

MINUTES OF THE VERNAL CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING HELD
JUNE 15, 2011 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, JoAnn Cowan and Sonja Norton. Mayor Gary Showalter was excused.

SELECTION OF MAYOR PRO TEMPORE: *Councilmember Ted Munford moved to appoint JoAnn Cowan as the Mayor Pro Tempore for this meeting. Councilmember Cal Dee Reynolds seconded the motion. The motion passed with Councilmembers Munford, Reynolds, Clark, Cowan and Norton voting in favor.*

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilmember JoAnn Cowan.

APPROVAL OF THE CITY COUNCIL MINUTES OF THE JUNE 1, 2011 REGULAR MEETING: *Councilmember Bert Clark moved to approve the minutes of June 1, 2011 as written. Councilmember Cal Dee Reynolds seconded the motion. The motion passed with Councilmembers Clark, Reynolds, Norton, Munford and Cowan voting in favor.*

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF PROPERTY TAX RATE FOR 2012 – ORDINANCE NO. 2011-16: Ken Bassett explained that every year the City receives the certified tax rate from the Uintah County Clerk / Auditor which is based on the assessed valuation and what would be needed to collect the same amount of property tax as the previous year. The certified rate can be approved automatically. If the Council decides the City needs to generate more property tax, they will have to advertise and notify the public. Councilmember JoAnn Cowan asked why the property values are \$36 million dollars less than last year. Ken Bassett explained that the reduction in values is determined by the County Assessor’s office. He noted that the values dropped significantly last year, as well and there has not been a lot of new growth. The certified rate is .000636 and would generate \$351,500 in revenue for the general fund. Councilmember Norton asked how much property tax was collected last year. Ken Bassett stated the City received \$326,000. After further discussion, *Councilmember Bert Clark moved to approve Ordinance No. 2011-15 setting the property tax rate at the certified rate of .000636. Councilmember Sonja Norton seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call vote:*

Councilmember Clark.....aye;
Councilmember Norton.....aye;
Councilmember Reynoldsaye;
Councilmember Cowanaye;
Councilmember Munford.....aye.

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REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF THE FY2012 BUDGET – ORDINANCE NO. 2011-14:

Councilmember JoAnn Cowan explained that the Council has held four budget meetings and now needs to approve the final numbers. Councilmember Norton stated that they did not review a salary survey this year. Ken Bassett noted that a survey was completed, and the wage structure of the City is generally competitive with other cities. However, what is driving the lack of merit increases is the shortage of revenue. Councilmember Sonja Norton stated that there are two items that need to be considered as part of the budget. The first personnel issue is changing the salary and name of the maintenance carpenter position with the added responsibility and on-call status for the new building. Ken Bassett explained that the technology of the new building will impact this position significantly. Councilmember Cowan asked what the title of his job will be. Ken Bassett suggested “facility manager” rather than “maintenance carpenter”. Councilmember Munford asked what the cost will be. Ken Bassett suggested the salary be increased one grade which is 5% in recognition of his changing duties. He explained that a survey was completed on facility managers for other communities, and their wages are higher than what the maintenance carpenter is making. Councilmember Munford agreed that considering the work load and learning new systems, his wage should be increased. Councilmember Reynolds agreed that he should be compensated for the extra responsibility. After further discussion, *Councilmember Cal Dee Reynolds moved to change the carpenter position to “facility manager” and increase the wage by 5%. Councilmember Sonja Norton seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call vote:*

Councilmember Clark.....aye;
Councilmember Norton.....aye;
Councilmember Reynoldsaye;
Councilmember Cowanaye;
Councilmember Munford.....aye.

Councilmember Sonja Norton stated that the second item needed to be added to the budget is a replacement vehicle for the City Manager. His City vehicle is a 2007 and has 106,000 miles on it. There was some discussion regarding purchasing an all-wheel drive vehicle. Ken Bassett stated that the Mayor expressed his preference for a 4x4. He suggested allowing him to look at different vehicles and bring back a recommendation. *Councilmember Sonja Norton moved to allow the City Manager to look at vehicles to replace his City vehicle and place \$25,000 in the budget for that purpose. Councilmember Cal Dee Reynolds seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call vote:*

Councilmember Clark.....aye;
Councilmember Norton.....aye;
Councilmember Reynoldsaye;
Councilmember Cowanaye;
Councilmember Munford.....aye.

