

MINUTES OF THE VERNAL CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL BUDGET WORKSHOP MEETING HELD MAY 18, 2011 at 4:00 p.m. in the Vernal City Council room, 447 East Main, Vernal, Utah 84078.

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

STAFF PRESENT: Mike Davis, Ken Bassett, Allen Parker, L. Mike Davis and Glade Allred.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND APPROVAL OF SPECIAL MEETING: Councilmember Cowan moved to acknowledge and approve this special meeting. Councilmember Reynolds seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote with Councilmembers Reynolds, Munford, Cowan, Clark and Norton voting in favor.

FY2012 BUDGET:

UTILITY FUNDS:

Ken Bassett reminded the Council that the utility rates were recently raised to help offset the property tax revenue that will no longer go to the utility fund. The Public Works Committee has reviewed the utility budgets submitted by the departments and have made a few changes.

Water Fund:

Ken Bassett explained that this budget does reflect the replacing of an employee in the water department that left employment. One of the biggest costs for the water fund is treating the water. Generally, these rates go up based on the weather. Ken reminded the Council that the subscription for Red Fleet Water has to be paid whether or not the City uses that water source. The capital items include a lease payment for the backhoe and heating the storage building. Mike Davis stated that the water storage building is divided in half and only part of it is insulated and heated now. The original request was to insulate and heat the remainder of the building. The Public Works Committee suggested adding insulation this year and heating it next year. There is equipment that has to be winterized before putting it into the building. Ken Bassett commented that the big item is the replacement of the raw waterline. There is approximately five miles of line that was re-lined back in the 80's, and now it is in need of replacement. The intent is to go to the Community Impact Board for funding. Councilmember Munford asked if pvc pipe will be used. Mike Davis stated that pvc has a longer life expectancy. He explained the newest types of material available for service lines and main lines. There was some discussion regarding the financing of this project. Councilmember Munford stated that it is better to be proactive and repair this line before it completely fails. Councilmember Norton asked why the travel line item increased. Mike Davis explained that the request is the same, but the amount for this fiscal year in the budget reopener was reduced. This year the water department employees will need to attend training to maintain their certification. The equipment supplies and maintenance line item is hard to judge because equipment breaks down at unpredicted levels.

Sewer Fund:

Ken Bassett stated that the major expenditure in this fund is the cost for the sewer treatment plant. Mike Davis stated that he is asking for an air compressor that would be mounted in the back of a truck to use air tools to open manholes. The liability insurance carrier is asking the crew to visually inspect the manholes, and many times road projects cause problems with the manholes and tools are needed to keep them clear. Councilmember Cowan asked if when street

chip and seal projects are done, is the contractor obligated to clean the manholes. Mike Davis stated that they are, however, sometimes they inadvertently cover a manhole or valve cover and the inspector does not catch it. Not all of the manholes in the road belong to the sewer system. Mayor Showalter asked how much equipment is used by the utility departments that use diesel fuel. Mike Davis stated that he does have several pieces of equipment that use diesel. Mayor Showalter asked if the increase in fuel costs in this budget is adequate. He thought the fuel costs may be up closer to 30% rather than 12%. Councilmember Norton asked why the equipment supply line item went down significantly. Mike Davis explained that a major component on one of the trucks this year went out, and it is not expected to need repair again. Also, some chemicals were in stock and were used up last year rather than purchasing more. These chemicals will need to be replenished. There was some question regarding the contracted line repair costs. Mike explained that some lines are impossible for the City to dig, and a private contractor would be hired with the right equipment, and it is hard to predict what will be needed. The last few times that the sewer lines were cleaned there was Community Impact Funds available, and those lines were also videoed. This year those funds are not available, and the lines will not be videoed.

