

MINUTES OF THE VERNAL CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING HELD
FEBRUARY 3, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. in the Vernal City Council room, 374 East Main,
Vernal, Utah 84078.

This meeting was held electronically with the anchor location being held at the Vernal City Council Chambers, 374 East Main St, Vernal, Utah. Those in attendance were required to wear a mask unless they were speaking. Because of gathering restrictions put in place by Governor Cox the anchor location only had ten participants in attendance. The meeting was streamed live via Facebook and broadcast on the Vernal City YouTube Channel: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCyGzca67KY_BIQwmNfNyzEQ

PRESENT: Councilmembers Nicholas Porter, Dave Everett, Ted Munford, Travis Allan, and Bert Clark and Mayor Doug Hammond.

WELCOME: Mayor Doug Hammond welcomed everyone to the meeting.

INVOCATION OR UPLIFTING THOUGHT: The invocation was given by Councilmember Bert Clark.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilmember Ted Munford.

APPROVAL OF CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF JANUARY 20, 2021: *Councilmember Bert Clark moved to approve the minutes of the regular City Council meeting held January 20, 2021. Councilmember Ted Munford seconded the motion. The motion passed with Councilmembers Everett, Munford, Porter and Clark voting in favor. Councilmember Travis Allan abstained.*

APPROVAL OF CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES OF JANUARY 20, 2021: *Councilmember Nick Porter moved to approve the minutes of the special City Council meeting held January 20, 2021. Councilmember Bert Clark seconded the motion. The motion passed with Councilmembers Everett, Munford, Porter and Clark voting in favor. Councilmember Travis Allan abstained.*

DISCUSSION ON ALIVE AFTER FIVE EVENT AND FUNDING – STEVE EVANS: Mayor Hammond explained Mr. Evans was not able to attend so this item would be postponed.

DINOSAUR ROUNDUP RODEO SPONSORSHIP REQUEST AND REPORT – MIKE KARRIN & CARSON YOUNG: Mr. Mike Karren, President of the Dinosaur Roundup Rodeo, thanked the City for their continued support and asked the Council to consider sponsoring the rodeo again this year. He noted that last year was a challenge with COVID-19 and they added another day to try to spread out the spectators. With the other rodeo's being cancelled, more contestants attended which elevated Vernal's status in the PRCA. The rodeo committee has submitted an application to be on the pro-tour again which streams live on the Cowboy channel. He stated that they are working on specialty acts, bringing JJ Harris as the barrel man, concerts

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and ladies break away roping. A grant from the State through Tri-County Health was awarded to them to promote anti-tobacco and drug use. Two Jr. Rodeos and clinics will be held to help with that campaign. Mr. Carson Young, Vice-President of the Dinosaur Roundup Rodeo, presented a power point presentation of the 2020 rodeo and financial status. He noted that although ticket sales were way down the rodeo broke even and proved the Dinosaur Roundup Rodeo is the greatest show on dirt. One capital project the rodeo committee is focused on is an addition to the Western Park for handicap seating. The date for the rodeo this year is July 8 – 10 and he asked the Council to save that date on their calendars. Councilmember Ted Munford clarified that the rodeo is a non-profit organization and asked what the cost for a premium sponsorship is. Carson Young answered that they are a 501C3 and their premium sponsors such as BHI pay \$12,000. Councilmember Bert Clark asked how many participants had to be turned away. Carson Young answered 112 with the majority of those being bull riders. Councilmember Ted Munford asked what the City’s sponsorship was last year. Carson Young stated it was \$12,000 for the main rodeo and there was negotiation between \$17,000 and \$12,000. Councilmember Travis Allan indicated his appreciation for the great rodeo during a pandemic with a lot of fear and anxiety. He asked the Committee to show Vernal City more prominently in their marketing as the major sponsor. There was some discussion regarding Vernal City being the major sponsor. After further discussion, *Councilmember Ted Munford moved to approve the \$1500 sponsorship for the special needs rodeo and defer the other sponsorship amount until the Committee and Staff have time to review the possibility of a higher sponsorship for 2021. Councilmember Travis Allan seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call vote:*

Councilmember Munford.....aye;
Councilmember Allan.....aye;
Councilmember Everett.....aye;
Councilmember Porter.....aye;
Councilmember Clark.....aye.

