

MINUTES OF THE VERNAL CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING HELD
FEBRUARY 2, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. in the Vernal City Council room, 447 East Main,
Vernal, Utah 84078.

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

WELCOME: Mayor Gary Showalter welcomed everyone to the meeting.

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

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

APPROVAL OF CITY COUNCIL MINUTES OF JANUARY 19, 2011: Councilmember Norton moved to approve the minutes of January 19, 2011 as written. Councilmember Clark seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote with Councilmembers Norton, Reynolds, Cowan, Clark and Munford voting in favor.

REPORT FROM ROCKY MOUNTAIN POWER – RICH BUELTE: Rich Buelte, Operations Manager, reported that they are working on a couple of projects including the low income housing, the 775 South development project for Haven Estates, and the Uintah Transportation District project at 1500 North. The easements for the realignment on 1500 North will be completed by April 15, 2011. Ken Bassett asked Mr. Buelte to explain this project as it is not within the City limits. Mr. Buelte explained that the Transportation District wants to realign and widen the road, which forces the utilities to be moved. The project starts at 2500 West and goes to 1500 West. Councilmember Norton asked if it was extending to 1000 West. Mr. Buelte mentioned they have talked about extending and creating a new road, but for now it is stopping where the road ends.

Mr. Buelte reported that Utah's power use is increasing due to the rise in the number of electronic devices that are plugged in 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The same house ten years ago running a swamp cooler is now on central air with several TV's, computers, etc., and all these things add up to more electrical usage. Councilmember Clark asked about the rate hike and the new transmission line being advertised. Mr. Buelte stated that over the years, residents have benefited from the oversupply of generated power. The existing power plants are being used to their full output, and as customers use of electricity grows, that electricity has to come from more expensive sources. Natural gas generators are expensive to build, but are necessary to backup wind generators. The new transmission line by TransWest's Express will begin construction in 2013 and will be used to speedily transmit power to Las Vegas. Councilmember Clark asked if the rate hike per household for residential use would upgrade their system. Mr. Buelte stated that this was correct.

Mayor Gary Showalter stated that the coal power generation plants across the country are a thing of the past. Mr. Buelte reported that Rocky Mountain Power will continue to use the existing

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coal-fired power plants, but plans to invest in more wind farms in the next 10 years to accommodate increased demands for electricity. Councilmember Norton asked if they foresee any major upgrades in the near future. Mr. Buelte mentioned some of the big items would be the 10 year plans for the major expansion of the Vernal substation and rebuilding. Councilmember Clark asked about the big power plant south of town (D G & T) and how much Rocky Mountain Power owns. Mr. Buelte stated that Rocky Mountain Power owns zero.

Rich Buelte invited anyone to call if there are questions that have not been addressed. Mayor Gary Showalter thanked Mr. Buelte for attending and sharing his report.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW EMPLOYEE JAMES MADSEN – DANNY ANDERSON: Danny Anderson, Building Maintenance Manager for Vernal City, introduced James Madsen as the new custodian for the City. Mr. Anderson stated that with the new office building, the City felt it was necessary to hire a full-time custodian to keep up with the extensive amount of cleaning. Mr. Anderson reported that Mr. Madsen has been doing an excellent job since he was hired. Councilmember Cowan asked about Mr. Madsen’s previous experience. Mr. Anderson reported that Mr. Madsen has 20 years of experience cleaning schools and other buildings. Mayor Gary Showalter and City Council welcomed Mr. Madsen to the staff of Vernal City.

UINTAH TRANSPORTATION DISTRICT INVOICE FOR 500 SOUTH IMPROVEMENT – KEN BASSETT: Ken Bassett reported that the invoices for the 500 South improvements have been submitted to the City. He explained that there has been some extensive work done on the sewer and storm drain lines and as well as the completion of the paving on 500 South from East Highway 40 to Vernal Avenue. During the paving work, it was found that the intersection on 200 East did not tie in to the elevation of the road. The intersection now ties in very nicely with the new road. The intersection at Vernal Avenue and 500 South by the Uintah Community Center was in horrible shape after the sewer and drain lines were installed and needed to be completely redone. Ken Bassett explained that the invoices reflect all those improvements as well as some minor improvements associated with the chip and seal on South Vernal Avenue. The total of all the invoices from the Uintah Transportation District is approximately \$27,000. Councilmember Clark stated that the road improvements look great, but there was a sign just off 500 East and 500 South that was taken down and put back up in a different place. Councilmember Clark asked if the City could move the sign West another 20 feet to help the property owner. Mr. Bassett indicated that the City could move the sign. Councilmember Clark moved to approve \$26,652.94 to be paid to the Uintah Transportation Special Service District for the work noted. Councilmember Reynolds 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.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS FOR 2011 – MAYOR GARY SHOWALTER:

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Mayor Gary Showalter stated that in trying to assign the committee assignments for 2011, he tried to talk with each of the Councilmembers for their feedback and suggestions. Mayor Gary Showalter indicated that he would be adding Councilmember Bert Clark to the Public Works Committee along with Councilmembers Reynolds and Munford. He noted there would be no other changes to the assignment list from last year. Ken Bassett stated that there cannot be more than two Councilmembers on a committee or it becomes a quorum. This would require a public meeting notice for every meeting. Mayor Gary Showalter asked Councilmember Reynolds if he would like to remain on the Public Works Committee, and Councilmember Reynolds answered yes. Mayor Gary Showalter stated that the 2011 Committee Assignments will remain the same as last year, and an updated list will be available in the packets for the next meeting. Mayor Gary Showalter thanked the Council for their service on these committees.

