

MINUTES OF THE VERNAL CITY COUNCIL, NAPLES CITY COUNCIL,
BALLARD TOWN COUNCIL AND UINTAH COUNTY COMMISSION
SPECIAL JOINT MEETING HELD AUGUST 20, 2010 at 3:00 p.m. in the Vernal
City Conference room, 447 East Main, Vernal, Utah.

PRESENT:

Uintah County: Commissioners Mark Raymond, Darlene Burns & Mike McKee;
Vernal City: Councilmembers Bert Clark , Ted Munford, JoAnn Cowan and Sonja Norton
and Mayor Showalter;
Naples City: Councilmembers Robert Hall, Gordon Kitchen and Dan Olsen and Mayor Dean
Baker;
Ballard Town: Mayor Tom Nordstrom.

STAFF PRESENT:

Ken Bassett, Vernal City Manager, Roxanne Behunin, Deputy Recorder, and Kelly Harvey,
Airport Manager.

GUESTS PRESENT:

Laurie Brummond, Lee Hill, Robert Wallis, Steve Evans, Tony Wagner, Adam Massey and Ed
Zurbuchan.

**ACKNOWLEDGMENT & APPROVAL OF SPECIAL MEETING AND APPROVAL OF
THE MINUTES OF JUNE 25, 2010:** *Councilmember Bert Clark moved to acknowledge and
approve the special meeting, and approve the minutes of June 25, 2010. Councilmember Ted
Munford seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote of the elected official
present.*

UINTAH RECREATION ENRICHMENT – STEVE EVANS: Steve Evans explained that
the Uintah Recreation District has changed direction from a capital expansion mode to program
enhancement. The primary focus will be on ages 9 to 12 and then 13 to 17 years olds in the hope
of getting the youth in the community interested in activities other than video games. The mission
statement for this new program is to “Provide meaningful, enrichment activities to promote social
and academic activities for meaningful life”. The program is patterned after day camps that are
offered in other areas of the country. The Uintah Recreation District will partner with other
agencies such as the School District and higher education to provide trips to the parks, library or
museum and will offer activities such as hip hop to Zumba, storytelling, outdoor science
adventures, etc. Mr. Evans stated that the first session will have limited space, but the hope is to
help address youth needs. Councilmember Bert Clark stated that volunteers will be needed to
help with the programs. Steve Evans stated that once the needs of these age groups are addressed,
they will work on other segments of community. The elected officials thanked Mr. Evans for his
report.

PUBLIC TRANSIT PROGRAM PROVIDED BY UBAG – COMMISSIONER MCKEE:

Mayor Gary Showalter explained that UBAG will explain the public transit program they would
like to implement in the Uintah Basin. Mr. Lee Hill, Regional Planning Director for UBAG,
explained that last month, the Utah Department of Transportation notified them that funds have

