

MINUTES OF THE JOINT VERNAL CITY COUNCIL, UINTAH COUNTY COMMISSION, BALLARD TOWN AND NAPLES CITY SPECIAL MEETING HELD March 23, 2012 at 3:00 p.m. in the Vernal City Community Room at 374 East Main St, Vernal, Utah.

PRESENT:

VERNAL CITY: Mayor Gary Showalter, Councilmembers Ted Munford, Sonja Norton, Bert Clark, and Dave Everett. Councilmember JoAnn Cowan was excused.

UINTAH COUNTY: Commissioners Mark Raymond, Darlene Burns and Mike McKee.

NAPLES CITY: Mayor Dean Baker.

STAFF PRESENT: Ken Bassett, Vernal City Manager; Craig Blunt, Naples City Manager; Tal Ehlers, Uintah County Emergency Director; and Sherri Montgomery, Vernal City Administrative Clerk.

GUESTS PRESENT: Steve Evans, Tammie Lucero, Darrin Brady, Mary Bernard, Kelly Harvey, Ed Zurbuchen, and Adam Massey.

WELCOME: Mayor Gary Showalter welcomed everyone to the meeting.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT & APPROVAL OF SPECIAL MEETING: *Councilmember Bert Clark moved to acknowledge and approve this special meeting. Commissioner Mark Raymond seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.*

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 10, 2012: *Councilmember Sonja Norton moved to approve the minutes of February 10, 2012 as written. Councilmember Ted Munford seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.*

UINTAH COUNTY STAFF: Commissioner Darlene Burns introduced new staff member, Tal Ehlers, as the Emergency Director for Uintah County. Tal Ehlers stated that he moved from Salt Lake City and has been in the County for nine months. Mr. Ehlers mentioned that it is a pleasure working for the County. Mr. Ehlers explained several of the projects he is currently working on such as the final touches on the new emergency plan, the Commission and Mayor's communications plan, UBAOG plan, mitigation plan, the Chamber of Commerce business emergency plan, public emergency alert system, public service announcements, and flood insurance programs.

COUNTRY EXPLOSION PRESENTATION – STEVE NUTTALL: Mayor Gary Showalter asked Councilmember Dave Everett to share with the group his conversation with Steve Nuttall regarding feedback from last year's participants. Councilmember Dave Everett read an email from Greg Burns with Brand N Music, which included comments from some of last year's artists on what a fantastic event County Explosion was in 2011. Mayor Gary Showalter asked Steve Evans to summarize on the presentation he gave to the Vernal City Council at the last meeting. Mr. Evans reported that there will be 17 artists from the Los Angeles and Nashville areas at the

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event this year. Mr. Evans introduced his partner Darrin Brady, owner of Rebel Bail Bonds. Mr. Brady is an investor in this event. Mr. Evans explained that his personal contribution and involvement with this event is local promotion and marketing of County Explosion 2012. This year's event will be three days on August 16th, 17th, and 18th. Derk Price of Price Water Services is very involved as a sponsor and will host the event on his property of 160 acres five miles east of the Naples City offices. This is a family oriented event, and although alcohol beverages were served, it was controlled and well managed. Mr. Evans stated that the overall goal is to have a five year business plan to grow in size and popularity like other similar communities which will draw tourism traffic to this area. The 2011 event drew between 3,500 and 4,000 people. By extending the advance marketing period to six months to reach all of Utah and surrounding states like Wyoming and Colorado, the goal is to double the size of the event this year. Mr. Evans reported that they just signed a contract with KSOP radio for advertising. Mr. Evans reassured the municipalities that there will be the same public safety as last year including the type of lighting, sanitation, security, ambulance services, staging, etc. Mr. Evans expressed his appreciation to the municipalities for their support and is hoping to receive a donation in the amount of \$5,000 each from Uintah County, Vernal City, Naples City, and Vernal Area Chamber of Commerce to invest in the community. Mayor Gary Showalter stated that the City has discussed this matter and agreed that all municipalities should work together in a team effort to support this event. Mr. Showalter added that all municipalities will benefit from this event including sales tax increase, retail, hotel, and restaurant sales.

Mr. Evans reported that there will be 30,000 brochures going to print on April 1, 2012 around the State of Utah and neighboring states. There will also be 5,000 posters displayed, advertisement on the radio stations in Salt Lake City starting on Monday, and TV advertising beginning on April 15, 2012. Mayor Gary Showalter asked what type of representation the municipalities will have for their level of investment in a combined effort. Mr. Evans explained that there will be name recognition on the brochures, posters, and in all marketing and press releases for this event. Kevin Ashby with the Vernal Express is printing programs for the event and all sponsors will be mentioned. Mayor Gary Showalter asked about advertisement on a billboard that was mentioned at the Vernal City Council meeting. Mr. Evans explained that there will be a video board right on the stage with the sponsors listed. Mayor Gary Showalter suggested mentioning the sponsor's names at the event in between the shows. Mr. Evans agreed that it could be done. Councilmember Bert Clark asked about the ticket price for those that attend the three-day function. Darrin Brady stated that a three-day pass is \$75 and includes all 17 bands. Councilmember Clark suggested sending flyers to the local airline for advertising in the terminals in Denver. Kelly Harvey mentioned that the Vernal regional airport is always looking for ways to help in the community.

