

MINUTES OF THE VERNAL CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING HELD
AUGUST 7, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. in the Vernal City Council room, 374 East Main,
Vernal, Utah 84078.

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

WELCOME: Mayor Doug Hammond welcomed everyone to the meeting.

INVOCATION OR UPLIFTING THOUGHT: The invocation was given by Councilmember Ted Munford.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilmember Travis Allan.

APPROVAL OF CITY COUNCIL MINUTES OF JULY 17 2019: *Councilmember Bert Clark moved to approve the minutes of July 17, 2019. Councilmember Dave Everett seconded the motion. The motion passed with Councilmembers Allan, Everett, Munford, Scott and Clark voting in favor.*

INTRODUCTION OF MS. UINTAH COUNTY AND PROGRAMS - JAMEE HARTLE, DIRECTOR AND LYNDEE ALLAN, MISS UINTAH COUNTY: Lyndee Allan explained that she and Addison Laris, Miss Outstanding Teen, have been busy providing services to the community. The next competition requires the contestants to pay for an in a tourism book for the Miss Utah pageant. The cost for the ad is \$800 for her and \$600 for Addie. She asked the City to consider contributing to the ad that will be an entire page with pictures showing what the community has to offer. The Uintah County tourism department is paying half the cost. Quinn Bennion stated the purpose of the program is to promote the area, although this project has not been budgeted. There is a miscellaneous line for such requests that has \$3500 in it. Councilmember Clark asked if they have any additional means of collecting the funds. Lyndee Allan answered that they are planning on fundraising. *After further discussion, Councilmember Dave Everett moved to sponsor the ad at \$250. Councilmember Ted Munford seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call vote:*

Councilmember Munford.....aye;
Councilmember Allanabstained;
Councilmember Everettaye;
Councilmember Scottaye;
Councilmember Clark..... aye.

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF PURCHASE OF STREET SWEEPER: Rick Green, Motorpool Supervisor, explained that the budget for a new sweeper was set at \$269,800. However, the Elgin Dealer, Legacy Equipment, does have the State contract for the Elgin sweeper at a cost of \$241,000. This machine is the only one that has a three-wheel base. Councilmember Bert Clark asked where the steering wheel is located. Rick Green stated this model has dual steering. He stated that one item that was not added to the cost is the additional year warranty. The warranty starts upon delivery, which is projected to be November. The machine will not get a lot of hours on it until spring so part of the warranty will be gone before any major use. The cost for the additional warranty is \$3400. Councilmember Ted Munford

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suggested they wait to order the machine until the end of the year. Rick Green stated he will speak with the dealer to see if the City can take possession and not start the warranty until hours are accumulated. Councilmember Munford asked if historically there are problems with these machines in the first two years. Rick Green stated there are always issues, and the last two sweepers had the extra year warranty. Part of the issue is the training for the operators. Councilmember Dave Everett stated it would be a smart move to get the extra year warranty for a machine that is this expensive. Councilmember Travis Allan asked if these machines have to be maintained daily. Rick Green stated they have an automatic greaser; however there are things that have to be done daily when they are in use such as blowing out the filters and all the diesel engines require service after 250 hours use. There was some discussion regarding how long the other machines have lasted past their life cycle. Councilmember Allan asked what will be done with the old machine. Rick Green stated they plan on keeping it as a stand-by. Quinn Bennion stated this is a significant purchase, and he is impressed that the old machines have been kept operational for as long as they have. *Councilmember Bert Clark moved to purchase the Elgin Sweeper at a cost of \$241,567 and the extended warranty at a cost of \$3400 with the best order date so not sittings on the warranty. Councilmember Samantha Scott seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call vote:*

- Councilmember Munford.....aye;*
- Councilmember Allanaye;*
- Councilmember Everettaye;*
- Councilmember Scottaye;*
- Councilmember Clark.....aye.*

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF LETTER TO STATE TAX COMMISSION TO ENABLE VERNAL CITY TO BE AN ELIGIBLE ENTITY FOR THE TRANSIT TAX: Quinn Bennion explained that during the past several months there has been discussion with the Uintah County Commissioners to implement the transportation tax. The Utah State code is very difficult to wade through on this tax. It is not clear if just the County has to provide a letter to the Tax Commission or if all three cities also have to notify the State. The City and County Attorneys also have differing opinions. Mr. Bennion presented a draft letter to submit to the State Tax Commission on this issue. Councilmember Ted Munford voiced his frustration that this decision has been taken away from the voters. Councilmember Dave Everett stated that just recently the Legislature has mandated taxes and changes such as the homeless tax and medical marijuana so it is likely they will change the rules for the transportation tax. After further discussion, *Councilmember Ted Munford moved to submit the letter to the State Tax Commission as presented. Councilmember Samantha Scott seconded the motion. The motion passed with Councilmembers Munford, Scott, Clark, Allan and Everett voting in favor.*

