

MINUTES OF THE VERNAL CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING HELD
JULY 6, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. in the Vernal City Council room, 374 East Main, Vernal,
Utah 84078.

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

WELCOME: Mayor Sonja Norton welcomed everyone to the meeting.

INVOCATION OR UPLIFTING THOUGHT: An invocation was given by Councilmember Travis Allan.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: The pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilmember Dave Everett.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JUNE 9, 2016 SPECIAL MEETING: *Councilmember Bert Clark moved to approve the minutes of June 9, 2016. Councilmember Dave Everett seconded the motion. The motion passed with Councilmembers Munford, Allan, Everett, Scott, and Clark voting in favor for a unanimous vote.*

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JUNE 15, 2016 REGULAR MEETING: *Councilmember Bert Clark moved to approve the minutes of June 15, 2016. Councilmember Ted Munford seconded the motion. The motion passed with Councilmembers Munford, Allan, Everett, Scott, and Clark voting in favor for a unanimous vote.*

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JUNE 29, 2016 SPECIAL MEETING: *Councilmember Samantha Scott moved to approve the minutes of June 29, 2016. Councilmember Bert Clark seconded the motion. The motion passed with Councilmembers Munford, Allan, Everett, Scott, and Clark voting in favor for a unanimous vote.*

APPOINTMENT OF CITY TREASURER - OBERN MAYES: Mike Davis, Finance Director, explained an employee is moving from Vernal which opened up a position in his department. After moving people around, the City opened up the Treasurer position. Good candidates applied with several males applying for the first time. After holding interviews and giving an accounting test, Mr. Davis is recommending appointing Mr. Obern Mayes as the new Treasurer. His accounting skills and knowledge shined above the other applicants. Ken Bassett stated that normally for positions of the City, the department heads do not require approval of the City Council. In this case, the Treasurer must be appointed by the Council, as well as the City Recorder. Councilmember Dave Everett moved to approve the appointment of Obern Mayes as the City Treasurer. Councilmember Samantha Scott seconded the motion. The motion passed with Councilmembers Everett, Scott, Clark, Allan and Munford voting in favor for a unanimous vote.

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF AMENDED AIRPORT INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT - RESOLUTION NO. 2016-12: Ken Bassett explained that this amendment was initiated by Uintah County to clarify how the engineers working on the airport expansion project will be paid. In the original agreement the Uintah Transportation Special Service District assumed the responsibilities for the administration of the airport. In doing that, the Special Service District

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also administers the capital improvements. There was no language regarding how the engineer, GDA Engineering, was to be paid. Therefore, Uintah County and the Special Service District wanted more specific language to cover that provision. The amendment to the agreement states “including the timely payment of any and all invoices owed to GDA.” Also, all of paragraph five is new language that specifies how that payment is to be made. GDA will bill the District, who will make payment, then turn the invoices and payment transaction over to Uintah County to request reimbursement from the FAA. Once Uintah County receives the reimbursement, those funds will be turned over to the Special Service District. Ken Bassett noted that this agreement does not affect the City’s participation in the agreement. Councilmember Ted Munford moved to approve the amendment to the Interlocal Agreement, Resolution No. 2016-02. Councilmember Travis Allan seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call vote:

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

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL TO RENEW ATTORNEY CONTRACTS:

CIVIL ATTORNEY, DENNIS JUDD

Mayor Norton asked if any of these attorneys lowered the price for their contracts. Ken Bassett answered no. Councilmember Travis Allan asked if one attorney could perform all of these services. Ken Bassett stated that one attorney could be hired as a full-time employee serving as the civil and prosecuting attorney. The problem with that scenario is they would also have to have another employee to serve as staff. This issue has come up over the years and possibly the Council may want to consider hiring a full-time attorney. Councilmember Travis Allan asked if they would have to be an employee. Ken Bassett stated that if the City is requiring them to put in full-time hours, the attorney would not be able to run a private practice. Mayor Norton stated that Dennis Judd also represents Naples City and asked what happens when there is a conflict. Ken Bassett stated the City would have to work that out. Councilmember Dave Everett stated that Dennis Judd has been the attorney for a number of years and asked if there have been any conflicts. Ken Bassett answered no. Councilmember Dave Everett moved to approve the contract with Dennis Judd. Councilmember Bert Clark seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call vote:

