

MINUTES OF THE VERNAL CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING HELD
AUGUST 5, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. in the Vernal City Council room, 374 East Main,
Vernal, Utah 84078.

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

WELCOME: Mayor Doug Hammond welcomed everyone to the meeting.

INVOCATION OR UPLIFTING THOUGHT: The invocation 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 JULY 15, 2020:
Councilmember Dave Everett moved to approve the minutes of July 15, 2020. Councilmember Nicholas Porter seconded the motion. The motion passed with Councilmembers Everett, Munford, Allan, Porter and Clark voting in favor.

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF USING CARES ACT FUNDS FOR TOURISM AND ACTIVITIES – RESOLUTION NO. 2020-09: Quinn Bennion explained that this resolution relates to the CARES Act funds which the City and the County received. The use of these funds is very restrictive, so the entities need to be careful how these funds are expended. One allowed use is to remarket the area for the tourism industry and help community events keep participants and visitors safe. The County staff has been working with the City and has identified events, tourism in general and marketing the convention center to use some of these funds for remarketing. The County has committed \$48,000 for this effort. Mayor Doug Hammond asked if the total budget is \$70,000. Quinn Bennion stated that the City or County could commit more funds toward this effort if necessary. Councilmember Nicholas Porter stated this is a great idea. After further discussion regarding the CARES Act funds, *Councilmember Nicholas Porter moved to approve Resolution No. 2020-09. Councilmember Ted Munford seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call vote:*

Councilmember Munford.....aye;
Councilmember Allanaye;
Councilmember Everettaye;
Councilmember Porteraye;
Councilmember Clark.....aye.

FOLLOW-UP DISCUSSION REGARDING MINERAL LEASE FUNDS AND SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE SIX SPECIAL SERVICE DISTRICTS: Quinn Bennion noted that this item is a follow-up to the joint City/County meeting that was held last Monday regarding the funding for the Special Service Districts. He pointed out the recently received allotment of mineral lease funds for each district. Mike Davis stated that they had not received the June allotment yet at the time of the meeting, however, each District received their normal allotment and the Transportation District received over \$1 million dollars which is the largest amount so far this year. Councilmember Ted Munford stated this changes, drastically, the discussion from that meeting where the Commissioners projected the total amount for the year would be around \$6 million dollars. The time frame given to the District directors was to have a plan by the 17th

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of this month. Councilmember Travis Allan stated the community has been fortunate to have these services provided, free of charge, and are blessed to get mineral lease funds to pay for the amenities everyone enjoys. One item that is alarming is the Transportation District provides zero benefits for citizens living in the cities, yet the County wants to make the cities be responsible for these services. He noted that the mineral lease funds should be used for all residents of the County. Also, the Transportation District has received, by far, more funds than any of the other districts. Councilmember Nicholas Porter agreed those funds should benefit the entire community. Councilmember Bert Clark stated that city residents also pay County taxes, and if some of the services are pushed back to the cities will there need to be two different fee schedules - one for city residents and one for county residents. Councilmember Dave Everett stated there is not a quick fix for this issue. He stated a possibility would be to privatize amenities like the golf course. He asked how much the golf course is supplemented to operate. Councilmember Nicholas Porter stated it is not as high as expected, although it is still operated at a loss. Quinn Bennion stated he thought it was around \$400,000 including the debt. There was some discussion regarding the duties of the Uintah Impact Mitigation District. Quinn Bennion stated that the County Commission will ultimately make the decision of what Districts to fund, combine or close on August 24th. Dennis Judd explained that the only one that they can potentially close is the Transportation District as it was created by the County. The remainder of the Districts have Interlocals agreements between the County and the cities. In order to eliminate one, they will need to follow the notice requirements for termination outlined in the agreements. However, the County could withdraw any funding from mineral lease so the District would either fold or go through some type of taxation hearing. Dennis Judd provided some history behind the Districts being formed to use mineral lease funds without losing PILT funds. He stated he would do some research to see if the original Transportation District documents had been amended to add cities. There was some discussion regarding the Transportation District doing some work on collector roads. Councilmember Travis Allan again noted that the County is benefitting from the mineral lease funds for roads while they want the cities to take back the golf course, fire protection and animal control. He stated that this discussion may be pointless if the County Commission does not hear these concerns.

Chip & Seal Project:

Quinn Bennion stated that he is trying to get a map from CIVCO Engineering to see what roads in Vernal City will be chipped. Councilmember Nicholas Porter asked if the center line on 100 South was going to be moved. Quinn Bennion stated that is to accommodate a bike lane that was discussed a few years ago. Councilmember Bert Clark asked that contractor be told to water the streets to cut down the dust. Mayor Hammond stated they do water it down every day.

CARES Act Business grants:

Quinn Bennion advised that they received 280 applications from local businesses for grant and only 30 were not approved. There is not enough funding to fully pay all the grants until the next allotment is received later this month.

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White House Academy Lease:

Quinn Bennion explained that the lease for the White House academy has expired and they need a valid lease for a grant they want to submit this week. The lease amount will remain the same terms of \$2500 a month and 40% of the utilities which is around \$400. Councilmember Ted Munford stated that the staff negotiated this rate and it was fair with the amount of rent being charged for similar buildings. Councilmember Travis Allan asked why that ratio was set for the utilities. Quinn Bennion stated he did not know the thought process behind that original ratio. He stated if that lease amount is acceptable for an annual renewal, the staff will proceed with putting this item on the next agenda for ratification. The consensus of the Council was to move forward with the lease.

Code enforcement:

Quinn Bennion stated that some interesting issues have come up with code enforcement for certain properties in the City. He explained that the main priority is for weeds that cause a fire hazard, especially in bank owned homes. However some properties fall into a more gray area for enforcement such as the field across the street from Uintah Basin Medical Center which is zoned R-3. In the past it had horses grazing on it, but now is weeds and not being using for agriculture. Councilmember Bert Clark stated they should get a letter if the property is in a residential area. Councilmember Travis Allan agreed they should be asked to clean it up if it is a fire hazard. Councilmember Ted Munford agreed the primary concern is public safety, although aesthetics is important also. Quinn Bennion stated what he is hearing is if it can be cut and baled then there are no issues, otherwise it needs to be mowed to remove any fire danger.

ADJOURN: There being no further business; *Councilmember Ted Munford moved to adjourn. Councilmember Nicholas Porter seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote and the meeting was declared adjourned.*

Mayor Doug Hammond

ATTEST:

Roxanne Behunin, Deputy Recorder

(S E A L)