Commissioner Darlene Burns stated that a few weeks ago, Uintah County received a request for a donation of \$10,000 – \$25,000 for this event. Mr. Evans explained that Steve Nuttall who was responsible for sending out those requests is a large market promoter who thinks very large. Mr. Evans added that any donation from the County or Cities would be appreciated. Adam Massey suggested having a tent set up at the event to promote traveling and tourism to the area. Councilmember Ted Munford asked if this was the first year that municipalities have been asked for donations. Mr. Evans answered yes, other than the Chamber of Commerce. Councilmember

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Munford asked about a profit and loss statement for last year's event. Mr. Brady explained that they lost money last year. Councilmember Munford asked if they expected the same this year. Mr. Brady stated that they are hoping to make money this year or at least break even. Councilmember Clark asked Tammie Lucero if the Economic Development was supporting this event monetarily. Tammie Lucero stated that at this point, it will go through the County.

Commissioner Mark Raymond stated that the County recognizes the value of this event for the community and as a Commission wishes they could support it at a greater level; however, the County's budget does not allow for such. He added that the County also donates in kind service with law enforcement patrolling the event. ***Commissioner Raymond moved to approve a donation of \$3,000 to the 2012 Country Explosion. Commissioner Mike McKee seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote with Commissioners Raymond, McKee, and Burns voting in favor.***

Mayor Dean Baker stated that after discussing this with Craig Blunt, Naples City Manager, they could possibly donate \$1,000. He added that they also discussed displaying their banner across the highway to welcome everyone to the area. Mayor Baker mentioned that their next City Council meeting is not until April. Mr. Evans asked if they could be added to the agenda. Mayor Baker answered yes.

Councilmember Sonja Norton stated that she is comfortable with donating \$5,000 from the City. Councilmember Dave Everett agreed. Councilmember Norton explained that the City has helped a lot of projects get off the ground. She added that this event will be good for the community and the area. Ken Bassett explained that there are two types of sponsorships that the City uses to give money. There is a donation to sponsor or co-sponsor an entire community activity, or in this case, being a private party for profit, State law is specific about how you donate to these kinds of activities without being a sponsor that is tied directly to that activity. He added that there is an economic review that is conducted using projected numbers to make sure the amount of money being donated has a positive impact on the community and is at least as much as the donation that is going to be made. Mr. Bassett suggested including this economic review in the motion. Councilmember Norton asked if this would be a donation rather than a sponsorship. Mr. Bassett stated yes, this would not be a sponsorship. ***Councilmember Sonja Norton moved to approve a donation of \$5,000 to the 2012 Country Explosion contingent upon the economic review being completed. Councilmember Dave Everett seconded the motion. Mayor Gary Showalter asked for a roll call vote and the Vernal City Council voted as follows:***

Councilmember Nortonaye;
Councilmember Clarkaye;
Councilmember Everettaye;
Councilmember Munfordaye.
The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Mayor Gary Showalter asked Adam Massey if the Chamber of Commerce was going to make a donation. Adam Massey stated that the Chamber of Commerce board has already approved a donation in the range of \$3,000 - \$5,000. Mr. Massey added that the Chamber is also working with a project engineer to place a banner on Highway 40 on the west end of town in hopes of

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having it completed before this event. Mr. Massey mentioned that they will work with Vernal City on the advertising, and Anadarko is helping with the cost. It will be designed to follow UDOT standards.

TODAY IN AMERICA VIDEO UPDATE: Tammie Lucero explained that she received a call in regards to making a video about the Uintah Basin area. The Commissioners were interviewed along with local businesses on why the Uintah Basin, Uintah County, Vernal City, and Naples City are the best places to work and play. The video was played for the group to watch. Mayor Gary Showalter thanked the County for their efforts, and stated that we all have a common goal with respect to and enthusiasm to be fortunate to live here.

NATIONAL GUARD DEPLOYMENT SCHEDULED FOR JUNE 12, 2012: Ken Bassett reported that he received a phone call last month from Christopher Vernon with the Utah National Guard indicating that on June 12, 2012, all of the soldiers from Vernal as well as the Price and Springville areas will be deployed to Afghanistan for approximately one year. Captain Vernon wants to encourage the community and local government entities to start thinking about activities to show appreciation to the soldiers and their families. Mr. Bassett suggested finding three or four people with ties to this kind of event to help with planning some activities. Captain Vernon suggested a kick off breakfast for the community and families to show their support. Mr. Bassett added that we need to make sure 20 soldiers are recognized appropriately. At the Vernal City Council meeting, Lieutenant Williams from the National Guard discussed promoting a nationwide effort for the community to pledge themselves to support these soldiers with different formal recognition activities. The Vernal City Council made a decision to move forward with the community covenant program and to start planning activities around the June 12, 2012 deployment for the soldiers and their families. Mayor Gary Showalter suggested talking to the commander and leaders to get their ideas. He added that acknowledgment is due for the sacrifice that they are making for all of us.