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

PROSECUTING ATTORNEY, MIKE HARRINGTON

Mayor Norton noted that Mr. Harrington offered to decrease his pay last year as his case load had decreased. Councilmember Clark mentioned that this contract does have other attorney’s from the same firm listed to cover cases if there is a conflict. Ken Bassett stated that does not

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happen very often, however, there could be a situation where they cannot prosecute someone that they have defended as a firm. In that case, Dennis Judd’s office handles the case. Councilmember Ted Munford moved to approve the contract with Mike Harrington. Councilmember Travis Allan seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call vote:

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

INDIGENT DEFENSE ATTORNEY, LANCE DEAN

Ken Bassett stated that he has not heard from Mr. Dean, so the terms of the agreement were not changed. With the downturn in the economy, more individuals claim they cannot pay for an attorney so Mr. Dean will be asked to represent them. Councilmember Samantha Scott asked if the defendants have to prove they cannot pay. Ken Bassett answered that the judge asks a series of questions before he allows the indigent defense attorney to represent them. After further discussion, Councilmember Bert Clark moved to approve the contract with Lance Dean. Councilmember Samantha Scott seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call vote:

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

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:

Vernal Excitement:

Councilmember Samantha Scott reminded the Council that the Vernal Excitement events are still happening on Thursday evenings. Councilmember Dave Everett stated that local businesses are starting to set up booths and sell items.

Rodeo:

Councilmember Dave Everett stated that the Rodeo Committee sold wooden dinosaurs to decorate and display in front of their businesses during rodeo week. Thirty-eight merchants participated and the displays were judged yesterday. The Council and staff agreed the displays look nice. Also, Ken Bassett told the Council that the City received tickets for the rodeo today and asked if the Council would like tickets, and for which night.

High School Student Council:

Ken Bassett explained to the Council that he has had the opportunity to get to know Brant Johnson, who is serving as the Uintah High School Student Body President. Mr. Johnson attended a student function in Washington DC recently and from that experience he decided that local government is the best place to learn how the government process works. He approached

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the City and has asked to volunteer with the administration of the City for the purpose of understanding more about government. There are a number of things that he can be involved in as well as joining the Youth City Council. Brant Johnson introduced Marshall Taylor who is the student liaison this year between the students and the Uintah School Board. Mayor Norton stated that Councilmember Scott is over the Youth City Council and suggested Mr. Johnson and Mr. Taylor speak with her about upcoming projects. Councilmember Scott stated she would like to see more students be involved. Councilmember Munford agreed that he would like to encourage students to get involved as they will be the future leaders. Mayor Norton explained some of the projects and events the Youth Council are involved in.

Planning Commission:

Ken Bassett explained that there are two regular positions and two alternate positions on the Planning Commission Board that are vacant. He asked the Council for any recommendations for residents who may be interested in serving.

Health Care Grant:

Ken Bassett explained that back in April the City applied for a grant through Utah League of Cities and Towns sponsored by Intermountain Health Care to help turn communities into active and healthy communities. There is a total of \$900,000 in funding available for 4 communities in the State. The plan has to include all segments of the community including, children, students, adult, seniors and the disabled to encourage them to be more active. The City was awarded the grant which will be dispersed over a period of three years. The total award is for \$225,000. A committee will be established to represent all segments of community for this program. The details of the funding will be available in a few weeks.

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

Mayor Sonja Norton

ATTEST:

Roxanne Behunin, Deputy Recorder

(S E A L)