PRESENTATION BY UTAH WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT – WILLIAM MERKLEY: Mr. William Merkley, director of the Uintah Water Conservancy District in Vernal, explained that the fees for water have not been increased since 1981 and the funds for operation and funding is almost non-existent so a large increase is necessary. Also, funds are needed for capital improvement needs as the area grows and an emergency reserve. The Board has tried to be pragmatic and conservative so they implemented a one-year increase. Mike Davis stated that the rate is for Steinaker and Red Fleet water and that reserve is strictly for Vernal City. The increased rate from Central Utah Water is for three entities – Vernal City, Ashley Valley and Maeser.

REVIEW OF SOLID WASTE BIDS – MIKE DAVIS: Mike Davis presented the bids the City received for solid waste collection from RDT and G & H Garbage. The current provider is G & H Garbage. He explained that the Council can consider the bid price along with the customer service that will be provided as requested in the bid proposal. The staff does have concerns on how customer service is handled and asked the vendors to provide clarification such as:

- Delivery of cans, time frame and when;
- Procedure when a can is missed is it handled differently if it is the vendors fault or customers fault;

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Procedure when the can is not dumped all the way out;
Communication;
What happens when garbage is spilled out on the road?

He stated that in the bid documents G & H Garbage indicates they will deliver and pick up cans twice a week while RDT indicates they will deliver daily. He asked the vendors to be more specific on their policy.

Councilmember Dave Everett asked how many residents have a second container. Quinn Bennion answered 819 out of 2528 customers. Councilmember Travis Allan asked why there is such a difference in the cost and can the current carrier continue to provide services at that price.

Matt Chivers stated that their policy is to deliver cans two days a week so they do not have employees out every day. They start at 7 am on Tuesday and Friday if the order is into the office before 5 pm the day before.

Mike Davis stated the biggest complaint received from citizens is they put their can out and it gets missed and your office says it was not out, how can that issue be resolved. Matt Chivers stated they can send the driver back out if they are notified. He stated the best communication with his staff is by email. The trucks have cameras on them with one pointed at the garbage can and one in the cab. Mike Davis stated it would be nice to have documentation. He asked how they will handle a situation when the customer did not get their can out in time. Matt Chivers stated they can charge them a few dollars over the phone and swing back around to empty it. Mike Davis asked how they will handle garbage falling out of the cans. Matt Chivers answered the driver will clean it up. If it is a constant problem with the customer overfilling the can, they will be asked to not do that. Councilmember Ted Munford voiced his concern that if the bid is too low, there is not a lot of revenue to work with if other costs go up. Matt Chivers answered they would be ok although the wage increase is concerning. He noted the only unknown that would increase the cost is the landfill rates. The Council agreed they wanted the best service for the price.

Mike Davis stated that Brandy Pritchett with RDT answered most of his customer service questions in her bid proposal. Brandy Pritchett stated they deliver cans every day if they receive the request by 2 pm. If the request is after 2 pm they deliver the next day. The preferred method of communication is by e-mail and they have four separate camera systems that record everything. She stated they would provide a full time secretary to handle customer complaints for the City as they want to satisfy that customer. Mike Davis asked what happens if the customer forgets to put the can out. Brandy stated they go back and take care of it the same day. Mike Davis asked how they would handle garbage falling out. Brandy answered that the drivers clean it up unless it is the type of waste not allowed to be picked up. Councilmember Dave Everett noted that in the past, their drivers helped the elderly who are not able to get their cans to the curb and he commended RDT for that service. Brandy Pritchett stated they will do that for elderly or handicap customers. Councilmember Travis Allan stated their bid is quite a bit higher; however how would they handle cost increases such as fuel. Brandy Pritchett answered that they accounted for increases. The only thing that would increase the cost is if the landfill costs skyrocketed.

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Quinn Bennion stated the City is fortunate to have two capable bidders right here in Vernal. He asked the Council to consider preferred bidder so the staff can work with them to get an agreement ready.

Holly Chivers with G & H Garbage stated they do have adequate cameras to help with complaints and they can provide pictures.

Matt Chivers stated the contract does have a clause if they are not doing the job the City can hire another contractor. Councilmember Nicholas Porter stated the service does seem to be improving over time and he did not see a good reason to increase rates if the customer service is improving. There was considerable discussion regarding the City being fiscally responsible and still providing a high standard of customer service. Councilmember Ted Munford asked what latitude the City has to make a change if the service is not what is expected. Quinn Bennion stated the City can add language in the agreement. *Councilmember Bert Clark moved to approve entering into a contract with G & H Garbage to provide solid waste services and include the items from the bid into the agreement. Councilmember Nick Porter seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call vote:*