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF CHANGE ORDER #107R FOR CITY HALL PROJECT – KEN BASSETT: Mayor Gary Showalter explained the importance of installing bollards to protect the generator at the new office building. The bollards were not included in the original bid, but they are necessary. Ken Bassett mentioned that there are two bollards included in the change order for the amount of \$2,060.02. One of the bollards will be installed now and the other one will be installed in the future to protect the garbage receptacles. Councilmember Norton asked if there is tracking on the change orders to show a total amount spent. Ken Bassett indicated that the architect has prepared a list that will be available in the packets for the next meeting. Councilmember Norton asked if there have been any savings to the City from the change orders. Ken Bassett stated yes, a report of credits can also be included in the packets. Councilmember Norton asked how the City is doing on funds. Ken Bassett stated the City is doing fine. Councilmember Cowan asked if the City should consider installing bollards along the sidewalk to prevent structural damage to the building. She indicated that the building sits really close to the sidewalk, and an automobile accident could take out a tree or light pole. Ken Bassett stated it can be evaluated. Councilmember Cowan moved to approve change order #107R in the amount of \$2,060.02. Councilmember 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.

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF CHAIRMAN FOR PLANNING COMMISSION – ALLEN PARKER: Allen Parker explained that the Planning Commission bylaws govern the process for electing a Chairman and Vice Chairman. At the last Planning Commission meeting, the Commission elected Eric Olsen as the 2011 Planning Commission Chairman. As per the bylaws, the Mayor, with the approval of the City Council, shall appoint the chairperson of the Commission each year. Councilmember Munford moved to approve Eric Olsen as the 2011 Planning Commission Chairman. Councilmember Cowan seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote with Councilmembers Norton, Reynolds, Cowan, Clark and Munford voting in favor.

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STAFF REPORTS:

City/County Meeting: Ken Bassett stated that the City/County meeting is scheduled for February 25, 2011 at 3:00 p.m. at the County building in the South conference room.

ULCT Conference: The Midyear Conference for the Utah League of Cities and Towns will be held April 13-15, 2011. Ken Bassett explained that the main emphasis of this conference is technology.

Business Licensing: Councilmember Cowan expressed her concern over the recent Fish Shack business next to the bowling alley. She indicated that there are safety issues to consider with the propane tanks hanging by chains, unfinished plywood, and the refrigerator sitting outside. She asked if there was an ordinance on this issue, and if not, the City should consider adopting one. Allen Parker explained that the Fire Marshall has inspected the business, and it is in full compliance. He also indicated that the building and health department have inspected the business. Mr. Parker stated that this issue can be addressed at the next Planning Commission meeting. Mayor Gary Showalter stated that he has received several calls about this business as well and agrees with Councilmember Cowan that the City should not allow these types of businesses on Main Street. He stated that he would appreciate the Planning Commission reviewing this issue. Councilmember Norton stated that this topic had been discussed in the past, and the Planning Commission has added this subject to the agenda for their next meeting.

Water Lines: Councilmember Clark asked if the clogged drain was fixed at the intersection by the green dinosaur. Ken Bassett stated yes, it was being corrected. Mayor Gary Showalter encouraged the guests at the meeting to feel free to report clogged drains or pot holes that they observe around the city to the Public Works Department.

New Editor: Mayor Gary Showalter asked if there was any further business. Renae Bangerter, reporter and assistant editor for the Vernal Express, introduced herself.

Utah Field House: Councilmember Cowan asked for an update on what the community and elected officials need to be doing about the possibility of the Field House being closed. Ken Bassett explained that Representative John Mathis and Senator Kevin Van Tassell discussed this issue with some of the City officials and reassured them that the museum would not be closed this year, but could be a problem next year if administrative cuts are not made. Councilmember Norton mentioned that she was given two names of lobbyists if needed. Councilmember Cowan stated that historically visitors come to Vernal to see the museum, the quarry, and to take a river trip. She indicated that when the quarry opens back up, it will help the revenue at the Field House. Ken Bassett reported that Representative Mathis also mentioned that even though facilities may not shut down this year; there will be cuts in administration.

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

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Councilmembers Norton, Reynolds, Cowan, Clark and Munford voting in favor. The meeting was declared adjourned.

Mayor Gary Showalter

ATTEST:

Roxanne Behunin, Deputy Recorder

(S E A L)