

**M**INUTES OF THE VERNAL CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING HELD  
APRIL 15 , 2020 at 7:00 P.M. IN THE VERNAL CITY COUNCIL ROOM, 374  
EAST MAIN, VERNAL, UTAH 84078.

***THIS MEETING WAS CONDUCTED AS AN ELECTRONIC MEETING WITH THE ANCHOR LOCATION BEING HELD AT THE VERNAL CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 374 EAST MAIN ST, VERNAL, UTAH. DUE TO THE GATHERING RESTRICTIONS PUT IN PLACE BY THE UTAH DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, AND THE GOVERNOR OF UTAH, THE ANCHOR LOCATION WILL ONLY HAVE NINE PARTICIPANTS IN ATTENDANCE. THE MEETING WILL BE STREAMED LIVE VIA FACEBOOK.COM/VERNALCITY.***

**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 who joined virtually.

**INVOCATION OR UPLIFTING THOUGHT:** The invocation was given by Councilmember Travis Allan.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilmember Dave Everett.

Quinn Bennion explained that under these unique circumstances, the City needs to comply with health orders for social distancing. The conference room next door is set up for any public who wish to watch the meeting, or if they have their own device they can watch the meeting on Facebook live. The public will be allowed to comment during the public hearing portion of the meeting.

**APPROVAL OF CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF MARCH 18, 2020:** *Councilmember Dave Everett moved to approve the minutes of March 18, 2020. Councilmember Bert Clark seconded the motion. The motion passed with Councilmembers Everett, Munford, Allan, Porter and Clark voting in favor.*

**RATIFICATION OF COVID-19 TEMPORARY LEAVE POLICY - RESOLUTION NO. 2020-03:** Quinn Bennion reminded the Council that approximately two weeks ago they were contacted, by phone, regarding the implementation of two temporary personnel policies driven and required by federal legislation, the Family First COVID-19 Response Act. The first policy allows full-time employees to receive 80 hours of sick leave if they become ill or are required to isolate or need to take care of their children because school is closed due to the virus. The second policy expands FMLA to include criteria not normally included if an employee needs to stay home and take care of their children. Councilmember Bert Clark clarified that it is at a reduced rate. Roxanne Behunin acknowledged that the employee gets paid at 2/3<sup>rd</sup> rate of pay if they are home to take care of a child that is not ill. Quinn Bennion explained that this policy was explained to the majority of the employees through small group meetings. Also, the hope is that through the CARES Act the City will be reimbursed for hours worked associated with the COVID-19 virus. *Councilmember Ted Munford moved to ratify both policies and approve Resolution No. 2020-03. Councilmember Travis Allan seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call vote:*

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

**UPDATE ON CITY’S COVID-19 RESPONSES:** Quinn Bennion explained that starting on April 16<sup>th</sup>, Tri-County Health will be operating a mobile virus testing station. A Utah group from Silicon Slopes is providing the testing materials. Everyone is invited to fill out the questionnaire and get tested. All of the police officers were tested today and health care workers are scheduled to be tested tomorrow. Another mobile site will be set up in Roosevelt. The goal is to test 250 people per day. Mayor Hammond explained that Tri-County Health made arrangements for hospital staff to man these testing stations. Councilmember Travis Allan voiced his concern over false negative tests, however, noted that it is a great opportunity to get tested. Quinn Bennion stated that City employees are tracking their hours related to COVID-19 such as GJ (George Searle) setting up this configuration to comply with the health order and adjust meetings. The police department has a separate code to show their hours and expenditures. The hope is to receive reimbursement through FEMA or the CARES Act not only for staff hours, but also equipment expenses or additional sanitizers etc. On a good note there are creative people helping others to cope by implementing a live BINGO night via social media, gift card drawings for visiting local businesses, and cruising main street events. The work program has 12 participants so far. The City offices have remained open except for the planning department which does not have a glass partition so anyone needing planning services has to go to the finance department. The materials to put in the glass will be purchased and hopefully will be reimbursed through the CARE Act. He noted that this pandemic will greatly impact the budget and he has met with the department managers to start talking about necessary cuts. He noted that this will be the most difficult budget and he will be bringing different options for the Council to consider.

**PUBLIC HEARING: PERMANENT COMMUNITY IMPACT FUND BOARD APPLICATION FOR FUNDING FOR THE PURPOSE OF ESTABLISHING A STORM WATER DRAINAGE SYSTEM BY RECLAIMING THE CENTRAL CANAL CHANNEL:** Mayor Doug Hammond opened the public hearing to receive any public comments. Quinn Bennion explained that the Central Canal Company will be piping the canal channel in 2021 for approximately nine miles beginning at the Thornburg diversion and traveling southeast to Naples City. The City, Naples City and Uintah County currently use the channel as a storm water outlet so once the channel is piped, the storm water will need somewhere to go. A study was conducted by Sunrise Engineering to look at alternatives such as a separate storm water system. It was found that by far, the least expensive and intrusive solution is to claim those channels, and use them for storm drainage. The canal will need to be reshaped to fit the needs of the storm water drainage and be large enough to handle a large storm. Another issue is how to put both bodies of water through the culverts at street crossings. That cost is estimated to be \$820,000, then as part of this project, Naples City will be adding storm water culverts along 2500 South Street. The estimated total cost

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for this project is \$2.5 million dollars. The cost to each entity was determined by the percentage of street crossings, and UDOT is also expected to participate financially as this project crossed both Hwy 121 and Hwy 40. Naples City will be seeking a grant from the Community Impact Board in the amount of \$1.2 million dollars which is 50% of the cost, and a loan in the amount of \$462,000. Vernal City's financial commitment is \$25,000 and those funds will come out of the storm drainage fund. Councilmember Bert Clark asked if FEMA had been contacted to look at this project for flood control. Quinn Bennion stated he would check with the engineers. Quinn noted that there has been a lot of attention and petitions about piping Kids Canal portion of the Central Canal line, and there is no design yet to know exactly what the plan is for that area. The hope is to still maintain the trail and open channel in that area. George Searle stated that Jessa Henrie is asking for clarification on what channels will be piped. Quinn Bennion responded that this canal starts at the mouth of Dry Fork, travels down to 1500 West and heads south to Kids canal, goes across Highway 40 and goes behind Robinwood Lane towards Quail Brook and then goes southeast into Naples City. George Searle stated that Jerry Simper has posted that this is a great project and is glad to see the City taking action. There being no further public comments, the public hearing was closed.

**ADJOURN:** There being no further business; *Councilmember Ted Munford moved to adjourn. Councilmember Travis Allan 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 )