

**M**INUTES OF THE VERNAL CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING HELD  
FEBRUARY 5, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. in the Vernal City Council room, 374 East Main,  
Vernal, Utah 84078.

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

**WELCOME:** Mayor Doug Hammond welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**INVOCATION OR UPLIFTING THOUGHT:** The invocation was given by Councilmember Dave Everett.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilmember Nicholas Porter.

**APPROVAL OF CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF JANUARY 15, 2020:** *Councilmember Bert Clark moved to approve the minutes of January 15, 2020. Councilmember Dave Everett seconded the motion. The motion passed with Councilmembers Everett, Munford, Porter and Clark voting in favor.*

**REQUEST FOR SPONSORSHIP OF THE MARVELOUS XTREME BULL MADNESS EVENT – TONJA LOFTHOUSE:** Lorena Richens Layser, representing Xtreme Bull Madness, explained that Vernal is a great crowd for this type of event. The event includes 30 top cowboys and animals from stock that has already been proven. She asked the Council to consider sponsoring the event scheduled for March 14<sup>th</sup>. Councilmember Ted Munford asked if this is their first year. Lorena answered that they have been hosting this event in Duchesne and this would be the first year in Vernal. Councilmember Ted Munford asked if this is a for-profit company hosting this event and asked for a balance sheet showing the revenue and expenses. Lorena stated that they are a for profit business and so far have been operating this event at a loss. She noted that there is a scholarship attached to this event. The Ute Indian Tribe also wants to be involved and will do the introductory ceremony. The budget is \$40,000 and the local entity sponsorship is typically 20 to 30% of that number. Councilmember Bert Clark noted that they have national sponsorships. Lorena stated those sponsors are from the PRCA and they did refuse to host this event this year. Normally those sponsors pick the top ten events to sponsor. Quinn Bennion stated last year during the budget process the Council established priorities for events to be funded including are they good for commerce in Vernal City, do they bring visitors, is it a festival type event, and fills hotels. Also the funding from the City has to be less than 20% of their funding. The City wants to provide a one-time start up fund to help events get off the ground. Further, if any funding is approved it would have to come from the miscellaneous fund as this event is not in the budget. Tonja Lofthouse noted that they do have outside contractors and performers attending. Councilmember Bert Clark explained the City funds are way down and they are asking events to exhaust alternative ways to fund their event first. Lorena Layser stated they wanted to see if the City was interested first. She asked the Council to attend the event. Councilmember Ted Munford stated this event sounds like one that the area would enjoy, however, since this is a for-profit business it is critical that the City only provide start-up funds and have a current budget. Lorena stated they can provide that balance sheet. She offered to refund the funds back to the City if they have a profit over 5%. After further discussion, the Council asked the Xtreme Bull fighting to come back in two weeks after submitting their budget.

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**REQUEST FOR SPONSORSHIP OF THE DIAMOND MOUNTAIN SPEEDWAY – ALAN HACKING:** Alan Hacking thanked the Council for their sponsorship of one event last year. He stated that his balance sheet shows a loss of \$6300 for last year which was then cleared up with sponsorships from Vernal City, Uintah County and local businesses. He stated they want to run this event again this year and wondered if the City would entertain the thought of sponsoring again. He noted that he can get the entire season costs for the Council which shows a \$200 - \$300 loss per night. Councilmember Bert Clark noted that only 7 of the 90 participants are local. Councilmember Ted Munford asked if this is a not for profit organization. Alan Hacking stated they are not for profit. He stated they have base sponsors that have committed to another season. The consensus of the Council was to have Mr. Hacking come back in after providing the entire years profit / loss statement.

**REQUEST TO CONSIDER APPROVAL OF A COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT WITH UDOT FOR THE SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOLS PROGRAM FOR A PROJECT NEAR DISCOVERY ELEMENTARY ON 500 WEST FROM 900 SOUTH TO 1100 SOUTH:** Quinn Bennion explained that the City applied for a grant to construct a sidewalk on the east side of 500 West Street from 900 South to 1100 South to connect with Discovery Elementary. The grant was approved and the cooperative agreement is being presented for approval. Councilmember Bert Clark asked if this area is undeveloped. Quinn Bennion stated it is a mix with most of the area being developed. Councilmember Ted Munford clarified that two blocks cost \$200,000. Quinn Bennion stated it is that expensive as it has to follow federal regulations. He stated that UDOT will pay \$194,000 and the City has to match with \$6,000. *Councilmember Ted Munford moved to approve the cooperative agreement with UDOT for the Safe Routes to School Program project. Councilmember Bert Clark seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call vote:*

- Councilmember Munford.....aye;*
- Councilmember Everett .....aye;*
- Councilmember Porter .....aye;*
- Councilmember Clark.....aye.*

**REQUEST TO CONSIDER APPROVAL OF AN AGREEMENT WITH ROCKY MOUNTAIN POWER FOR THE REMOVAL OF SELECTED STREET LIGHTS ALONG AGGIE BOULEVARD AND MAIN STREET:** Allen Parker reminded the Council of the process that was taken to decide what lights, if any, should be removed on west Main Street. Rocky Mountain Power has prepared an agreement to remove half the lights at a cost of \$22,500 to remove the poles and \$3000 to manufacture the cover plates. The total number of lights being removed in the City is 42. The other side of the road is County and they removed significantly more lights. Quinn Bennion explained the City currently pays \$47.83 per light per month which includes the light structure and the power and it will take just over a year to recoup the cost of removing the lights. Allen Parker stated that Rocky Mountain Power will stop charging the City as soon as they receive the agreement although the lights may not come out immediately. Mayor Doug Hammond explained to the audience that the reason the City is doing this is for economic

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reasons. *Councilmember Dave Everett moved to approve and sign the agreement with Rocky Mountain Power to remove street lights on west Main Street as presented. Councilmember Nick Porter seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call vote:*

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

**UPDATE OF INNOVATION CENTER PROJECT AND SITE TOUR:** Quinn Bennion explained that he would like to give the Council a tour of the innovation center once the meeting is concluded.

**ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:**

Utah League of Cities and Towns:

Councilmember Dave Everett stated he would like to attend the ULCT spring conference.

Senate Bill 41:

Quinn Bennion stated this bill was being proposed by Senator Winterton and would remove sales tax for the oil and gas industry. The original bill was pulled, and now a new bill is being introduced that would give the industry a tax rebate.

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

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Mayor Doug Hammond

ATTEST:

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Roxanne Behunin, Deputy Recorder

( S E A L )