

**M**INUTES OF THE VERNAL CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING HELD  
FEBRUARY 3, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. in the Vernal City Council room, 447 East Main,  
Vernal, Utah 84078.

**PRESENT:** Councilmembers Ted Munford, Sonja Norton, Cal Dee Reynolds,, Bert Clark and JoAnn Cowan, and Mayor Gary Showalter.

**INVOCATION OR UPLIFTING THOUGHT:** The invocation was given by Councilmember Bert Clark.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Gary Showalter.

**APPROVAL OF CITY COUNCIL MINUTES OF JANUARY 20, 2010:** Councilmember Bert Clark requested that additional wording be added regarding the positive comments in the “local news” paper. Councilmember Reynolds suggested the word surprised be changed to “pleased” under the same section. Councilmember Bert Clark moved to approve the minutes of January 20, 2010 with the changes noted. Councilmember Reynolds seconded the motion. The motion passed with Councilmembers Clark, Reynolds, Cowan, Munford and Norton voting in favor for a unanimous vote.

**PROCLAMATION OF CHRISTY FRANCISCO DAY:** Mayor Gary Showalter explained that he received a request to honor Christy Francisco by declaring February 17<sup>th</sup> as Christy Francisco Day. Mildrid Betts, representing the American Legion, explained that Christy Francisco has been chosen as the Governor for Girls State for 2010. The Girls State participants are chosen from each high school based on their academic achievements, and are sponsored by the American Legion. The program helps teach women to be responsible citizens. Mrs. Betts explained that it is a great honor to be the governor of Girls State, and this is the first time in 50 years that a Uintah High School student has been chosen. She asked the Mayor to consider proclaiming February 17<sup>th</sup> as Girls State Governor, Christy Francisco Day. Mayor Showalter noted this is quite an honor for Christy Francisco. Councilmember Cowan asked that this honor be placed on the electronic message board so the public will be aware of it. After further discussion, Councilmember JoAnn Cowan moved to honor Christy Francisco and declare February 17<sup>th</sup> as Christy Francisco Day. Councilmember Ted Munford seconded the motion. The motion passed with Councilmembers Cowan, Munford, Norton, Reynolds and Clark voting in favor for a unanimous vote.

**INTRODUCTION OF NEW EMPLOYEE FOR PUBLIC WORKS, MARIEL DAVIS:** Ken Bassett explained that he would like to take the opportunity to introduce Mariel Davis who has been hired to perform clerical duties for the Public Works departments. He explained that the recruitment for this position was large with many qualified applicants, and Mariel, with her vast experience, came out on top. Currently, Mariel is also working for the School District as a bus driver, and has previously worked for a mortgage finance company and Central Dispatch. The Mayor and Council welcomed Mariel to Vernal City.

**REQUEST FOR AMENDMENT TO THE VERNAL CITY PURCHASING POLICY - CHAPTER 7.01 & - PREFERENCE TO LOCAL VENDORS & CHAPTER 1.01 - PURCHASING GUIDELINES - RESOLUTION NO. 2010-03:** Mayor Gary Showalter explained

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that this resolution clears up the ambiguous language in the purchasing policy regarding local bidders preference. Ken Bassett stated that the City Attorney, Dennis Judd has also reviewed the changes and is suggesting that additional language be added to the first section regarding purchasing in general. Councilmember Cowan stated she thought the language was very strict and asked what happens when a purchase is needed to take care of an emergency. Ken Bassett stated there is a provision to take care of emergencies. Mayor Showalter asked that the local vendor preference be published in the paper so the community is aware of it. After further discussion, Councilmember JoAnn Cowan moved to adopt Resolution No. 2010-03 amending the Vernal City Purchasing Policy. Councilmember Cal Dee Reynolds seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following unanimous roll call vote:

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|---------------------------------|------|
| Councilmember Munford . . . . . | aye; |
| Councilmember Cowan . . . . .   | aye; |
| Councilmember Reynolds. . . . . | aye; |
| Councilmember Norton . . . . .  | aye; |
| Councilmember Clark . . . . .   | aye. |

**APPOINTMENT OF VERNAL CITY RECORDER AND VERNAL CITY TREASURER:**

Mayor Showalter explained that a City Recorder and City Treasurer need to be appointed for the City. He recommended that Ken Bassett be appointed as the City Recorder and Brenda Nold be appointed as the City Treasurer for 2010. Councilmember JoAnn Cowan moved to ratify the City Recorder and City Treasurer appointments as noted. Councilmember Sonja Norton seconded the motion, The motion passed with Councilmembers Cowan, Norton, Reynolds, Munford and Clark voting in favor for a unanimous vote.

