

MINUTES OF THE VERNAL CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING HELD
AUGUST 17, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. in the Vernal City Council room, 374 East Main,
Vernal, Utah 84078.

PRESENT: Councilmembers Nicholas Porter, Dave Everett, Robin O’Driscoll, Ted Munford, and Corey Foley and Mayor Doug Hammond.

WELCOME: Mayor Doug Hammond welcomed everyone to the meeting.

INVOCATION OR UPLIFTING THOUGHT: The invocation was given by Councilmember Dave Everett.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilmember Nick Porter.

APPROVAL OF CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF AUGUST 3, 2022: *Councilmember Nick Porter moved to approve the minutes of August 3, 2022. Councilmember Corey Foley seconded the motion. The motion passed with Councilmembers Everett, O’Driscoll, Munford, Foley and Porter voting in favor.*

APPROVAL OF CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES OF AUGUST 8, 2022: *Councilmember Corey Foley moved to approve the minutes of August 8, 2022. Councilmember Robin O’Driscoll seconded the motion. The motion passed with Councilmembers Everett, O’Driscoll, Munford, Foley and Porter voting in favor.*

REPORT ON DINOSAUR ROUND-UP 2022 – CARSON YOUNG: Carson Young, Vice-President of Dinosaur Roundup Rodeo, thanked the City Council and employees for supporting the Rodeo. He reported that this years’ event was very successful and was sold out both Friday and Saturday nights. There was a 10% increase in attendance and sponsorship. However, the costs have had to increase with the prize money going up 24% in order to stay on the PRCA tour and be televised. There were more vendors which should increase sales tax revenue for the City. Carson Young presented a plaque to the Mayor for all the support from the City. Councilmember Robin O’Driscoll stated she liked the fact that all the seats were reserved. Councilmember Corey Foley commented that the Rodeo had impressive stock. Carson Young answered that the stock is from Powder River and D & H Cattle with none of the animals being over the age of four. The Council thanked him for the report.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 2022-16 FOR ZERO FATALITIES: Quinn Bennion presented this resolution that relates to the Safety Action Plan that is being developed for the City and is based on UDOT’s commitment to zero fatalities. The City has the same goal to reduce the number of accidents. There have been two traffic fatalities in the last few years and the plan will help reduce serious or pedestrian accidents. *Councilmember Ted Munford moved to approve Resolution No. 2022-16. Councilmember Robin O’Driscoll seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call vote:*

Councilmember Munford.....aye;

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Councilmember O’Driscoll.....aye;
Councilmember Everettaye;
Councilmember Porteraye;
Councilmember Foley..... aye.

REQUEST APPROVAL OF AGREEMENT WITH STEARNS CONSTRUCTION FOR CDBG PROJECT AND APPROVE NOTICE TO PROCEED FOR 100 EAST SIDEWALK PROJECT: Allen Parker reminded the Council that the City was awarded \$195,000 CDBG grant to install sidewalk along 100 East from 200 South to 400 South. Bids were solicited for this project and one bid was received from Stearns Construction in the amount of \$249,000 which is in excess of what was anticipated. With the bids being received for projects right now, he suggested the City pay the excess cost and complete the project. Councilmember Nick Porter stated that is a lot of sidewalk for \$45,000 from the general fund. Councilmember Corey Foley agreed that there needs to be contingencies in the budget for inflation as this seems to be a pattern. Carl Morton noted that this project is in the City’s capital improvement plan. *Councilmember Corey Foley moved to approve the agreement with Stearns Construction for the 100 East sidewalk project and issue the notice to proceed. Councilmember Nick Porter seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call vote:*

Councilmember Munford.....aye;
Councilmember O’Driscoll.....aye;
Councilmember Everettaye;
Councilmember Porteraye;
Councilmember Foley..... aye.

PUBLIC HEARING: CONSIDER A REZONE REQUEST FROM SCOTT & DEBRA BINGHAM FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 161 EAST 100 NORTH, VERNAL, UTAH TO REZONE THE PROPERTY FROM R-4 RESIDENTIAL ZONE TO C-2 COMMERCIAL ZONE: Allen Parker explained that the City received this request to rezone a portion of the parcel at 161 East 100 North, formerly the Kokopelli event center by the County library. The current zone is R-4 residential and the request is to change it to a C-2 commercial zone. The staff reviewed the request and found that it does meet the requirements of the City’s general plan. A map was displayed showing the surrounding zones including the CC-1 zone and C-2 zone to the east. The Planning Commission reviewed this request and is recommending approval after holding a public hearing. There were a few questions about the impact on the area and what uses would be allowed. The current proposal is for a bike shop, however, there is the possibility for other retail uses if the zone is changed. One restriction will be the parking. Councilmember Ted Munford asked if parking lots are allowed in the R-4 zone. Allen Parker answered no, not commercial lots. Councilmember Ted Munford asked why they are not requesting to rezone the entire parcel. Allen Parker answered that there are actually two parcels with the one remaining residential for financing purposes. Councilmember Dave Everett stated

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he lives close to this property and would like to see it taken care of. Councilmember Nick Porter noted there could be more impact in the future, although the impact would be greater if both parcels were rezoned. Mayor Doug Hammond opened the public hearing.

