

**M**INUTES OF THE VERNAL CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING HELD  
FEBRUARY 19, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. in the Vernal City Council room, 374 East Main,  
Vernal, Utah 84078.

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

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

**INVOCATION OR UPLIFTING THOUGHT:** The uplifting thought was given by Councilmember Nicholas Porter.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilmember Bert Clark.

**APPROVAL OF CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 5, 2020:** *Councilmember Dave Everett moved to approve the minutes of February 5, 2020 as presented. Councilmember Nicolas Porter seconded the motion. The motion passed with Councilmembers Munford, Allan, Everett, Porter and Clark voting in favor.*

**REQUEST FOR SPONSORSHIP OF THE MARVELOUS XTREME BULL MADNESS EVENT – TONJA LOFTHOUSE:** Ben Lofthouse explained that the Xtreme Bull Madness event from last year lost \$900; however, they were able to give two scholarships away in the amount of \$500 to a Uintah County and a Duchesne County recipient. Mr. Lofthouse stated that last year the event was moved to Western Park with around 800 to 1,000 people in attendance. This year the event will have PRCA Xtreme bulls, which brings in great bull riders. Mr. Lofthouse explained that there will be other programs brought in for entertainment such as a trick rider and the Ute Tribe spirit dancers. The bull riders will take advantage of the Vernal Regional Airport and local hotels. Mr. Lofthouse indicated that they would appreciate any support Vernal City could donate. Councilmember Munford stated that he appreciates that this local event is being brought into the Vernal area. Councilmember Munford indicated to the Lofhouses that they still have not provided the missing expenses and revenues from last year including the number of sponsors and ticket sales. This makes it really hard to contribute tax payer's money to a for-profit event. Tonja Lofthouse explained that the ticket sales last year were in the amount of \$1000, and it was given to the scholarship recipients. Councilmember Munford stated he respected the event giving back to the community. Councilmember Munford stated that helping for-profit events once to get off the ground can be considered; however, it cannot be a long term commitment. Mr. Bennion explained that 10 events have been dropped this budget year; however, there was \$3,500 budgeted in miscellaneous in which \$500 has been used. Councilmember Clark brought up a past legislation change years ago where the State now requires entities to identify as to where the donated money is spent. Mr. Bennion stated that the Council is required to deliberate and set the criteria to show that the donation is a benefit to the community and not an individual. Councilmember Munford suggested giving a sponsorship of \$350. Councilmember Everett agreed and added that there is not a lot of money to give out. This could help the event get started and get off the ground. Councilmember Allan indicated that this is a great event for the community that also contributes scholarships to local recipients. Councilmember Allan recommended a donation of \$500. Councilmember Clark suggested to the Lofhouses that they consider holding a moment of silence for Lecile Harris, the longtime rodeo clown who just passed away. *Councilmember Bert Clark moved to approve a \$500 sponsorship*

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*to the Marvelous Xtreme Bull Madness event and asked the Lofthouses if they could follow up with the Council two or three weeks after the event to give a report. 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.*

**REQUEST FOR SPONSORSHIP OF THE DIAMOND MOUNTAIN SPEEDWAY – ALLEN HACKING:** Quinn Bennion explained that Allen Hacking is not in attendance at the meeting. The Council all agreed that they would consider his request at a later date; however, Mr. Hacking needs to initiate a new request to have it added to the agenda again.

**REQUEST TO APPROVE FORMAL REQUEST OF GRANT AMENDMENT FOR WATER MITIGATION PROJECT AT THE AIRPORT AND REQUEST TO CONSIDER APPROVAL OF ADDENDUM A OF AMENDMENT 14 WITH TO ENGINEERS FOR THE DESIGN AND ADMINISTRATION OF THE WATER MITIGATION PROJECT AT THE AIRPORT - QUINN BENNION:** Quinn Bennion indicated that Doug Brown offered to be at the meeting; however, Mr. Bennion and Mayor Hammond felt they could answer the level of questions that may come up. Mr. Bennion explained that over the last five years, the airport has been going through the runway renovation project. Mr. Bennion explained that down on the Southwest end of the project where they extended the runway, they cut into the hillside there which exposed some ground water with some limestone and shale. There is water that now enters into the runway area that they did not anticipate with that kind of flow. There is a drainage there that is about a ½ mile of a ditch that lines the west edge of the taxi way. Because of the slope on that ditch and the way the vegetation has come in because of the water, it is not getting to where it needs to be in the right way. Mr. Bennion explained that this causes some problems, such as soil saturation, more vegetation that attracts wildlife and also the concern that someone will define it as wetlands, and then you have to start the process all over again. Mr. Bennion stated that they do need to address the water flow there and the drainage. Doug Brown and TO Engineers designed the project and bid it out. Mr. Bennion stated that the bids came back really high; therefore, they did not accept the bids. Mr. Bennion explained that with the feedback from the Commissioners and the Transportation Board, they have rebid the project and are ready to send it out again. Mr. Bennion explained that they have not received the bids back and in order to do that, they need the grant amendment and application for the funds from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). Councilmember Clark stated that KSL reported that 11 airports will be receiving grant monies. The Vernal Regional Airport will receive one for \$620,197 for the fencing and \$300,000 for the water mitigation project. Mr. Bennion stated that this will need to be approved by the sponsors, County and City to write the grant amendment and the application. Mr. Bennion reported that this is 95% FAA and 5% local funds. The 5% local funds are being paid right now by the Transportation District. The new plan is looking at putting a 12 inch at the bottom of the drainage swell perforated and 4 inch up on the hill.

