it would depend on the size of the plane. He stated that
113 another part of this plan to make it viable is by adding cargo. Councilmember Dave Everett
114 asked if this would help the enplanement numbers. Doug Brown stated possibly, and the goal is
115 to have 25,000 within 5 years. The elected officials thanked Commissioner Haslem for the
116 update.

117 **ENFORCEMENT FOR AGGIE BLVD AND MAIN STREET:**

118 Quinn Bennion informed the elected officials that currently in Utah code there is a provision that
119 allows an offense to be heard by a court that is near the boundary of where the offense occurred
120 so there is no need to work out any jurisdictional agreement. This is helpful particularly for

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121 Aggie Blvd. The Vernal City police will start enforcing traffic laws in this area. Commissioner
122 Bill Stringer stated that the County will do the same.

123 **ADJOURN:** There being no further business; *Councilmember Dave Everett moved to adjourn.*
124 *Commissioner Brad Horrocks seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote*
125 *and the meeting was declared adjourned.*

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129 Quinn Bennion, City Recorder

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AWAITING FORMAL APPROVAL