

MINUTES OF THE JOINT VERNAL CITY COUNCIL AND UTAH COUNTY COMMISSION MEETING HELD JUNE 1, 2020 at 4:30 pm in the Vernal City Community Room, 374 East Main, Vernal, UT 84078. Due to orders from Tri-County Health, only 50 participants were allowed to attend the meeting to comply with social distancing orders:

PRESENT:

UINTAH COUNTY: Commissioners Bart Haslem, Brad Horrocks and Bill Stringer.

VERNAL CITY: Councilmembers Dave Everett, Ted Munford, Nick Porter and Travis Allan and Mayor Doug Hammond. Councilmember Bert Clark was excused.

STAFF: Roxanne Behunin, Quinn Bennion, Jon Stermer and Mike Davis.

GUESTS: Cheryl Meier, Dan Dilsaver, Doug Brown and Jeremy Raymond.

WELCOME: Mayor Hammond welcomed everyone to the meeting.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT & APPROVAL OF SPECIAL MEETING: *Councilmember Ted Munford moved to acknowledge and approve this special meeting. Commissioner Bill Stringer seconded the motion. The motion passed with Councilmembers Munford, Everett and Porter and Commissioners Stringer, Haslem and Horrocks voting in favor for a unanimous vote. Councilmember Travis Allan was not present for the vote.*

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF MARCH 23, 2020: *Commissioner Bill Stringer moved to approve the minutes of March 23, 2020 as presented. Councilmember Dave Everett seconded the motion. The motion passed with Commissioners Stringer, Haslem and Horrocks and Councilmembers Everett, Munford and Porter voting in favor for a unanimous vote. Councilmember Travis Allan was not present for the vote.*

DISCUSSION REGARDING THE VERNAL REGIONAL AIRPORT OPERATIONS AND ASSOCIATED DRAFT MOU BETWEEN VERNAL CITY AND UTAH COUNTY: Quinn Bennion presented a draft agreement to transfer the management of the Vernal Regional Airport to Vernal City. He noted that this agreement has been reviewed by each entity's attorney. He noted that the agreement could be revised easily if the County ends up as the manager. The agreement does give fairly comprehensive authority to whoever does manage the airport. The budget will be the City paying 25% and the County paying 75%. If expenditure is over \$10,000 and not already in the budget, it will require approval from the non-managing entity. Also, the agreement contemplates the re-establishment of an Airport Advisory Board. Councilmember Ted Munford stated he is concerned about the conflicts at the airport. He noted that initially he was in favor of the City taking over the management, and now has concerns with potential legal problems and is not in favor of the City taking over right now until those conflicts are resolved. Councilmember Dave Everett stated he is still considering it and would like to do more investigation before making a final decision. Commissioner Brad Horrocks stated that the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is a living document that will need to be amended from time to time. He stated that if Vernal City agrees to manage the airport it will be him or Bill Stringer sitting on the Advisory Board as Bart Haslem owns a hangar at the

airport. Councilmember Ted Munford stated one of the main issues is how to handle personnel. If the City approves bonuses, raises or changes benefits the County would not be able to interfere with those decisions. Commissioner Brad Horrocks agreed stated that the County does not want to be micromanaging the airport if the City agrees to manage it. The manager of the airport should only have one boss. Councilmember Nicholas Porter stated he envisions the advisory board only making recommendation not managing the employees also. Quinn Bennion stated the airport manager would only work with the Chairman of the Board for broad plans, not day-to-day management. Councilmember Ted Munford stated the agreement has an automatic renewal clause. Quinn Bennion stated it is for 50 years. There was more discussion regarding whichever entity manages the airport the other entity will stay out of personnel decisions. Commissioner Bill Stringer asked if an issue arises, how will the City and County take care of any dispute resolution. Jon Stermer stated there is no formal ADR type clause in the agreement; however, if there are material issues, then a notice would be given with 90 days to try to come to an agreement. Councilmember Ted Munford stated that with the 75%/25% ownership, if the City is managing the airport, the County still outweighs the City's concern so how will that play out with any decisions for the airport. Jon Stermer stated that the percentage is for funding only, not management. The voting on this agreement is an even vote between the City and the County. Commissioner Bill Stringer agreed it is a little awkward, and agreed the funding is what is important for 75% ownership by the County. He noted that there will need to be different budget approvals at different cycles that will make it hard to set a firm budget. Jon Stermer stated his understanding that the annual budget would be set based on the available funds. Commissioner Stringer stated there will also have to be some discussion on future plan for the airport. Councilmember Travis Allan stated that no matter who manages the airport, it needs to be understood how important the EIS and TSA are for the future of the airport. Quinn Bennion stated if the City manages the airport there will be support services in place such as Roxanne for human resources, and Mike Davis for the finances, so he is not as nervous taking on a new department. One key will be to find the right manager. Cheryl Meier stated the transition date is important to know so the District can decide if they will hire a new manager or allow the new managing entity to do the hiring. There was some discussion regarding the transition date with the final determination being July 1st. Cheryl Meier also note that there is an FAA inspection coming up. The consensus of the elected officials was to hold off hiring a manager. After further discussion, the consensus of the Vernal City Council was to consider this agreement and make a firm decision at their next regularly scheduled meeting.

ADJOURN: There being no further discussion; *Councilmember Ted Munford moved to adjourn. Councilmember Nicholas Porter seconded the motion. The motion passed with Councilmembers Munford, Porter, Allan and Everett and Commissioners Haslem, Stringer and Horrocks voting in favor for a unanimous vote.*

Mayor Doug Hammond

ATTEST:

Quinn Bennion, City Recorder

(S E A L)