

MINUTES OF THE VERNAL CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING HELD ON
MAY 5, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. in the Vernal City Council room, 447 East Main, Vernal,
Utah 84078.

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

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Adam Massey.

APPROVAL OF THE VERNAL CITY COUNCIL MINUTES OF APRIL 21, 2010: Councilmember Norton noted that Lynaun’s last name is Mortensen, not Martinson with the soccer organization. With that correction, Councilmember Bert Clark moved to approve the minutes April 21, 2010. Councilmember Cal Dee Reynolds seconded the motion. The motion passed with Councilmembers Clark, Cowan, Reynolds, Norton and Munford voting in favor.

ROD AND GUN CLUB REQUEST FOR FUNDS: Mayor Gary Showalter explained that the Rod and Gun Club annual trap shoot in Vernal is one of the largest professional shooting events in the western United States. Stacy Hawley stated that they are expecting 1500 people to sign up for the shooting events. Mayor Showalter suggested that the Chamber of Commerce be involved and coordinate special discounts from local businesses for the shooting participants. Councilmember Cowan suggested that the participants be given brochures to show them what other recreational activities are available while they are here. Ms. Hawley read a letter written to the Council asking for a sponsorship of the shooting event in the amount of \$5000. After further discussion, Councilmember Cal Dee Reynolds moved to sponsor the Uintah Basin trap shooting event in the amount of \$5000. Councilmember Bert Clark seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call vote:

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

VICTIM ADVOCATE REPORT: Alisha Gowan, Vernal City Victim Advocate Director, explained that the victim advocate program provides services to victims beginning with crisis intervention. Last year 481 victims were helped which is a 21% increase over the previous year, and the majority of the cases involve domestic violence. Further, Alisha stated that they work hard to collaborate with other agencies such as Workforce Services, DCFS, legal services, etc. to help victims understand their options. Councilmember Cowan asked how many volunteers are working with the program. Alisha Gowan stated that they currently have six volunteers and also receive donated items such as blankets or gas cards from local organizations. Councilmember Ted Munford stated that this program is the “quiet hero” in the community, helping families out of abuse. Alisha Gowan explained that there are two grants, one is for violence against women and the other is for

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violence from crime. One problem that is increasing is the number of children that are being abused, and the process to help them is more complicated. Mayor Showalter stated that it is unfortunate that this type of program is necessary, and the need is increasing. The Council thanked Alisha for her report.

JOINT PUBLIC HEARING: BEFORE THE VERNAL CITY PLANNING COMMISSION AND THE VERNAL CITY COUNCIL TO REVIEW THE FINAL DRAFT OF THE VERNAL CITY GENERAL PLAN.

PRESENT: Planning Commission members Eric Olsen, Vernie Heeney, David Brinkerhoff, Glen Spencer and Sonja Norton, Vernal City Council and Mayor Showalter.

Mark Vlastic, the consultant from Landmark Design, explained that they have been working on updating the general plan for Vernal City for the last year. A number of public meetings were held to receive input from the community along with meetings with the Planning Commission, Uintah County and Naples City officials. Mr. Vlastic explained that when this process was started, the economy was booming, but has changed drastically so enough flexibility had to be built into the plan to accommodate those cycles. He noted that Vernal is a unique community due to the boom and bust nature, making it difficult to project the growth. He suggested the plan be updated often considering the large swings in the economy. A projection model was used based on a 1% to 5.5% increase in population over the next 20 years.

Mr. Vlastic summarized each chapter of the plan including the following:

- Introduction and background including the history of Vernal City;
- Land use;
- Sensitive lands and environmental conditions;
- Parks, recreation and trails;
- Economic Development;
- Infrastructure, capital facilities and funding options;
- Housing; and
- Transportation.

Another unique component of Vernal is the relatively small municipal boundary with a lot of open space surrounding it, and the public meetings brought out the concern of preserving the rural atmosphere and adequate open spaces. Mr. Vlastic explained that three different scenarios were used to accommodate growth to keep the quality of life and still provide needed services such as housing, mixed-use neighborhoods, and a strong downtown commercial center. The best scenario to accomplish the vision of the community is to build upon what is already established. The Planning Commission recommended two changes to the land use map. The first proposal is to change two low density areas to medium density to accommodate a mixed use structure for commercial, civic and residential development around the 500 North area. The second change is from high density to a lower density by 500 East and 500 West to allow developers to build either multi-family or single family residential. Mayor Showalter asked what is a realistic projected figure for the population of Vernal in the future. Mark Vlastic stated that the plan projects that Vernal will have a population of around 17,000 people within 20 years. The extreme projection is 33,000 people, and the City could not accommodate that growth with the current infrastructure. Kevin