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Councilmember Everett asked if this would interfere with the air traffic. Mr. Bennion stated no, they are both buried. Councilmember Clark asked if it was on the west side. Mr. Bennion answered yes, the west side of the taxi way. *Councilmember Ted Munford moved to approve the formal request of grant amendment and application for the water mitigation project at the airport and approve addendum A of Amendment 14 with TO Engineers for the design and administration of the water mitigation project at the airport. 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.*

**REQUEST TO CONSIDER APPROVAL OF STAFF TIME TO FACILITATE TRANSPORTATION SERVICES FOR DINO HALF MARATHON FOR RUNTASTICS EVENTS - QUINN BENNION:** Quinn Bennion reminded the Council of the approval last year to allow the City to facilitate transportation services for the Dino Half Marathon for Runtastics Events. Runtastics is asking if the City will help coordinate the transportation for the event again this year. Mr. Bennion explained that last year, the process ended up consuming many hours of City staff time. Mr. Bennion explained that the process should be easier this year with already having all the documents needed. Mr. Bennion explained that the buses must be run through a public entity; however, the private event does pay for the buses. Councilmember Munford asked if Runtastics also pays for the staff time. Mr. Bennion explained that it would be the City’s sponsorship to the event. Councilmember Munford requested that it is clear that this would be the sponsorship of the City. Mr. Bennion stated that the event is a pretty impressive event and is held the same weekend as the balloon festival. Councilmember Munford asked that Mr. Bennion keep the Council informed to make sure the staff does not get burned out. Councilmember Allan stated that he does not want to see this open the gate for other events to ask for the City’s staff help. The line has to be drawn if time is taken away from staff. Councilmember Allan asked if this will bring any liability to the City. Mr. Bennion reassured the Council that insurance is purchased through the Utah Local Governments Trust for that one day and all bus drivers must provide their date of birth, driver’s license number, and the vehicle numbers for all the buses. Councilmember Everett asked how much the insurance covers. Mr. Bennion stated that it is in the millions. Councilmember Munford asked how much the insurance policy costs. Mr. Bennion stated approximately \$800 that Runtastics reimburses the City for. *Councilmember Dave Everett moved to approve the request of staff time to facilitate transportation services for Dino Half Marathon for Runtastics Events. Councilmember Bert Clark seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call vote:*

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

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*Councilmember Clark..... aye.*

**ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:**

Quinn Bennion gave an update on Senate Bill 41 that has been modified again. As it is currently written, it does hold the locals harmless. Mr. Bennion reminded the Council that this bill deals with sales tax that is charged to oil and gas construction activities. Originally the bill was going to be all sales tax and that was going to hit hard. The idea was to encourage growth. The State Sales Tax Commission provided the numbers on how it would impact the cities and counties, and the sponsor and supporters backed off when they realized the impact and where the tax money would go. Mr. Bennion reported that now the new modification is back to the sales tax exemption for the states portion of the sales tax.

Quinn Bennion reported that he has been watching another bill that currently local businesses and farmers can apply for income tax rebates if they are buying certain types of equipment and buildings. Uintah County is the heaviest user of this, but being in a rural enterprise zone, there are a lot of people using this income tax credit. Senator Sandall from Box Elder County wants to do away with the enterprise zone income tax credits and replace with a grant program that comes out of the general fund. Mr. Bennion noted that he is unclear of his motivation, since Box Elder County is the number two user. Uintah County currently receives approximately a million in income sales tax money and with the grant, each county would receive \$200,000 if they match \$80,000. Councilmember Clark stated that none of the rural counties like this bill. Mr. Bennion reported that around 50 people met with Senator Sandall around September to voice their concerns. Senator Sandall still insists on pushing it through with a lot of influence, so it could pass.

Quinn Bennion reported that the Utah League of Cities and Towns is asking rural communities to respond to requiring cities to provide Emergency Medical Services. Mr. Bennion mentioned that he is trying to meet with Scott Adams at Gold Cross to see how it is currently done now in Vernal. Mr. Bennion stated that there must be some kind of debate and concern, so they are going to try and push it statewide. There are a lot of rural communities with several concerns with this.

Quinn Bennion announced that Glade Allred, after 16 years organizing the community Holly Days event, has decided he will no longer be involved. Mr. Bennion asked the Council to be thinking of ideas on how the event can continue and be organized this year. It was the consensus of staff and Council that Mr. Allred dedicated many hours and put all he had into making this festival successful and the largest event in Vernal City. The Council agreed that they appreciate all of his hard work, and that he should be recognized.

Councilmember Dave Everett briefly commented on the Uintah Animal Control Special Service District working hard for a little over a year on the gathering of close to 300 abandoned, stray or nuisance horses with the majority of them being reunited with their lawful owners.

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**ADJOURN:** There being no further business; *Councilmember Dave Everett moved to adjourn. Councilmember Nicholas Porter 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 )