Councilmember Cowan asked if there were any other changes before approving the budget. There being no additional changes, *Councilmember Bert Clark moved to approve*

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Ordinance No. 2011-14 approving the FY2012 budget. Councilmember Cal Dee Reynolds seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call vote:

Councilmember Clark.....aye;
Councilmember Norton.....aye;
Councilmember Reynoldsaye;
Councilmember Cowanaye;
Councilmember Munford.....aye.

Ken Bassett explained that he met with the Mayor, Glade Allred, Kathleen Hacking and Matt Hacking to discuss improving the pedestrian walk behind Cobblestone Park. He noted that the Hackings are supportive of this project and are willing to add the lighting to their building and pay the monthly cost. One inherent problem with the park is there are no restroom facilities. He suggested a portable toilet be installed where the dumpster enclosure used to be. There was some discussion regarding the hours the restroom facility should be open. *After further discussion, Councilmember Sonja Norton moved to amend the FY2012 budget to purchase a portable toilet for Cobblestone Park at a cost up to \$3000. Councilmember Ted Munford seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call vote:*

Councilmember Clark.....aye;
Councilmember Norton.....aye;
Councilmember Reynoldsaye;
Councilmember Cowanaye;
Councilmember Munford.....aye.

REQUEST FOR SPECIAL MEETINGS: Ken Bassett explained that a special meeting is needed on June 22nd at 4 pm to receive public input on the disposition of property that the City owns located on 100 North 250 East including the Scout office. The financing and bonding requirements for the new library cultural center includes this property being deeded to Uintah County. Also, a special meeting will be needed on June 29th to complete a budget reopener of the FY2011 budget.

REQUEST FOR AMENDMENT TO THE VERNAL CITY MUNICIPAL CODE – SECTION 6.20.030 – DISPOSITION OF ANIMALS – ORDINANCE NO. 2011-15: Ken Bassett explained that the State Legislature changed the amount of time that an animal must remain in the shelter once it has been impounded. Ordinance No. 2011-15 changes the impounding requirements for animals from three days to five business days which is consistent with the language of the new State law. There was some discussion regarding the hours and days that the animal shelter is actually open. Ken Bassett suggested the ordinance be amended adding the wording “five business days of the facility that is impounding the animal” to make sure the animal owners have the necessary time to collect their animal. *Councilmember Sonja Norton moved to approve Ordinance No. 2011-15 with the change noted. Councilmember Bert Clark seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following unanimous roll call vote:*

Councilmember Clark.....aye;
Councilmember Norton.....aye;

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Councilmember Reynoldsaye;
Councilmember Cowanaye;
Councilmember Munford..... aye.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:

Local Events:

Ken Bassett stated that there were three major events held in Vernal this past weekend, and with the support of the Council, they were all successful. The events included the skeet shooting competition, a paleontology convention, and the motorcycle poker run. Councilmember Clark stated that the Uintah Recreation District also helped with the traveling baseball tournament that was here.

CONVENE INTO CLOSED SESSION: *Councilmember Ted Munford moved to convene into closed session hold a strategy session to discuss the sale of real property and discuss pending or imminent litigation Councilmember Sonja Norton seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call vote:*

Councilmember Clark.....aye;
Councilmember Norton.....aye;
Councilmember Reynoldsaye;
Councilmember Cowanaye;
Councilmember Munford aye.

RECONVENE INTO OPEN SESSION: Mayor Pro Tempore JoAnn Cowan declared the meeting back into open session.

ADJOURN: There being no further business, *Councilmember Ted Munford moved to adjourn. Councilmember Cal Dee seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote and the meeting was declared adjourned.*

Mayor Pro Tempore JoAnn Cowan

ATTEST:

Roxanne Behunin, Deputy Recorder

(S E A L)