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Ashby asked what the current population is. Mark Vlasic stated they are estimating 13,000 people within Vernal proper. He stated that a general consensus was reached on how the City should grow to maintain the status as the primary community within the region by everyone involved with updating the plan. Councilmember Cowan asked if the Planning Commission addressed transportation, particularly the construction of a truck by-pass road. Mark Vlasic remarked that the by-pass route was discussed extensively, and the consensus was that the best route is the one being recommended by the Transportation District. Allen Parker stated the route is outside the City. Mark Vlasic stated that the route is shown on Uintah County’s general plan map, but the City plan has to address the concern of heavy and fast traffic on Main Street. Eric Olsen noted that the County is recommending that the City’s road structure match their classifications. There was some discussion regarding exploring alternate by-pass routes. Councilmember Cal Dee Reynolds stated that even if a by-pass route is built, there will still be heavy traffic on Main Street. Adam Massey, Uintah Transportation Board Member, stated that there was extensive study before a route was recommended to the County. However, the cost to build the road is prohibitive.

Mayor Showalter opened the public hearing for comments. There were no additional public comments.

Eric Olsen, Planning Commission Chairman, explained that there are two documents that greatly help them with developers – the general plan and land use ordinances. He stated that they are recommending the changes mentioned to the general plan map for density in the specific areas mentioned and that the plan incorporate the recommendations from the County to coordinate transportation and recreational issues. Glen Spencer stated that when this process was started, there was a lot of controversy, but the concerns lessened as the process continued. Mayor Showalter commended the Planning Commission for dealing with many complex issues. Allen Parker stated that he did receive one written comment supporting the change from low density to medium density along 500 North. Eric Olsen stated that the reason the Planning Commission is recommending that change is to have a buffer between a major arterial road and residential neighborhoods. After further discussion, Dave Brinkerhoff moved to recommend the changes discussed to the general plan. Glen Spencer seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote of the Vernal City Planning Commission.

CHANGE ORDER REQUESTS FOR MUNICIPAL OFFICE BUILDING – DISCUSSION

AND APPROVAL: Ken Bassett explained that two change orders are being requested by the builder of the municipal office building. The first request is dealing with the problems caused by the ground water which changed the scope of work and pushed the cement work further into the winter. The initial request was for \$56,000, but after negotiation, Big-D Construction agreed to \$28,500. After further discussion, Councilmember JoAnn Cowan moved to ratify change order request # 55 for \$28,500. Councilmember Bert Clark seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call vote:

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

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Ken Bassett stated that the de-watering costs from February through April are around \$2400. Councilmember Cowan moved to approve change order request #57 in the amount of \$2403.03. Councilmember Sonja Norton seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call vote:

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

FY2010 BUDGET REOPENER #1 - ORDINANCE NO. 2010-07: Ken Bassett reminded the Council that the FY2010 budget reopener was presented during the last Council meeting. The major drop in sales tax with the down turn of the economy, made it necessary to use unappropriated general funds in the amount of \$362,000 and move capital funds to the general fund to balance the budget. Councilmember JoAnn Cowan moved to approve Ordinance No. 2010-07 adopt the FY2010 budget reopener #1. Councilmember Ted Munford seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call vote:

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

PRESENTATION OF TENTATIVE BUDGET FOR FY2011 AND SETTING PUBLIC HEARING FOR JUNE 2ND AND SETTING DATES FOR BUDGET WORKSHOPS: Ken Bassett explained that the department heads submitted their budget requests and the Council Committees have met to go over those requests for the 2011 fiscal year. A tentative budget has been prepared for the Council based on the review of the Council Committees. Ken Bassett then read his budget message explaining the revenue and expenditure outlook for FY2011. Councilmember Clark moved to set the public hearing for the FY2011 budget on June 2nd. Councilmember Sonja Norton seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote with Councilmembers Clark, Norton, Reynolds, Cowan and Munford voting in favor.

The Council discussed the dates for the budget workshops and decided to meet beginning on Tuesday, May 18th at 4:00 p.m. and meeting for three days.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:

Joint City – County Meeting:

Ken Bassett explained that the County Commissioners cannot meet on May 28th and suggested the next meeting be held in June.

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CONVENE INTO CLOSED SESSION: Councilmember Bert Clark moved to convene into closed session to hold a strategy session to discuss the purchase, exchange or lease of real property, discuss pending or imminent litigation and to discuss the character, or mental or physical competence of a person. . Councilmember Norton seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call vote and the Council convened into closed session:

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

Mayor Showalter declared the meeting back into open session.

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

Mayor Gary Showalter

ATTEST:

Roxanne Behunin, Deputy Recorder