

MINUTES OF THE VERNAL CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING HELD
JULY 20, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. in the Vernal City Council Room, 374 East Main,
Vernal, Utah 84078.

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

STAFF PRESENT: Ken Bassett, Mike Davis, Allen Parker, and Roxanne Behunin.

INVOCATION OR UPLIFTING THOUGHT: Councilmember Ted Munford gave an uplifting thought.

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

Mayor Showalter noted that this is a monumental night being the first Vernal City Council meeting held in the new municipal center. Councilmember Cowan stated that she appreciates the opportunity to work in a building that reflects the importance of their work and is pleased that the staff also has a good place to work. She thanked the staff, particularly GJ Searle, Danny Anderson and Ken Bassett for their extra work during the completion of the building and move. Councilmember Cowan stated that the building is a credit to the community who will have the opportunity to use the community room for activities. Ken Bassett related, on behalf of the staff, their gratitude for a workplace that represents a professional atmosphere. He stated that the new building is a wonderful gem for the community. There was great cooperation from the employees, including Public Works, to move into the building in three days.

APPROVAL OF THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF JULY 6, 2011: Councilmember Bert Clark asked that the minutes reflect that he asked Mr. Oosteven to clarify the amount of money being requested for the car show and that Mr. Hyde was considering installing a beauty salon. *With those changes, Councilmember Clark moved to approve the minutes of July 6, 2011. Councilmember Norton seconded the motion. The motion passed with Councilmembers Munford, Cowan, Reynolds, Norton, and Clark voting in favor.*

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF BID FOR WINDOW BLINDS: Ken Bassett explained that the City solicited bids to install horizontal blinds on the windows next to the doors of the internal offices. The blinds will be installed on the top portion of the window only. Councilmember Cowan asked why blinds are needed. Ken Bassett stated the blinds are for privacy when necessary. There was some discussion regarding the color. Councilmember Cowan commented that the building belongs to the community, and visitors need to be made to feel welcome and comfortable, not that they are invading the space of the employees. Ken Bassett explained that four bids were received with the low bid of \$3900 from Jones Paint and Glass. Councilmember Sonja Norton moved to approve the bid from Jones Paint and Glass for \$3900 for horizontal louver blinds for the City building. Councilmember Cal Dee Reynolds seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call vote:

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Councilmember Munfordaye;
Councilmember Cowan..... aye.
Councilmember Reynoldsaye;
Councilmember Norton.....aye;
Councilmember Clark aye.

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF POLICE VEHICLE LEASE – RESOLUTION NO.

2011-07: Mayor Showalter explained that this lease is a carry-over from the last two years. He noted that as a car dealer, he scrutinized the proposal of leasing vehicles and found it to be a good situation for the City and taxpayer. Assistant Police Chief Keith Campbell explained that the police department would like to continue leasing police cars through Ken Garff’s dealership and showed that the lease is actually \$53 cheaper than last year. The equipment in the vehicles will be the same as last year with a few upgrades. Councilmember Bert Clark stated he noticed new push grills on the cars which is a great addition. Councilmember Norton asked if the officers feel this is a good program. Keith Campbell agreed that the lease program works well, allowing the officers to drive reliable cars that are not run into the ground. The car dealership makes money by turning the cars over to smaller police agencies when they are turned back in plus the lease payments from Vernal City. Mayor Showalter agreed that from a maintenance standpoint, the cars remain under warranty for the entire term of the lease. He recommended the Council approve this vehicle lease, Resolution No. 2011-07. Councilmember JoAnn Cowan moved to approve the police car lease with Zion’s Bank, Resolution No. 2011-07. Councilmember Ted Munford seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call vote:

Councilmember Munfordaye;
Councilmember Cowan..... aye.
Councilmember Reynoldsaye;
Councilmember Norton.....aye;
Councilmember Clark aye.

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT FOR SAFETY SIDEWALK AGREEMENT WITH UDOT – RESOLUTION NO. 2011-08:

Ken Bassett explained that the City applied for a grant from the Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT) to install sidewalk along 500 North from 1500 West to 1150 West in front of Ashley Elementary. This stretch of sidewalk will tie into the sidewalk along the north side of the street at 1500 West which goes to the high school. There is only \$100,000 available for the entire region, and the City was notified of receiving \$64,323 for this project. The remainder of the funding to complete the project must be a local match. Uintah County is willing to come up with half of the matching funds and a cooperative agreement will be drafted with the County for their share. Councilmember Cowan related that the Uintah School District is excited about this project which will give an element of safety to children walking to Ashley Elementary who will no longer have to be bussed. Mayor Showalter stated that several parents have also voiced their concern. After further discussion, *Councilmember JoAnn Cowan moved to approve the agreement with UDOT for the Safety Sidewalk Project, Resolution No. 2011-08. Councilmember Cal Dee Reynolds seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call vote:*

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Councilmember Munfordaye;
Councilmember Cowan..... aye.
Councilmember Reynoldsaye;
Councilmember Norton.....aye;
Councilmember Clark aye.

REQUEST TO COMBINE VOTING PRECINCTS: Mayor Showalter explained that the voting precincts coincide with the precincts used by the County. Ken Bassett stated that several precincts can be combined so voters are casting their votes at the same polling location so fewer voting judges are needed. The City has combined districts for many years. The polling locations will be the Junior High School and Western Park. Councilmember Cowan asked if the City would be holding early voting. Roxanne Behunin stated that early voting would have to be done by the County using the electronic equipment which is expensive, and the voters can vote absentee here at the City office instead. Ken Bassett agreed that absentee voting allows the voter to vote before the election and does not require judges. After further discussion, Councilmember Bert Clark moved to combine the voting precincts as presented. Councilmember Sonja Norton seconded the motion. The motion passed with Councilmembers Clark, Norton, Cowan, Reynolds and Munford voting in favor for a unanimous vote.

Ken Bassett brought to the Council’s attention the list of six candidates running for the City Council seats. A primary election will not be necessary, so the candidates will be listed on the ballot for the November election.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:

LaPoint Community Park: Councilmember Clark explained that phase I of the LaPoint Community Park is underway with the groundbreaking ceremony being held last Tuesday night. This project received input from the LaPoint community on what they wanted and will be completed in 3 phases over a two-year period. Phase I includes two pavilions, restrooms, a park and a baseball complex. The expected completion date for phase I is October. Mayor Showalter thanked Councilmember Clark for the report.

New City Building: Mayor Showalter stated as the meeting was concluded, there was a seasoned former elected official in the audience and he asked if he wanted to say anything about the new City Hall. Allan Mashburn stated that as he has toured the building, he is very impressed with the art work and thinks this is a great facility for the community

Golf Course Project: Councilmember Clark stated that as the City completed the 500 South project which separated the storm water from the irrigation canals, a pond was built next to the golf course for the storm water. The contractor seeded the banks of the pond, but the grass did not grow. The golf course superintendent and the engineer are now looking at an alternative see what can be done around the pond. Councilmember Cowan noted that it will be hard to grow grass on that steep of a grade. Mayor Showalter stated that possibly artificial turf could be used. The initial cost may be higher, but the maintenance would create a substantial cost savings.

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After further discussion, Councilmember Clark asked to have the City involved with the engineer to come up with a good plan to grass around the storm water pond.

City Municipal Center open house: Ken Bassett explained that the open house for the new City Hall building is set for August 5th from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m. A ribbon cutting ceremony will be held at 2 o'clock after which the community will be invited to tour the entire facility. The staff will be in their areas to explain what they do.

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

Mayor Gary Showalter

ATTEST:

Roxanne Behunin, Deputy Recorder

(S E A L)