

**M**INUTES OF THE JOINT VERNAL CITY COUNCIL, UINTAH COUNTY COMMISSION, BALLARD TOWN AND NAPLES CITY SPECIAL MEETING HELD April 27, 2012 at 3:00 p.m. in the Uintah County Conference Room at 147 East Main, 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:** Commissioner Darlene Burns. Mark Raymond and Mike McKee were excused.

**NAPLES CITY:** Naples City Representatives were absent from this meeting.

**STAFF PRESENT:** Ken Bassett, Vernal City Manager; and Sherri Montgomery, Vernal City Administrative Clerk.

**WELCOME:** Commissioner Burns welcomed everyone to the meeting.

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

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF MARCH 23, 2012:** *Councilmember Clark moved to approve the minutes of March 23, 2012 as written. Councilmember Munford seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.*

**VERNAL CEMETERY PROJECT UPDATE AND FENCING PROJECT – COMMISSIONER BURNS:** Commissioner Burns explained that she met with Councilmember Norton and Cody Peterson concerning the Vernal City Cemetery. The entrance off of 500 East going into the cemetery has a hillside that has been unvegetated for some time. Commissioner Burns explained that the goal since the new building has been built was to hydro seed this area. This will begin next week with the hope of grass starting to come up by Memorial Day. Ken Bassett asked if there was going to be a sprinkling system installed. Commissioner Burns answered yes. Commissioner Burns pointed out on the map an area that will be graded and available for burials. Mayor Showalter asked if it would be terraced. Commissioner Burns stated that it would not be terraced, but more sloped. Councilmember Clark asked if the board has looked into fixing the pot holes that need to be filled in on the current road. Commissioner Burns explained that the road department works on the cemeteries on a rotating basis, and the Vernal Cemetery will be this year.

Commissioner Burns explained that there is a local family that would like to donate money to the Vernal Cemetery. Mayor Showalter asked if this was an anonymous donation. Commissioner Burns answered yes. Commissioner Burns explained that they are looking at installing a concrete type fence like the one around the jail complex. She added that this will not be the border of the cemetery. Mr. Bassett stated that leaving the field fence in place and maintaining it is very important. Councilmember Clark asked if the cemetery board has looked at planting

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vegetation along that fence to help block the wind. Councilmember Norton explained that the fence will be solid cement. Commissioner Burns stated that what the board is presenting today is to install a fence down by the entrance using the same type of concrete material as the other fence to keep it uniform. She added that in the future they could consider selling sections of the fence for family plaques. Councilmember Munford asked if they were replacing the fence that is currently right against the road. Councilmember Norton explained that it would be up above the road. Commissioner Burns explained that they are trying to complete a project in the cemetery each year. Last year the new building was built. This year, they plan to work on the hillside, and next year they will work on the South side of the road at the main entrance off of 500 East by adding trees and grass vegetation. Commissioner Burns explained that they would also like to beautify the entrance to the cemetery within two years with the possibility of installing a stone entry. Mayor Showalter suggested that if there is enough room on the shoulder of the road that they consider widening the road by a foot. Councilmember Clark suggested that they also widen the road up to the parking area where people walk up to the gravesites.

Commissioner Burns mentioned that Councilmember Cowan had suggested mounting a map where people can locate burials. Councilmember Clark stated that he thought they were adding that to the main building. Commissioner Burns explained that there will be a map showing the different sections, as well as a little book with laminated pages to look up people alphabetically. She added that they have discussed using a GPS at all of the cemeteries in the County to show where every single plot is and who occupies it. This information could be accessed using an electronic device such as an iPad or iPhone. Councilmember Munford explained that it is called geocaching, and it is achievable. Councilmember Everett asked the number of occupancies of burial plots. Commissioner Burns stated that she did not have those figures. Councilmember Clark asked if the cemetery board has looked into a pet cemetery. Commissioner Burns stated that they have discussed having a pet cemetery like the one in Maeser. Councilmember Clark stated that pet cemeteries have been very successful. Mr. Bassett asked if there will be staff available at the cemetery during the Memorial Day holiday. Commissioner Burns explained that they would have staff available over the entire weekend. Mr. Bassett stated that there are many people who do not have GPS units; therefore, having a book with the section and plot number available would be beneficial. He added that it could be an Eagle Scout project to place the numbers on the curbs. Commissioner Burns mentioned that this would not be ready by Memorial Day. Councilmember Clark stated that there is new technology that puts a UPC code right on the headstone, which can be scanned in using a smart phone to find out the history on that particular burial.

Commissioner Burns explained that they are asking Vernal City to contribute money on the fencing project to help make up the difference in what is being donated. Mayor Showalter asked if the total figure was including the donation amount. Commissioner Burns explained that the total amount of \$93,500 is in addition to the donation. She added that this is the very top price and could end up being less depending on the bid. Vernal City and Uintah County would both contribute \$46,750. Councilmember Norton suggested that the City use part of their green space fund. Mayor Showalter asked if these figures would last until the fiscal year 2014. Commissioner Burns answered yes. Mayor Showalter suggested that they fix the potholes before Memorial Day. *Councilmember Norton moved to support the beautification project not to*

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*exceed \$46,750 to be taken from the green space fund. Councilmember Everett seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call vote:*

*Councilmember Munford .....aye;  
Councilmember Everett .....aye;  
Councilmember Norton .....aye;  
Councilmember Clark .....aye.*

Commissioner Burns stated that Ashley Gurr and her family have asked to put up a Veteran’s Memorial similar to the Angel of Hope Memorial. There is spacing available for it between the Bob Jones Memorial and the Angel of Hope Memorial. Mr. Bassett asked what they would like to accomplish. Commissioner Burns explained that they would like to mount a statue. This would be a Veteran’s statue with benches similar to the Angel of Hope Memorial and not for a specific individual. She added that when it gets to the design phase, it will be presented to the Commissioners and Councilmembers for approval. Councilmember Clark asked if they have considered a Veteran’s Cemetery. Mayor Showalter stated that there are not enough veterans in the area to fill a cemetery. He added that most veterans here in the area have a family plot.