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been authorized by the FTA to provide a public transit program in this area for the first year. In return, UDOT is asking for a commitment from the local communities to continue the program. He explained that this program targets low income residents and will provide a deviated fixed bus route to cover transportation needs. Once the bus routes are set, low income individuals can apply for special transportation if they are within a specific area of the route. If the bus cannot pick-up the applicant, they may contract with other means of transportation for those individuals. The program will continually be evaluated to make sure the best bus routes and schedules are in place. Tony Wagner, manager of the Vernal Cab Company, stated that when this program was brought to his attention, he realized it would greatly affect the taxi service. He stated that UBAG sent in a strategy plan to UDOT who will reimbursement them for providing transportation to targeted populations. He asked why the elected officials would support a program that failed in the past. Commissioner Mike McKee explained that approximately a year ago, there was discussion regarding a public transportation system. However the program would require a tax increase so the elected officials decided not to move forward with it. Now, funding has become available, but it was felt that input was needed from all the entities involved before moving forward. He explained that UDOT is willing to commit to partial on-going funding after the first year if there is a financial commitment from local entities for this program. The program will include three buses with two buses traveling from Duchesne to Vernal and one bus servicing the Ashley Valley. Councilmember Bert Clark stated that he thought there was a possibility that private businesses may also provide funds for this system. Lee Hill stated that the hospital and UBATC are interested in being private contributors. Councilmember Robert Hall asked what Duchesne County has committed to fund. Commissioner McKee stated that they have committed to pay the cost of the Duchesne County transit system. Lee Hill stated that cost is estimated to be \$84,193. Commissioner Raymond stated that the cost for the Uintah County service is \$143,000. Councilmember Clark asked if the Uintah Transportation District would be involved in funding this program. Commissioner McKee stated that is a possibility, and that Cheri McCurdy, director of the District, is speaking with the Board regarding this issue. Mayor Showalter stated it is hard to give a commitment to a program when the exact cost is not known. Councilmember Ted Munford stated that his concern is that there is no data available to show that this program will actually be used. He asked what the work load is for the local taxi company. Tony Wagner stated that their business has dropped considerably this last year. Lee Hill stated that they do need to know what the ridership will be, and they are targeting an element of the community that cannot afford to take a taxi. Councilmember Clark asked if they would change the routes if there are areas that have a higher impact. There was some discussion regarding the fee that would be charged. Mayor Gary Showalter asked if there would be any duplication of services such as the Golden Age Center transportation. Lee Hill stated that they will have a coordinated effort with other services. Councilmember Robert Hall asked how the cost to each entity would be calculated. Commissioner McKee stated that they would have time to come up with the correct breakdown. He stated that possibly mineral lease funds could also be used. Mayor Baker asked if the Vernal loop had to happen or could the third bus be used elsewhere such as travel to the Wasatch Front. Laurie Brummond stated that it could be utilized in another area. Councilmember JoAnn Cowan mentioned that there may be several neighborhoods where the parents may be willing to pay to

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have the public transportation buses take their children to the schools. Adam Massey, member of the Uintah Transportation Special Service District Board of Directors, explained that he spoke with Cheri McCurdy regarding this issue, and the majority of the Board is willing to fund the costs for the Uintah County area, although a formal vote must be taken. He stated that transportation is their obligation, and they would have control, and be able to evaluate what is being offered. Commissioner McKee stated that it will take time to build the ridership. After further discussion, Mayor Baker moved to support the establishment of a public transit system as provided by UDOT for Duchesne and Uintah County areas with the funding for Uintah County coming from the Uintah Transportation Special Service District. Mayor Tom Nordstrom seconded the motion. A roll call vote was held as follows:

- Commissioner Mark Raymond.....aye;
- Commissioner Darlene Burns.....aye;
- Commissioner Mike McKee.....aye;
- Councilmember Bert Clark.....aye;
- Councilmember Ted Munford.....nay;
- Councilmember JoAnn Cowan.....aye;
- Councilmember Sonja Norton.....aye;
- Mayor Gary Showalter.....nay;
- Councilmember Robert Hall.....aye;
- Councilmember Gordon Kitchen.....aye;
- Councilmember Dan Olsen.....aye;
- Mayor Dean Baker.....aye;
- Mayor Tom Nordstrom.....aye.

The motion passed with a majority vote.

Commissioner Raymond stated that a steering committee will be formed to establish the public transit system with a representative from each entity providing input.

AIRPORT MAINTENANCE NEEDS – KELLY HARVEY & COMMISSIONER MCKEE:

Commissioner Mike McKee explained that there are three items at the airport that require substantial funding. These items include the landscaping around the building, fencing, and a snow sweeper. Kelly Harvey explained that the first item includes approximately 2900 square feet of paving and cement in front of the new building which will help with the upkeep of the building. Bids are being requested for this work, and the estimated cost is \$75,000. The fencing is needed particularly to keep the deer off the runway. With the Part 139 certification, the airport is held to a higher standard to keep the runway safe and the fields around the airport seem to draw the animals. Commissioner McKee stated that the cost to fence the property to FAA standards is estimated to be \$500,000 and should be eligible for FAA reimbursement in the future. Councilmember Cowan suggested the inmates at the jail be required to help install the fence. Councilmember Gordon Kitchen suggested the fence be placed on the future property line of the airport so it does not have to be moved. Commissioner McKee agreed they need to work with the property owners where the airport will be expanding. Ken Bassett asked how this project will be

