

MINUTES OF THE JOINT VERNAL CITY COUNCIL AND UINTAH COUNTY COMMISSION SPECIAL MEETING HELD MARCH 23, 2020 AT 4:30 pm in the Uintah County Commission Chambers, 147 East Main, Vernal, Utah.

This meeting was held as an electronic meeting with the anchor location being the Uintah County Commission Chambers located at 147 East Main St, Vernal, Utah. Because of gathering restrictions put in place by the Utah Department of Health, the anchor location will only have nine participants in attendance. The meeting was streamed live via Youtube on the UintahIT channel.

PRESENT:

UINTAH COUNTY: Joined the meeting in person:
Commissioners Brad Horrocks, Bart Haslem and Bill Stringer.

VERNAL CITY: Joined the meeting in person:
Mayor Doug Hammond.
Joined the meeting electronically:
Councilmembers Nick Porter, Bert Clark, Dave Everett and Travis Allan joined through video, Councilmember Ted Munford joined by watching the YouTube channel and responding via text messages.

STAFF: Joined the meeting in person: Quinn Bennion, Roxanne Behunin and Jon Stearmer.
Joined the meeting electronically: Allen Parker, GJ Searle.

GUESTS: Joined the meeting in person: Cheryl Meier, Doug Brown.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND APPROVAL OF SPECIAL ELECTRONIC MEETING:
Commissioner Bill Stringer moved to acknowledge and approve this special meeting. Commissioner Brad Horrocks seconded the motion. The motion passed with Commissioners Horrocks, Haslem and Stringer voting in favor.

Councilmember Porter moved to acknowledge and approve this special electronic meeting. Councilmember Clark seconded the motion. Councilmembers Porter, Clark and Everett voted in favor. Councilmember Allan and Munford was not present for the vote.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 25, 2019: *Mayor Doug Hammond moved to approve the minutes of November 25, 2019. Commissioner Bart Haslem seconded the motion. The motion passed with Commissioners Haslem, Stringer and Horrocks and Councilmembers Porter, Everett and Clark voting in favor and the minutes were approved. Councilmember Travis Allan and Ted Munford were not present for the vote.*

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF DECEMBER 27, 2019: *Commissioner Bart Haslem moved to approve the minutes of December 27, 2019. Mayor Doug Hammond seconded the motion. Commissioners Haslem, Stringer and Horrocks and Councilmembers Porter, Everett*

and Clark voted in favor and the minutes were approved. Councilmember Travis Allan and Ted Munford were not present for the vote.

DISCUSSION ON VERNAL REGIONAL AIRPORT: Quinn Bennion explained the background on the airport and the potential of the management being transferred to the County, the City or stay with the Special Transportation District. He reminded the elected officials that at the December meeting the decision was made to transfer the management to the City with an MOU that outlines the role of each entity. Commissioner Bill Stringer read the motion from the minutes agreeing to the transition and stated that nothing has changed since that decision. He noted that the County is the majority owner and the concern is they do not want the City to engage in any large capital projects without first talking to the County. Both entities agreed that provision needed to be in the agreement. Doug Brown stated there is an airport capital improvement list that must be approved by both entities before any funding request is made of the FAA. He stated that the fence project does need to be completed at the cost of \$632,000 and the FAA funds will cover the majority of that project. Commissioner Bill Stringer asked if there is any idea what the pandemic will do to the airport funding. Doug Brown stated he does not know how it will affect the funding, however, the drop in enplanements is industry wide. There was some discussion on financial incentives for local governments. Councilmember Bert Clark suggested a draft MOU be prepared for review. Commissioner Brad Horrocks agreed. Quinn Bennion suggested that a tentative budget for the airport be drafted also. Councilmember Bert Clark stated that policies and procedures for the airport were drafted a few years ago and asked for a copy of those documents. Cheryl Meier, SSD Manager, stated that she would get those to the elected officials. There was some discussion regarding the airport leases and fuel tax collection going to the entity that is managing the airport. Doug Brown suggested that once the transition happens that the airport users be notified so lease payments go to the right entity. Quinn Bennion suggested an Airport Board be set up to draft policy and procedures. There was some discussion regarding the Board members and their authority. The suggestion was one Vernal City appointee, one Naples City appointee, one County official, one staff and one airport user. Commissioner Stringer stated it would be advisory similar to the Library Board. Jon Stearmer stated if the Board sets policy it would be more than advisory. Councilmember Bert Clark suggested the Board make recommendations only. Councilmember Ted Munford sent a message to require the Advisory Board to stay within budget. Jon Stearmer questioned who will have the final say on any disagreements. Commissioner Bill Stringer stated that the MOU will need to address these issues and outline how disputes will be arbitrated. Quinn Bennion stated that the MOU will need to spell out the managers' role, the owners' role, and be clear that the personnel are under the managing entities' responsibility. Commissioner Bart Haslem noted that the City will put together an operating budget and any major items they will bring to the County first. There was a suggestion to put funds aside each year for capital projects. Commissioner Brad Horrocks stated that the MOU will be a living document for a year to get the bugs worked out. Jon Stearmer agreed, stating the most functional way is to give the managing entity authority to handle disputes and make it clear what powers the advisory board will have. Commissioner Brad Horrocks suggested the MOU be reviewed every 4 years. There was a suggestions to go every two or three years with a five year structure for finances. Jon Stearmer suggested a one-year out clause for budget implications. The consensus was to try to have a draft MOU by May 1st. Cheryl Meier stated there is still the issue of funding the airport without any additional funds. The cost of operation is around \$150,000 to May 1st. Jon Stearmer

reminded the elected officials that April 25th is when responsibility for the airport falls back to the City and County. There was some discussion regarding the snow broom. Doug Brown stated the fence and broom will be reimbursed by the FAA, but not until 2022. Commissioner Stringer stated something will be worked out with the Special Service District. Jon Stearmer stated he would work with the City attorney to iron out an MOU to be approved by the Commission and Council in April and May.

UPDATE ON POTENTIAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM: Quinn Bennion explained he has been working with Economic Development and Travel and Tourism on a work program similar to the one implemented in Rio Blanco County in Colorado. Funds will be used for pay workers from the restaurant and hotel industries who have lost their jobs because of the public health mandates.

ADJOURN: There being no further business; *Commissioner Bart Haslem moved to adjourn. Mayor Doug Hammond seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote and the meeting was adjourned.*

Mayor Doug Hammond

ATTEST:

Quinn Bennion, City Recorder

(S E A L)