CONSIDER GRANT SUBMITTAL FOR AN INNOVATION / CO-WORKING SPACE UTILIZING CITY PROPERTY: Quinn Bennion explained that there is a new project being discussed with Community Development, Impact Mitigation, the Library, Strata, the Chamber of Commerce and the Small Business Development Center. What sparked this idea is a grant that is available for rural counties that have heavy unemployment and lower median income. This

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grant has \$500,000 of available funds to establish a co-working center. The center is set up to attract different groups including entrepreneurs who are not ready for market rate rents, but possibly could afford a smaller amount, home businesses that need more room or need higher speed internet or even teachers who cannot work from home, and technology businesses as a way to diversify the economy. The intent is not to compete with the commercial rental market, but allow startup businesses to graduate out of this space. Several spaces were toured and the best option seems to be the old City Hall building next to Hwy 40 that has 7000 square feet of space. There are private offices as well as open areas. The plan is to apply for \$300,000 to renovate the building and add high speed internet, phone systems etc. The Library has committed to maintaining any public computers and wipe the systems clean each night. Councilmember Dave Everett stated they could bring in their own computer. Quinn agreed especially if they rent their own office, or use a laptop. The grant can only be used for equipment or building renovation. One item that will need special funding will be the building manager. That person will be responsible to collect rents, explain the program, help businesses get moved in, etc. Mr. Bennion displayed several centers in other Cities which are joint ventures with the Chamber and local government. The application is due September 1st. Councilmember Travis Allan stated this is a phenomenal idea and will help businesses where the costs are prohibitive and may help get them off the ground. Councilmember Clark stated this could help Vernal have more technology businesses. Quinn Bennion stated the center will have a tech vibe to it where businesses can collaborate and network. He noted that he met with White House Academy and explained the project and an architect has been contacted to see the best way to renovate the building. The plan is to use the island in the front to allow several diagonal stalls. One issue is the parking. Councilmember Dave Everett stated that when you create an environment like this where leaders communicate in an open and friendly setting a lot of good brain storming comes out of it. Councilmember Munford stated this could help keep college grads here if they have a place to start. Councilmember Travis Allan stated he is aware of two ladies that are doing magazine publishing and meal prep and a gentleman who is working on nutritional weight loss and this space would be good for them. Mayor Hammond stated it will be hard to hire a manager until there are potential clients. Quinn Bennion stated the manager does need to do some marketing. *After further discussion, Councilmember Samantha Scott moved to approve applying for the grant to renovate the old City Hall building for a co-working space. Councilmember Travis Allan seconded the motion. The motion passed with Councilmembers Scott, Allan, Munford, Everett and Clark voting in favor.*

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF AMENDMENT TO THE VERNAL CITY PERSONNEL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES - PAY FOR PERFORMANCE REVIEWS

RESOLUTION NO. 2019-17: Quinn Bennion explained that the current personnel policy is very detailed when it comes to performance reviews and he recommended Resolution No. 2019-17 be approved to provide more flexibility. Councilmember Ted Munford stated that performance reviews are very difficult and asked that the supervisors be trained to be honest with the employees so any performance wrinkles can be ironed out. Mike Davis stated that the current system is so narrow that if you give an employee an 85% they do not get a raise, if one is offered, and puts them in the bottom category. *After further discussion, Councilmember Travis*

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Allan moved to approve Resolution No. 2019-17 as presented. Councilmember Samantha Scott seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call vote:

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

UPDATE ON BENCH PROJECT - QUINN BENNION: Quinn Bennion explained that eight benches have been installed at specific BTA stops and nine more are ready to be installed when the concrete can be poured. He noted that Bobby Oosteven deserves the credit for this project as it was his initiative and hard work that brought everyone together to accomplish it. Thirteen different entities donated to this project with Kyle Bentley fabricating the benches. Mr. Bennion displayed three of the benches showing the dinosaur themes.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Walking Park: Councilmember Allan thanked the staff for working on the Walking Park and stated that it looks very nice.

Stop signs:

Councilmember Bert Clark asked what is happening with the stop signs. Quinn Bennion stated that UDOT had around 35 stop signs in their schedule to replace as part of the re-surfacing project. The City was not aware of this project and the crews started seeing signs disappear. The City contacted UDOT and they will be replacing the signs with different poles.

Baseball Trophy:

Mayor Doug Hammond explained that a trophy was given to the City, as the host City, for the tournament that was held in Vernal a few weeks ago. Councilmember Allan noted that there are hundreds of people spending an entire week here for that tournament. Mayor Hammond stated they were impressed with the facilities and hopefully will return.

Joint City / County Meeting:

Mayor Hammond stated that a meeting was held with the County Commissioners to look at what services are being provided. Quinn Bennion stated they would like to go over all the joint ventures at the next joint meeting, primarily the airport. That meeting is scheduled for August 26th at 4:30 at City Hall.

ADJOURN: There being no further business; *Councilmember Samantha Scott 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:

Roxanne Behunin, Deputy Recorder

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