Commissioner Darlene Burns stated that the County was working with Lieutenant Tomlinson, before he was transferred out and are very supportive in helping with this community program. Mr. Bassett suggested finding out the local name of the person tied to this community covenant and work with Commissioner Burns. Councilmember Bert Clark asked if Naples City had discussed helping with these activities. Mayor Dean Baker stated that they had a discussion and committed support to Lieutenant Williams. Councilmember Sonja Norton asked if the community covenant signing could be tied in with the activities planned for the soldiers when they deploy. Councilmember Dave Everett mentioned that they wanted the covenant signed around May 10, 2012. Councilmember Norton suggested doing a private signing of the covenant and later doing something bolder at the soldier benefit. Councilmember Everett suggested having another presentation of the signing. Commissioner Burns suggested a variety of events like a breakfast around Memorial Day with events running for two weeks until June 12, 2012. Mayor Baker mentioned that Naples City is having their 30th Anniversary on May 13, 2012 with an open house and discussed combining this with the community covenant signing. Mayor Showalter stated that there does not need to be a vote. It is in agreement that we all want to support and recognize the soldiers and their families.

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AIRPORT RUNWAY UPDATE – KELLY HARVEY: Kelly Harvey reported that they are relocating the runway to the west. This has been a project in the making for quite some time and has been a long process of jumping through hurdles with the environmental assessment. He added that as soon as the FAA signs off on the project, we can proceed with federal funding to complete the project. Ken Bassett asked Mr. Harvey to explain how far west they are moving the runway. Mr. Harvey explained that it will be moved approximately 700 feet to the west. He added that they plan on keeping the main runway open during the construction. Commissioner Mike McKee stated that Naples City’s request to not go the other direction was taken into account as well as wanting to stay out of the industrial property. Even though it was adjacent going east, there is more agriculture going west. Commissioner Darlene Burns asked if they were buying agricultural land to do the project. Commissioner McKee answered yes. Mayor Gary Showalter asked if they would need to clear more space for the size of the runway, so it will not affect the residents on the road into the airport itself. Mr. Harvey explained that the design phase has a safety zone of 500 feet and will stay away from buildings. He added that the FAA is very careful. Councilmember Norton asked if there was an estimated time line. Mr. Harvey explained that 2012 was supposed to be the start of the acquisition phase. Commissioner McKee stated that they kept getting bumped back so many years and now finally are able to get some major funding. Mr. Harvey mentioned that the FAA has them under a contract with a five year capital improvement program, and the project remains steady.

Commissioner McKee wanted to recognize the efforts that have been made with the major improvements such as fencing, buildings, and equipment. These efforts have helped significantly when looking for funding. Mr. Harvey stated that the FAA has pointed Vernal out as being proactive and recognizing our efforts. Councilmember Clark stated that the airport board is very hands-on and well informed. He also wanted to recognize Mr. Harvey for doing such a great job in saving money. Mayor Showalter explained that Vernal City and Uintah County will discuss the fixed base operator item more in depth in a closed session. He asked for a motion to adjourn and reconvene in five minutes for a closed session. ***Councilmember Bert Clark moved to adjourn the regular meeting and go into closed session to discuss 1. Discussion of the character, professional competence, or physical or mental health of an individual and 2. Vernal City Council Only – A strategy session to discuss the purchase, exchange, or lease of real property. Councilmember Dave Everett seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.***

FIXED BASE OPERATOR SELECTION – KELLY HARVEY: ***Councilmember Bert Clark moved to accept the proposal of H & H Versatile Service as the fixed base operator for the Vernal airport with the County drafting a contract with H & H providing for such services, including if possible, that H & H will have a full-time employee onsite to provide for such services and that H & H within a 3 ½ year period obtain its 135 certification. Councilmember Sonja Norton seconded the motion. Mayor Gary Showalter asked for a roll call vote and the Vernal City Council voted as follows:***

Councilmember Nortonaye;
Councilmember Clarkaye;

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Councilmember Everettaye;
Councilmember Munfordaye.
The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Commissioner Mike McKee moved to accept the proposal of H & H Versatile Service as the fixed base operator for the Vernal airport with the County drafting a contract with H & H providing for such services, including if possible, that H & H will have a full-time employee onsite to provide for such services and that H & H within a 3 ½ year period obtain its 135 certification. Commissioner Darlene Burns seconded the motion. Mayor Gary Showalter asked for a roll call vote and the Uintah County Commissioners voted as follows:

Commissioner McKeeaye;
Commissioner Burnsaye;
The motion passed with a unanimous vote.
(Note: Commissioner Mark Raymond left the meeting prior to this vote.)

ADJOURN: There being no further business; the meeting was declared adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

Ken Bassett, City Recorder