**ESTABLISHMENT OF SOURCE PROTECTION ZONE:** Ken Bassett explained that there has been considerable discussion regarding the issue with Agrium and Utah Phosphate. It has been recommended by the County Commission to establish a source protection zone in that area. This is a legal and technical issue for the purpose of protecting the water source in that zone. Mr. Bassett stated that the City Council has agreed to support and help in any way necessary. Commissioner Burns explained that the State Code does have agricultural and industrial protection zones. Matt Cazier is looking into the water protection zone and the legislative rules on the ownership. He is looking to see if it can be a community ownership. Commissioner Burns reported that researchers from the Utah State University water lab are coming to the area on May 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> to conduct a study of Ashley Springs. Ashley Springs is the primary source of drinking water. Commissioner Burns mentioned that they are trying to look at studies that have been done on Red Fleet Reservoir as well. Scott Hacking, Regional Director of the Division of Drinking Water for the State of Utah, is sending all the information he has on the issue. Commissioner Burns explained that a study will cost money; therefore, they need to pinpoint exactly specific study is needed. She added that we do not want our water supply damaged. Mr. Bassett stated that this is a very sensitive area when you start talking about blasting a mine. He added that this valley receives 80% of their water from Ashley Springs.

Commissioner Burns invited everyone who would like to meet with the water lab from the Utah State University. This is not an open citizen group. The focus will be on what needs to be studied. Mr. Bassett stated that Vernal City and Ashley Valley Water Service District has the majority of their water rights coming from Ashley Springs; therefore, we should include that area as well. Councilmember Clark suggested including Maeser. Mr. Bassett stated that Maeser has a contract with Ashley Valley Water. Commissioner Burns stated that she will invite all the water districts and cities in the area. Councilmember Clark stated that there is high water times and low water times, and do we want to include that in our questions when they do the study? Commissioner Burns mentioned that she is hoping to meet with Scott Hacking to get the

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questions refined, before meeting with the people that are getting paid to do the study. Councilmember Clark asked if the water lab people will be on site. Commissioner Burns answered yes. Mr. Bassett expressed his appreciation to Commissioner Burns and the County for the work they are doing on this issue. Agrium wanted to pursue this required special permit from the County. The concern is if this is not more scientifically done, it could end up in litigation. Commissioner Burns agreed that we cannot say emotionally “we do not want you to do this”. We want to have a professional study completed. Commissioner Burns passed around maps indicating that the blue spaces are State land, and pointed out where Agrium has leases. She added that the permits would go through the State of Utah; however, Agrium would still need to apply for a conditional use permit with the County in order to conduct their business. Commissioner Burns also pointed to all the areas where homes are located. Councilmember Clark mentioned that the Red Mountain Cabins may have well permits as well. Mayor Showalter asked the location of Ashley Springs. Mr. Bassett pointed it out on the map indicating that Ashley Springs is up by the old power plant.

**UTAH NATIONAL GUARD DEPLOYMENT OF THE VERNAL UNIT EVENTS ON JUNE 11, 2012 AND COMMUNITY COVENANT PROGRAM – KEN BASSETT:** Ken Bassett explained that the Council has discussed the deployment of the local National Guard on June 12<sup>th</sup> and the planning of an event for the soldiers. Mr. Bassett stated that he met with the community liaison, Mandy Massey and Naples City. The soldiers are actually leaving Vernal on June 12<sup>th</sup> individually. Therefore, it has been decided to hold a community BBQ on the evening of June 11<sup>th</sup>. Craig Blunt with Naples City is meeting with Anadarko to see if they would be willing to do all of the cooking and will also check with Newfield to see if they would donate the meat. This community BBQ will be open to everyone. There will be a program starting around 6:30 p.m. The whole area will be lined up with flags. The Recreation District is bringing their inflatable toys for the kids to play on after dinner. Councilmember Clark asked if there would be extra patrol. Mr. Bassett stated that they should not need more than what they provide during the July 24<sup>th</sup> breakfast. Mayor Showalter mentioned that it is going to be hard to get an idea of how many will attend this event. Mr. Bassett explained that it will be advertised. The families of the soldiers will be there, along with the head of the National Guard acknowledging what the community is doing to support them. There will be a formal part of the program where all three entities will sign the community covenant. The covenant will say that as a community, we agree to help and support the families ease their burden while their soldiers are deployed. Commissioner Burns asked if this document is something we create ourselves. Mr. Bassett explained that the National Guard will generate and bring the documents to be signed. Commissioner Burns asked how many are being deployed. Mr. Bassett stated that there are around 20-25 from Vernal, as well as a few from Roosevelt. Mayor Showalter asked where this will be held. Mr. Bassett stated at the Colton Pavilion. Mayor Showalter suggested having a group available to play patriotic music throughout the event. Councilmember Clark mentioned that Steve Evans is willing to do what he can to help.

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**ADJOURN:** There being no further business; Councilmember Clark moved to adjourn the meeting. Councilmember Munford seconded the motion. The meeting was declared adjourned at 4:05 p.m.

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Ken Bassett, City Recorder