

MINUTES OF THE JOINT VERNAL CITY COUNCIL, UTAH COUNTY COMMISSION, BALLARD TOWN AND NAPLES CITY SPECIAL MEETING HELD AUGUST 27, 2012 at 3:30 p.m. in the Vernal City Conference Room, 374 East Main, Vernal, Utah.

PRESENT:

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

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

NAPLES CITY: Mayor Dean Baker.

STAFF PRESENT: Ken Bassett and Roxanne Behunin.

GUESTS PRESENT: Kelly Harvey, Rick Patton with GDA Engineering, Mary Bernard, Cassie Hayes, Mirandy Massey, Tal Ehler and Gawain Snow.

WELCOME: Mayor 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 majority vote with Councilmembers Everett, Norton, Munford and Clark and Commissioners McKee, Burns and Raymond voting in favor. Councilmember JoAnn Cowan was not present for the vote.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF APRIL 27, 2012: Councilmember Sonja Norton moved to approve the minutes of April 27, 2012 as written. Councilmember Dave Everett seconded the motion. The motion passed with a majority vote with Councilmembers Everett, Norton, Munford and Clark and Commissioners McKee, Burns and Raymond voting in favor. Councilmember JoAnn Cowan was not present for the vote.

FARMER'S MARKET REPORT – CASSIE HAYES: Cassie Hayes gave an update on the Farmer's Market, explaining that the number of vendors and patrons have steadily increased over the summer. There is enough local produce to sustain the market and vendors are coming from outlying areas to attract buyers. Councilmember Clark asked what the cost is to place a booth at the market. Cassie Hayes answered that a grower can place a booth for \$8 and other craft vendors are charged \$10. The vendors must sell homemade or homegrown items. There was some discussion regarding the electronic sign. Cassie noted that once the new library is open, the market will expand into that area. Mayor Showalter thanked Cassie for her work on this project and stated that it provides a wonderful service to the community. Councilmember Everett asked how long the market will stay open. Cassie Hayes stated the last day will be the last Saturday in September.

UTAH NATIONAL GUARD SUPPORTING DEPLOYED TROOPS & FAMILIES – MIRANDY MASSEY: Mayor Showalter mentioned that this item is a follow-up to the

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declaration that was signed at the sendoff barbeque held for the National Guard unit in Vernal. Mirandy Massey explained that she works for the National Guard and helps the families connect with resources. Many of the soldiers were working in the oil and gas industry which pays a lot more money than what they make when they are deployed which requires the families to make a big adjustment as they switch income levels. One program that is being initiated is to place a food pantry at the armory so families can pick up items. Donation boxes will be placed around the community. Also, care packages are being prepared to be sent to the soldiers. These items are cheaper to buy here and the local post office is working with them to get the items to the soldiers. Some of the families will need help with snow removal, lawn mowing, or preparing their homes for winter. Also, free tickets for community activities so the families can still enjoy recreational activities would be appreciated. Councilmember Clark noted that the Sewer Management Board and Ashley Valley Water and Sewer waive their fee for the families of active duty soldiers while they are deployed. Councilmember Cowan asked if the Uintah Recreation District would be willing to give day passes to the families. Councilmember Clark suggested Mirandy call the Recreation District and be placed on the agenda. Councilmember Cowan asked Mirandy to prepare a list of homes where yard work needs to be done to be handed out to organizations that can provide that help. Mayor Showalter stated that his business can do checks on their vehicles and possibly minor repairs. Councilmember Munford suggested an ad be placed on the radio or local newspaper with a list of services that are needed. Ken Bassett stated that a food drive for the National Guard would be a great Eagle Scout project, and the juvenile court has young adults that need to work off hours that can provide snow removal. Mirandy Massey gave her contact information to the elected officials and thanked them for their help getting the word out. Her contact information is as follows: 435-770-9104 cell phone, or marandy.k.massey@us.army.mil

Councilmember JoAnn Cowan voiced her concern that the City support the families of these deployed servicemen as declared at the park. Mirandy Massey noted that it is a huge relief for the soldiers to know their families are taken care of during their deployment. The elected officials thanked Mirandy for her work.