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funded now. Commissioner McKee stated that they are considering approaching the Community Impact Board and work with the FAA for reimbursement. The last item, a special snow sweeper, needs to be replaced. Kelly Harvey stated that the sweeper has both a plow and a broom with special attachments needed for airports. He explained that the FAA has implemented new regulations, and the runway has to be closed once it reaches a certain snow condition. Also, all contaminants must be removed from the runway surface, including snow, within 1 ½ hours. The current equipment takes 10 hours to plow so the airport cannot meet the new requirement. Commissioner Burns asked how often they had to plow last year. Kelly Harvey stated they had at least three storms just in December. Mike McKee stated they have to plow the runway first, then go back and blow the snow so there is bare pavement. Councilmember Munford asked if there were chemicals available to help clear the snow. Kelly Harvey stated the chemicals only help with ice and are only used in extreme emergencies because of the cost. Commissioner McKee stated that the cost for new plowing equipment is estimated to be between \$560,000 and \$600,000 and will be added to the CIB request for funding. Ken Bassett asked if this item would be FAA eligible and if they will reimburse the County after the items are purchased. Commissioner McKee stated that these items are eligible and the FAA will reimburse up to 95% of the cost. Councilmember Norton asked if there were any alternative solutions to plowing such as heating coils. Kelly Harvey stated that the runway cannot have any grooves which are required for those type of systems. There was some discussion regarding when the funding application to the Community Impact Board could be presented. Mayor Showalter reminded the Vernal City Council that the first item, paving and cement around the building, will have a financial impact with Vernal City paying 25% of the cost.

Councilmember JoAnn Cowan moved to authorize issuing a request for proposals for the paving and cement work at the airport. Councilmember Sonja Norton seconded the motion. The motion passed with Vernal City Councilmembers Cowan, Norton, Munford and Clark voting in favor.

Councilmember JoAnn Cowan moved to support the CIB funding request for the fencing and snow plowing equipment for the airport. Councilmember Bert Clark seconded the motion. The motion passed with Vernal City Councilmembers Cowan, Norton, Munford and Clark voting in favor for a unanimous vote.

WEST MAIN STREET AND 2000 WEST STREET – KEN BASSETT: Ken Bassett explained that Vernal City solicited proposals for landscaping maintenance work along the extension of Main Street and 2000 West. The low bid was received from Red Mountain Landscaping and their references were excellent. Because of the need to start the mowing as soon as possible, the County, USU and Council were contacted regarding approval of the proposal from Red Mountain Landscaping. He explained that based on that approval, the City entered into a contract with Red Mountain Landscaping. The cost to each entity is based on the footage with USU being responsible for 23.2%, Vernal City 22.5%, and Uintah County paying 54.2% .

Uintah County Commissioner Mark Raymond moved to ratify approval of the agreement with Red

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Mountain Landscaping. Commissioner Mike McKee seconded the motion. The motion passed with Commissioners Raymond, McKee and Burns voting in favor for a unanimous vote.

Ken Bassett explained that other improvements along these roadways also need to be discussed. One item is the paint striping and who will maintain it. He suggested that those roadways be included in the City contract for paint striping and the County be billed for their section of the road. The consensus of the Commissioners was to take care of the striping in the manner recommended. Ken Bassett stated that another problem is the weeds encroaching into the sidewalk. In Vernal City, most of the property belongs to USU and normally the City would simply ask the property owner to cut them down. However, the County will need to address the areas under their jurisdiction. Commissioner McKee indicated that they would have the County weed department work on this problem.

CLOSED SESSION: *Councilmember Bert Clark moved to convene into closed session to hold a strategy session to discuss pending or imminent litigation, and discuss the character, professional competence, physical or mental health of an individual. Commissioner Mark Raymond seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call vote:*

- Commissioner McKeeaye;*
- Commissioner Raymondaye;*
- Commissioner Burns.....aye;*
- Councilmember Nortonaye;*
- Councilmember Clarkaye;*
- Councilmember Munfordaye;*
- Councilmember Cowanaye.*

RECONVENE INTO OPEN SESSION: Mayor Gary Showalter declared the meeting back in open session.

ADJOURN: *There being no further discussion, Commissioner Mike McKee moved to adjourn. Commissioner Raymond seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote and the meeting was adjourned.*

Kenneth L. Bassett, City Recorder