Robert Reynolds, property owner at 252 East 100 North, asked about the irrigation ditch. Allen Parker answered the easement is along the north side of the larger parcel and this rezone does not affect it.

There being no further public comments, Mayor Doug Hammond closed the public hearing. *Councilmember Ted Munford moved to approve the rezone as presented. Councilmember Nick Porter seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call vote:*

Councilmember Munford.....aye;
Councilmember O’Driscoll.....aye;
Councilmember Everettaye;
Councilmember Porteraye;
Councilmember Foley..... aye.

PRESENTATION OF DRAFT SAFETY ACTION PLAN – AVENUE CONSULTANTS:

Quinn Bennion introduced Thomas McMurphy with Avenue Consultants who is working on the SS4-A grant and the Safety Action Plan. He noted that the grant is substantial and only cities and counties can apply. The grant can be used to develop a plan, or for implementation of the plan. The City took the strategy of developing a plan and applying for implementation to not be competing with as many entities this first year. Avenue Consultants were hired and a committee was formed to help with the development of the plan and then submit the application. Thomas McMurphy stated that the purpose of this grant funding is to reduce serious and fatal crashes and the deadline for submission is September 15th. There is a 20% match requirement and an application is required each year. The plan will show data such as statistics, age factors, and locations of accidents used to come up with needed safety measures. Comments were requested from the community and those comments were also added to the plan. Thomas explained what they have been doing to get public involvement and come up with 27 identified projects with safety issues for a total of \$27.5 million dollars. The cost was inflated to 2025 with a 30% contingency. The first application will be for the first 9 projects, clustered downtown, to get pedestrians into a safer place, and provide a teenage driver education program. Councilmember Corey Foley asked what is the maximum grant available. Thomas McMurphy stated that \$1 million dollars is the minimum and the most is \$50 million dollars. Councilmember Ted Munford stated the intersections along 500 West and 500 South need to be added to the plan.

PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING DRAFT SAFETY ACTION PLAN: Mayor Doug Hammond asked for public comments for the City’s safety action plan.

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Jenny Thompson, resident at 54 West 200 North in Vernal, stated this is a big issue for her and she watches closely the intersections and driving habits in her neighborhood. She suggested drivers be educated more as they are over confident and do not follow traffic laws. She noted that 87% of the drivers by her house do not stop where they are supposed to. There is also a problem with parking. This information is relayed to the police department and they are spread too thin to worry about these complaints. The example that is being set is one of the problems for teenage drivers. She stated that the worst offenders are the Vernal City public works employees and it is frustrating as they have a responsibility to show better driving habits.

Councilmember Corey Foley asked if the funds will be appropriated through the State. Thomas McCurphy stated there is no clear cut direction how the funds will be administered. It is anticipated that the grand award will be made in January.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT FOR ENGINEERING AND DESIGN WITH CRS FOR THE DESIGN OF COBBLEROCK BLOCK IN DOWNTOWN:

Quinn Bennion explained this is the next step and phase for downtown. CRS Engineers was selected for the Zions Block and now it is being suggested the same engineers start on the next block. Professional services do not have to be bid out every time so CRS submitted a proposal of \$164,800 which will include the engineering for the utilities, walkway, and parking on the Cobblerock Block of downtown. This is less than 10% of the estimated project cost which is appropriate. After further discussion, *Councilmember Corey Foley moved to approve the agreement for professional services with CRS Engineering for the Cobblerock Block redevelopment. Councilmember Nick Porter seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call vote:*

Councilmember Munford.....aye;
Councilmember O’Driscoll.....aye;
Councilmember Everettaye;
Councilmember Porteraye;
Councilmember Foley.....aye.

DISCUSSION REGARDING CITY LOGO: Quinn Bennion reminded the Council that funds were set aside to redesign the logo for the City. He suggested a committee consisting of a representative of the Council, Mayor, staff and the public be formed to look at different options to move forward and start the process. Councilmember Dave Everett agreed the logo is outdated. The consensus was to have Councilmembers Dave Everett and Nick Porter on the committee. Adrienne Larsen asked if there would be a prize if the committee decides to do a contest. Quinn Bennion stated that is one method. Adrienne Larsen stated that is one way to give the artist an incentive to participate.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:

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Uintah Basin Media awards.

Quinn Bennion reported that the City received awards from Uintah Basin Media for the following:
3rd place for best Holiday tradition given to the Mayors Walk.
1st Place for best Holiday tradition for Holly Days; and
1st place for best festival for Holly Days.

Energy Summit:

Quinn Bennion stated the Energy Summit sponsored by Uintah Economic Development will be August 30th and 31st.

Purchasing:

Councilmember Corey Foley voiced his concern that City staff is buying items such as tow ropes on Amazon instead of locally. He asked management to encourage staff members to buy locally whenever possible even if slightly higher cost.

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

Mayor Doug Hammond

ATTEST:

Roxanne Behunin, City Recorder

(S E A L)