GENERAL FUND

Non-Departmental:

Ken Bassett explained there are three employees in this department. All of the liability, property, bond, etc. insurance premiums are paid out of this budget which will include both office buildings, and furnishings, as long as the City retains ownership of both buildings. The hope is to sell the old City office building as quickly as possible. Two appraisals will be completed, and that information will be brought to the Council to develop a plan to sell the building.

Councilmember Clark asked if any loans with the Community Impact Board will be paid off soon. Mike Davis stated that there is a small one coming off next year and an additional loan will be paid off the following year.

City Parks:

Ken explained that general items for the parks are included in this budget as well as specific items for the walking park and Cobblestone park. The planting of the flowers on Main Street is also in this department. Mayor Showalter asked if the watering cost for personnel is also included. Ken Bassett answered that it is included with the employee cost. Mayor Showalter asked what the total cost is for the flowers on Main Street. Ken Bassett stated that the City receives a lot of comments on the flowers. Some of the ongoing items is tree removal that is damaging the sidewalk and the property owner is given a small amount to replace the tree in another section of their property. Mayor Showalter mentioned that the City donated the Scout office park to the County although it will not be touched this year. He asked who maintains the park. Glade Allred answered that the County mows it, and the City maintains the sprinkler system. There was some discussion regarding the maintenance of the walking park. Councilmember Clark stated that the boards on the bridge need attention. Ken Bassett stated that has been budgeted and the carpenter will be addressing the ADA compliance issues. Councilmember Cowan suggested a port-a-potty be placed at the walking park during the winter months. Mayor Showalter commented that a port-a-potty should be placed at Cobblestone Park as well. Councilmember Cowan stated that having appropriate facilities has been discussed in the past, and there are problems associated with them. She suggested an appropriate enclosure

be considered. There was some discussion regarding fixing the alleyway as well. Mayor Showalter stated that the City has liability if someone is injured in the alley and the City has not made any improvements or put appropriate lighting. It was mentioned that a lady broke her wrist in the Zion's Bank alleyway when she fell into a pot hole.

Street Department:

Ken Bassett explained that the street department was reduced by one employee when an employee left and that position was not filled. Glade Allred stated what he needs is a Street Technician to help handle weed control. Councilmember Cowan voiced her concern that the employees have not received a raise for a few years, and the insurance program has increased and it is critical to have the same benefits as other entities. Not replacing this position will make it easier to fund these items. Mayor Showalter asked if someone could help the fire marshal part-time to complete his inspections. Allen Parker stated he was caught up and his work load has been tailored to make it more consistent throughout the year. The County has taken the position that the Uintah Special Fire Suppression District should be doing the fire inspections for them. Several fire fighters have been trained to do those fire inspections. Councilmember Cowan suggested the Fire District be approached to train a volunteer fire fighter to help with fire inspections. Ken Bassett suggested Allen Parker monitor the work load and see what is needed. There was some discussion regarding the benefit that the Special Service Districts provide to the City and the County. The consensus was to keep the fire inspections in the City under the control of the City to make sure they are getting done timely.

Ken Bassett explained that the road striping only happened one time this year because of the lack of paint. Next year the streets will be stripped twice. There was some discussion regarding the type of paint being used. The Special Service District usually completes the chip and seal work for the City, however, it is not known how long that will continue. The street lighting budget has increased to cover the lights along Aggie Boulevard that are in the City. The LED sign request is to replace a sign where the controller went out on it. This would be a message board that can be truck mounted. Currently the department has 2 trailer mounted message boards. Mayor Showalter stated they are operating at a minimum number of signs. Councilmember Norton asked what is included in the special highway supplies. Glade Allred answered that those materials include culverts, crack sealing, salt, sand, road base etc. Mayor Showalter asked how many employees are in this department. Glade Allred stated that there are ten employees.

The consensus of the Council was to discuss personnel issues at a future meeting.

ADJOURN: There being no further business, the meeting was declared adjourned.

Mayor Gary Showalter

ATTEST:

Roxanne Behunin, Deputy Recorder

(S E A L)