**REQUEST FOR AMENDMENT TO THE VERNAL CITY CHARGES FOR SERVICES -  
WAIVER OF BUILDING PERMIT FEES - RESOLUTION NO. 2010-07:**

Mayor Gary Showalter explained that a presentation was made regarding low-income housing and waiving the building permit fees at the last meeting. Resolution No. 2010-07 has been drafted based on that discussion. Ken Bassett stated that the City Attorney reviewed this resolution and he immediately focused on one of the exemptions, houses of worship, which has been in place for many years. This item will be discussed at more length during the next meeting. Councilmember Cowan asked what his main concern is. Ken Bassett stated there are constitutional issues he would like the Council to consider. Councilmember Cowan suggested the staff notify the County that the Council will be reviewing that issue. Mayor Showalter noted that the resolution does not waive the mandated 1% surcharge. Ken Bassett answered that fee cannot be waived. He read a letter presented by the City Attorney which added language to the resolution to clarify and justify what projects would qualify for the fee waiver. Councilmember JoAnn Cowan suggested the 50% median income level be changed to “minimum federal government guidelines for moderate to low-income housing” instead as there are different percentages for different federal programs. Councilmember Bert Clark asked if the Self-Help housing program would qualify for the fee waiver. Ken Bassett stated that the waiver would be allowed for Self-Help Housing since that program targets low to moderate income families and is already allowed by State statute. Councilmember Norton stated the resolution only allows the waiver for rental units, and she suggested the wording be changed to allow for purchased housing

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units. After further discussion, Councilmember Ted Munford moved to adopt Resolution No. 2010-07 with the changes to “rental” units and the income guidelines, and additional verbiage requested by the City Attorney. Councilmember Sonja Norton seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following unanimous roll call vote:

- Councilmember Munford . . . . . aye;
- Councilmember Cowan . . . . . aye;
- Councilmember Reynolds. . . . . aye;
- Councilmember Norton . . . . . aye;
- Councilmember Clark . . . . . aye.

**REQUEST FOR AMENDMENT TO THE VERNAL CITY MUNICIPAL CODE - SECTION 3.32.030 - DISPOSAL OF REAL PROPERTY, DEFINING PUBLIC NOTICE FOR DISPOSAL OF REAL PROPERTY (10-8-2(4)) - ORDINANCE NO. 2010-03:**

Mayor Gary Showalter explained that this is a simple change primarily dealing with the disposal of real property. The ordinance defines when a public hearing will be held to receive input on disposing of property. Councilmember Bert Clark moved to approve Ordinance No. 2010-03 as presented. Councilmember Cal Dee Reynolds seconded the motion. The motion was voted on as follows:

- Councilmember Munford . . . . . aye;
- Councilmember Cowan . . . . . aye;
- Councilmember Reynolds. . . . . aye;
- Councilmember Norton . . . . . aye;
- Councilmember Clark . . . . . aye.

The motion passed with a unanimous vote of the Council.

**DISCLOSURE OF BUSINESS INTEREST:** Mayor Gary Showalter explained that he received a Disclosure of Business Interest from Councilmember Ted Munford for his computer business.

**ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:**

Extension of Lights on East Hwy 40:

Councilmember Clark asked for an update on the extension of the street lights along east Highway 40. Ken Bassett stated that the City needs to hire a contractor to complete the trenching. Once the trenching is completed, Rocky Mountain Power will complete the installation of the lights.

Speed Limit Study:

Councilmember Bert Clark requested that UDOT be approached to review the speed limit along east Highway 40 between 500 East and 500 South. The current speed limit is 45mph going around the corner and there is a lot of traffic in that area. Ken Bassett stated he would contact them.

Housing:

Councilmember JoAnn Cowan explained that the Uintah Basin Association of Governments (UBAG) is initiating a Self-Help Housing project at 4100 South Vernal Avenue and is looking for ten families to participate. She stated that this is a great opportunity for a family to own their own

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home by helping to build the homes as their equity. She asked that the staff and Council spread the word that this program is available and have anyone interested attend a meeting next Wednesday at 5 p.m.

**ADJOURN:** There being no further business, Councilmember JoAnn Cowan moved to adjourn. Councilmember Sonja Norton seconded the motion. The motion passed with Councilmembers Cowan, Norton, Munford, Clark and Reynolds voting in favor.

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Mayor Gary Showalter

ATTEST:

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Roxanne Behunin, Deputy Recorder

