

**M**INUTES OF THE VERNAL CITY COUNCIL AND UTAH COUNTY  
COMMISSION SPECIAL MEETING HELD JULY 22, 2019 at 4:30 p.m. in the  
Uintah County Conference Room, 147 East Main Street, Vernal, Utah 84078.

**PRESENT:**

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

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

**STAFF:** Sylvia Wilkins, Quinn Bennion, Jonathan Stearmer, Sam Passey and Roxanne Behunin.

**GUESTS:** Cheryl Meier, Wayne Simper, Sunrise Engineering, Brian Deeter, JUB Engineering, Mayor Dean Baker, Doug Brown and Joel Brown.

**ACKNOWLEDGMENT & APPROVAL OF SPECIAL MEETING:** *Councilmember Samantha Scott moved to acknowledge and approve the special meeting. Commissioner Brad Horrocks seconded the motion. The motion passed with Commissioners Horrocks, Stringer and Haslem and Councilmembers Scott, Clark, Everett and Munford voting in favor.*

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE JUNE 24, 2019 SPECIAL JOINT CITY / COUNTY MEETING:** *Councilmember Bert Clark moved to approve the minutes as presented. Commissioner Brad Horrocks seconded the motion. The motion passed with Commissioners Horrocks, Stringer and Haslem and Councilmembers Scott, Clark, Everett and Munford voting in favor.*

**DISCUSSION ABOUT TRANSPORTATION TAX:** Commissioner Bart Haslem explained that if the County implements the transportation tax, many entities benefit and they would like to receive support of that action. Commissioner Stringer stated that the consensus is that all eligible agencies need to write a letter to the State Tax Commission. Jon Stearmer clarified that the letter from each entity to the State Tax Commission has to indicate that they are a political subdivision in order to receive the tax. Commissioner Haslem stated that they are not looking forward to implementing the tax; however, with the airport maintenance shifting back to the County the funds could be used for that. He stated he would like to see the cities be unified with the County on this issue. Commissioner Brad Horrocks asked what the estimated tax would be to the cities. Mayor Dean Baker stated that it is hard to figure the distribution formula as it is reduced by the population factor. Commissioner Haslem stated they also need to know the cost to have BTA extended to Naples City. Quinn Bennion stated he thought the estimate for that route was \$14,000. Councilmember Ted Munford expressed his opinion that the BTA cost is \$290,000 and the tax will generate \$1.6 million dollars so it is not a fair statement to say it is needed just for BTA. Commissioner Haslem stated that the cost for the airport is \$700,000. Commissioner Brad Horrocks stated that if you add in the cost of the Care Center bussing and the Naples route, there is another \$500,000 of expenses. Councilmember Dave Everett asked if the Veterans bus will be considered. Commissioner Horrocks stated they will look at that need also.

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Commissioner Bill Stringer explained that the latest code allows the County to use the funding in other ways such as trails, bus system, airport and roads. He stated the County is leaning toward not going with a fixed number for BTA, rather a percentage of what is collected. Councilmember Dave Everett reminded everyone of the outcry that happened when the community thought the BTA bus was in jeopardy of being taken away. Commissioner Bill Stringer stated that if these other services are shifted, it will help the Health District and Transportation District, however the entities need to be unified. Commissioner Brad Horrocks stated that after the tax is implemented, the County has two months to pass a resolution outlining the percentage for BTA. Cheryl Meier asked once the tax is passed, how long before the funds will be sent to the entities. Commissioner Bill Stringer stated it will take at least two quarters, or approximately six months. Commissioner Bill Stringer requested the City staff notify them as soon as a letter is sent to the Tax Commission.

**UPDATE ON CENTRAL CANAL PIPING PROJECT:** Brian Deeter, with JUB Engineering, explained that the canal is currently a mixture of irrigation water and storm water. He explained that funding was received from the federal government so they have to follow their process. An environmental assessment is being completed, public meetings were held, and the next step is to do a resource survey. It is anticipated that 30% of the design will be completed in September. Commissioner Stringer stated that the County hired Sunrise Engineering to prepare a study on the storm water. Quinn Bennion stated that the City already approved the funding for that study. Quinn Bennion asked how the City and County are involved, especially with the crossings. Wayne Simper explained that when the canal is piped, they plan on using it for the sleeve of the new pipe or the crossings can stay for storm drainage and capture storm water off public property. He stated that they are hopeful that UDOT will see this as partially their responsibility as it has an \$800,000 price tag. He suggested a joint application be submitted to the CIB for the storm drainage system although it is not on the five year plan for the County. Quinn Bennion stated that the next application deadline is October 1<sup>st</sup>. Commissioner Bart Haslem asked who would take the lead on the application process. Quinn Bennion stated the City can do it and it is on the City's list. Jon Stearmer agreed the best way is to have Vernal City and Naples City apply. Commissioner Haslem stated the CIB may recognize it as an emergency project. Dean Baker stated they are at least a year out before any construction so there is time. There was some discussion regarding the locations of the crossings and the proposed work. Quinn Bennion stated that another item related to this project is the buzz surround Kids Canal. A meeting was held with four people opposed to piping that area and it was a very good discussion. Brian Deeter stated they have a hot line that people can call and a page explaining the process as there is a lot of misinformation. Quinn Bennion stated they do want to keep the trail open even if there is no water. He explained that the City is involved with UDOT to upsize the storm drainage system down Main Street and they would like to pressurize that system which may be a good solution.

**DISCUSSION ABOUT USE OF PUBLIC TRAFFIC CONTROL AND PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION FOR AREA RACES:** Quinn Bennion explained that currently when events happen in the community such as the Dino Half Marathon, the organizers are confused on where to go to get permission to block the streets. The City has a trailer with materials needed for these events if they happen in the City and the organizers are responsible to set them out. However, if it is in the County, they still want to use City equipment. He wondered if there is a

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private company that supplies the necessary cones and sets up for these races. Cheryl Meier asked what is the best process for this as many times they contact the Transportation District and use their cones. She stated they give them a traffic map and they are responsible to set out the cones. Commissioner Bill Stringer stated that the best situation is to have the event organizer come in and hold a planning meeting with them so they understand what is needed and who will provide what equipment. Quinn Bennion agreed. Commissioner Stringer suggested something be put on the websites to direct the organizers to contact the agencies at least two weeks before an event.

**UPDATE ON BALANCE UTAH INITIATIVE:** Commissioner Bart Haslem explained that this project is gaining momentum and last Friday he and several community representatives did an interview for the County Seat to promote it. A three minute video was displayed showing how the project would work and the benefits. The biggest question is can it be done economically. Mayor Doug Hammond stated that if cargo transport can be added, that will lower the cost. Commissioner Haslem stated he will continue to pursue this idea.

**JORDAN COVE UPDATE:** Commissioner Bart Haslem explained that a team of representatives traveled to Oregon to speak in support of the Jordan Cove project which would extend the natural gas pipeline to the coast. He stated that they met with protestors to find out their concerns and found a lot of misleading information was given to them. Overall the meeting was very productive. He noted that the developers currently have 87% of the right-of-ways needed to finish this project and it will greatly help the Uintah Basin. Councilmember Bert Clark thanked the participants for representing the area and keeping everyone informed.

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

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Quinn Bennion, City Recorder