STORM WATER MANAGEMENT AND POTENTIAL PIPING OF CANALS – GAWAIN SNOW & COMMISSIONER MCKEE: Gawain Snow notified the elected officials that the irrigation companies are looking at proposals to pipe the canals. This may affect the City and the County where the canals are used, at times, for flood control. Councilmember Clark asked which canals are being considered to be enclosed. Gawain Snow stated they are considering the Highline and Upper canals. The central canal is not being considered and the other canal is partially piped now with little water going into it. Councilmember Clark stated that Kid's canal needs to stay open for recreation. Gawain stated it is not being considered right now. Ken Bassett stated that the City would be concerned with Central canal which is considered a historic structure. Gawain Snow noted that some of the canals lose up to 40% of the water which is estimated to be 15 acre feet per year. The idea is to use the water more efficiently. Commissioner McKee explained that a few years ago a large

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storm water study was completed which included what would happen if a 100 year storm occurred. The scenario took into account peak water release and what systems would be needed to protect the community from flooding. These canals have been considered as part of that system, although the irrigators have a different point of view. Future discussions will need to include the value of these canals to the community. Councilmember Clark asked if the canals could simply be lined. Gawain Snow stated that is an option that has a unique set of problems with debris and freezing. Commissioner McKee expressed his hope that the City and Council can work cooperatively on this problem to protect the community.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT UPDATE: Tal Ehlers explained that the emergency management plan for the Ashley Valley has been updated and exercises have been planned to coordinate the use of the plan. The plan is now ready to be distributed to each entity for review and approval. Ken Bassett stated the Council will consider the plan at their next meeting.

AIRPORT REPORT: Commissioner McKee explained that the airport was recently inspected by FAA and received a stellar report. Also, a grant in the amount of \$860,000 has been received to help with the master plan for the airport and complete the environmental reviews. Next year funding will be applied for to acquire land and start construction. Rick Patton, airport engineer, stated that the runway is in need of repair and is 18 years past the life of the asphalt. The environmental assessment will look at alternatives to either repairing the existing runway, or moving it slightly. There is only a 275 foot window for the runway. This project will take three to four years and hopefully will not have the airport down for long. Councilmember Norton asked what will happen to the existing runway when the new runway is finished. Rick Patton stated it will be removed leaving room for more commercial development and a buffer zone. Commissioner Raymond noted that the terminal building is as old as the runway and needs to be updated. Rick stated that their terminal is included in the capital improvement program and will be addressed after the safety issues. He explained that the enplanements affect how much money the airport receives from FAA, and that is why it is important not to close the runway. Commissioner McKee stated that other airlines will also be more interested in providing essential air service once the runway is enlarged to handle larger planes. There was some discussion regarding the actual size of the runway with the safety zones. Rick explained that in Utah, when a government entity wants to acquire land, the ombudsman becomes involved as well as an appraiser. Mayor Baker asked if the appraisal will include the loss of agricultural income. Rick stated that he did not know. He noted that attorney's will also be involved to make sure the process is done according to law.

Kelly Harvey explained that Amendment #6 changes the scope of work for the master design of the airport. The County has already approved the amendment, and Vernal City also needs to approve it. Councilmember Bert Clark moved to approve Amendment #6 for the airport design. Councilmember Ted Munford seconded the motion. The motion passed with Vernal City Councilmembers Clark, Munford, Norton, Everett and Cowan voting in favor.

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Rick Patton noted that when they begin the process of acquiring land to expand the airport, timing will be critical and the final contracts will need to be approved by the City and Council once a final purchase price is agreed upon.

ASHLEY SPRINGS GEOLOGIC AND HYDROLIGIC SURVEY: Commissioner Darlene Burns explained that earlier this year a company approached the County to discuss opening a phosphate mine in the Dry Fork Canyon area. This issue brought to light that a geologic and hydrologic survey is needed of Ashley Springs as this is the valleys main drinking water source. The Utah Geologic Survey will do the study at a cost of \$40,000. The Utah Water Conservancy District is willing to pay 50% of the cost if the local agencies will pay a portion of the cost based on water connections. Vernal City has 36% of the water connections so the cost to the City would be \$5040. Ken Bassett agreed that the updated water study is sorely needed and it would be prudent to have Utah Geologic Survey provide the technical knowledge to complete the study. Councilmember JoAnn Cowan moved to approve paying \$5040 to the Utah Geologic Survey for a survey of Ashley Springs. Councilmember Ted Munford seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call vote of the Vernal City Council:

Councilmember Ted Munford.....aye;
Councilmember JoAnn Cowanaye;
Councilmember Dave Everett.....aye;
Councilmember Sonja Norton..... not present for the vote;
Councilmember Bert Clark..... aye.

NEXT MEETING SCHEDULE: The elected officials acknowledged that it is hard to find a day when they will all be available for a meeting. After discussion, the consensus was to try to hold these meetings the 4th Monday of each month at 3:30 p.m.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:

Airport snow removal: Kelly Harvey explained that there is a chemical approved by the FAA that can be sprayed on the runway to prevent the snow from sticking. A small amount was purchased to see how it would perform, and it was found to dilute as it snows requiring another application which becomes expensive. He stated that an ice and snow plan has to be submitted to FAA, and this product may require the runway to be shut down at times. Commissioner McKee stated that new snow removal equipment would cost around \$1 million dollars, and would allow the staff to keep up even with heavy snow fall. Kelly Harvey stated he would continue to look at different options to keep the runway clear.

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

Ken Bassett, City Recorder