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

DISCUSSION ON WATER & SEWER FEE SCHEDULE: Mike Davis stated that when the utility accounts were audited, it was found that the water department was in a deficit. The wages and benefits were compared with previous years and it was found that the services increased not wages. The first item that increased was the charge from Central Utah Water Conservancy District and the treatment costs. The next cost increase was from Central Utah Water for reserves which will double this year. Quinn Bennion indicated the City is at a point where the water and sewer fees will need to be increased with the outside costs increasing. Aaron Everett stated that the Ashely Valley Water and Sewer Improvement District have an automatic increase every year. Quinn Bennion stated that the Public Works Committee met to review the increases. The consensus is that a \$7 per month increase is needed. However, some of that cost can be shifted to the overage fee and increase the commercial rate based on the meter size rather than the same rate as residential. The City is continuing to look at ways to improve the water system to reduce costs. Mike Davis stated that another area of concern for his department is the water shut off fee. He asked the Council to consider increasing that fee from \$20 to \$35 or even \$40 to stop the chronic customers who do not pay their bill on time. Councilmember Bert Clark asked how many are shut off. Mike Davis stated the City sends out 200 hang notices a month. Out o those around 30 wait until the last minute and 5 to 10 of them end up being shutting off. There was some discussion regarding the slow flow meters. The consensus of the Council was to raise that fee to \$40 and bring the new fee schedule to the Council at the next meeting.

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF AGREEMENT WITH SUNRISE ENGINEERING FOR PROGRAM MANAGEMENT OF DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION PLAN: Quinn Bennion reminded the Council that the City received grants to complete a downtown revitalization

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plan. The agreement with Sunrise Engineering is still being reviewed by the attorney's and will be presented at the next meeting.

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF AGREEMENT WITH MHTN ARCHITECTS FOR PLANNING SERVICES FOR DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION PLAN: Quinn Bennion stated that this agreement is with the architect selected by UDOT to help complete the downtown revitalization plan. UDOT has a list of prequalified firms and this firm was selected. *Councilmember Ted Munford moved to approve the contract with MHTN Architects contingent upon receiving the signed cooperation agreement with UDOT. Councilmember Bert Clark seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call vote:*

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

REQUEST TO AMEND THE VERNAL CITY PERSONNEL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES – AMENDING PROTECTED CLASSES – RESOLUTION NO. 2021-03: Quinn Bennion explained this change to the personnel policies is in compliance with the latest executive order of President Biden. The resolution adds sexual orientation and gender identity to the protected classes for employment practices. *Councilmember Nicholas Porter moved to approve Resolution No. 2021-03 as presented. Councilmember Ted Munford seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call vote:*

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

PRESENTATION OF MASTER PLAN UPDATE – COMPLETE STREETS: Allen Parker gave the Council a brief introduction of the master plan update. He indicated this is not an entire re-write of the plan, only updating specific sections. He provided a link to the drive where a draft of the plan can be located. Councilmember Bert Clark asked if the major arterial roads are identified. Allen Parker answered yes. He displayed renderings of the roads and concepts for complete streets. Mr. Parker indicated he would go over this item in more detail at a later meeting.

DESIGNATION OF HEARINGS AND VARIANCE OFFICER: Allen Parker reminded the Council that the City no longer has a Board of Adjustment and instead uses a hearing office to handle land use appeals. The City has received a request for a variance and the hearing officer is no longer available. Mr. Parker suggested the City consider hiring the law firm of Mike Harrington to handle this request at the same rate as his current duties. Councilmember Ted Munford asked if historically appeals came before the Council. Roxanne Behunin responded that only personnel appeals can go before the Council. *After further discussion, Councilmember Ted Munford move to designate the law firm of Harrington Beech firm to handle the variance request.*

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Councilmember Nick Porter seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call vote:

Councilmember Munford	aye;
Councilmember Allan	aye;
Councilmember Everett	aye;
Councilmember Porter	aye;
Councilmember Clark.....	aye.

1 **ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**

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3 Sales Tax Report:

4 Quinn Bennion explained that the sale tax report shows the tax collected is higher than 2019.

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6 Innovation Hub:

7 Quinn Bennion reminded the Council of the open house for the Innovation Hub Wednesday,
8 February 10th from 3 – 6 pm.

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10 City event:

11 Quinn Bennion informed the Council that the City rented the snow hill on Feb 11th from 6 to 8 pm
12 for all City employees and family.

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15 **ADJOURN:** There being no further business; *Councilmember Travis Allan moved to adjourn.*
16 *Councilmember Dave Everett seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote*
17 *and the meeting was declared adjourned.*

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Mayor Doug Hammond

20 ATTEST:

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23 _____
Roxanne Behunin, Deputy Recorder

(S E A L)