

MINUTES OF THE VERNAL CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING HELD
AUGUST 3, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. in the Vernal City Council Room, 374 East Main,
Vernal, Utah 84078.

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

WELCOME: Mayor Showalter welcomed everyone to the meeting.

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

INVOCATION OR UPLIFTING THOUGHT: Councilmember Cal Dee Reynolds gave an uplifting thought.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilmember Sonja Norton.

APPROVAL OF THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF JULY 20, 2011:
Councilmember Bert Clark moved to approve the minutes of July 20, 2011. Councilmember Cal Dee Reynolds seconded the motion. The motion passed with Councilmembers Munford, Cowan, Reynolds, Norton, and Clark voting in favor.

BASEBALL REGIONAL TOURNAMENT: Mayor Gary Showalter reminded the Council that the National South Pacific Regional Baseball Tournament was being hosted by the Vernal Youth Baseball Association this week which has brought between 800 to 1000 visitors to the area. One interesting visitor is the mother of Christina Green who was killed in the Tucson shooting of Representative Gifford, and was born on September 11, 2001. He urged the local media to cover this story more thoroughly and keep track of events that are significant to the community. Councilmember Clark noted that the regional officials were on hand, and many of the visitors mentioned they plan on staying the entire week no matter how their individual teams play.

INDIAN SUMMER STORYTELLING FESTIVAL REQUEST FOR SPONSORSHIP – LORI OLMSTEAD: Lori Olmstead explained that Vernal City has always supported the Vernal Indian Summer Storytelling Festival, and she would like to ask for continued support. This year the Festival will include bedtime stories for the younger crowd and a symposium to give the students and teachers the opportunity to learn from a national storyteller. A dinner theater and late night tales will also be presented for the adults. Lori explained that even though the Storytelling Festival does not have as large a crowd as the baseball tournament, it provides a diversity of cultural events. Mayor Showalter asked for a list of sponsors. Lori Olmstead noted that several businesses support them by selling tickets and promoting the event. Social media, such as Facebook, will also be used to attract the 25 to 40 year old age group this year. Councilmember Cowan asked what the funds are used for. Lori Olmstead stated that they need funds to pay for advertising, hire the storytellers, catering, banners etc. Any funds that are not

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spent on the event are given to the Uintah School Foundation to promote education. Mayor Showalter asked Lori to include Showalter Ford as a sponsor. After further discussion, *Councilmember Cowan moved to support the Vernal Indian Storytelling Festival with \$1000 sponsorship fee. Councilmember Sonja Norton 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.*

PUBLIC HEARING: CDBG 2ND PUBLIC HEARING: Mayor Gary Showalter opened the public hearing for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding request.

Ken Bassett explained that Vernal City has the opportunity to apply for CDBG funds through the State who receives the funds from the federal government. This year the City applied for funds with the intent of making improvements to the existing women’s shelter. The State of Utah looks favorably on housing projects for a specific group of individuals who have immediate housing needs at difficult time in their lives, and likely no income or funds for housing. The initial grant application was for \$100,000. After the Uintah Basin Association of Governments Review Committee ranked the applications submitted for CDBG funds, the City’s application came in 3rd and was awarded \$42,000. Since that time, Councilmember JoAnn Cowan and others dealing with the shelter, discussed the possibility of purchasing a larger home that fits the needs of the shelter better than the current location. The question arose if the CDBG funds could be used to help purchase a home to house the shelter or if they are limited to improvements. The State of Utah was contacted and indicated there are no problems purchasing a larger home for the shelter, however, CDBG funds cannot be used for that purpose. The Uintah Basin Housing Authority, who presently owns the existing shelter, is considering applying for funds from the Community Impact Board to purchase a larger home, but which agency will be the actual applicant has not been finalized yet. Ken Bassett indicated that no matter who owns the shelter, the CDBG funds can be used to retrofit the space to provide an administrative office as well as providing security for the home. The purpose of this second public hearing is to let everyone know the intended use of the CDBG funds before the City submits the final grant application to the State. Councilmember Cowan stated that as the housing committee looked at the option of remodeling the small shelter that does not have a lot of space for families, or purchasing a larger home. It was decided that the best option was to purchase a larger home. Purchasing a larger home, however, will be contingent on funding from the Community Impact Board. Mayor Showalter asked if the sale of the current shelter would be used to purchase a new one. Councilmember Cowan stated that it would be necessary to sell the current shelter. Councilmember Clark asked what would happen to the small out buildings. Councilmember Cowan stated the storage sheds would be moved to the new location. Mayor Showalter asked for public comments. There were no comments. Councilmember Clark asked when the application would be due to the

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Community Impact Board. Councilmember Cowan stated the CIB would be approached at their October meeting. There being no further comments, the public hearing was closed.

CLOSED SESSION: *Councilmember JoAnn Cowan moved to convene into closed session to hold a strategy session to discuss pending or imminent litigation. Councilmember Bert Clark seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call vote and the meeting was convened into closed session:*

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

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

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF SEWER VIDEO AND CLEANING BIDS Ken Bassett explained that the City received three responsive bids from Quality Pipe, National Plant and Twin D, for the sewer video and cleaning project funded through the Community Impact Board. The low bid of \$209,450 was submitted by National Plant. Engineering Services has reviewed the references for National Plant and has concluded that they are acceptable along with their experience. Mr. Bassett recommended approval of the bid from National Plant. *Councilmember Cowan moved to accept the bid from National Plant and award the contract for the sewer video and cleaning bid to them. Councilmember Cal Dee Reynolds 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.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:

Chip and Seal Work:

Councilmember Clark asked that the Transportation District be reminded to cover the sewer manholes during the chip and seal projects so no debris gets into the sewer system.

City Hall Open House:

Ken Bassett stated that the open house for the new Municipal Center is scheduled for Friday, August 5th from 2 pm to 7 pm.

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Vernal Excitement Association:

Councilmember Sonja Norton announced that the Vernal Excitement Association will be hosting an outdoor expo on August 27th on the front lawn of the County building and will be inviting outdoor merchants to set up booths. Councilmember Cowan suggested the City lot be used next year. Mayor Showalter commended Sonja Norton and Becca Boren for their down town revitalization efforts.

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

ATTEST:

Roxanne Behunin, Deputy Recorder

Mayor Gary Showalter

(S E A L)