

MINUTES OF THE VERNAL CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING HELD
OCTOBER 17, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. in the Vernal City Council room, 374 East Main,
Vernal, Utah 84078.

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

WELCOME: Mayor Showalter welcomed everyone to the meeting.

INVOCATION OR UPLIFTING THOUGHT: The invocation was given by Councilmember Bert Clark.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Gary Showalter.

APPROVAL OF CITY COUNCIL MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 5, 2012: Councilmember Bert Clark moved to approve the minutes of September 5, 2012 as written. Councilmember Dave Everett seconded the motion. The motion passed with Councilmembers Munford, Cowan, Everett and Clark voting in favor and Councilmember Norton abstaining.

APPROVAL OF CITY COUNCIL MINUTES OF OCTOBER 3, 2012: Councilmember Sonja Norton moved to approve the minutes of October 3, 2012. Councilmember Bert Clark seconded the motion. The motion passed with Councilmembers Munford, Everett, Norton and Clark voting in favor. Councilmember JoAnn Cowan was not present for the vote.

PRESENTATION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PLAN: Ken Bassett reminded the Council that the Emergency Communications Plan had recently been approved, and now the Emergency Operations Plan was being presented for approval. The City department heads have had the opportunity to review the plan and have given their feedback. The only concern was that the plan be reviewed frequently to keep the list of resources for each entity up to date. Mr. Bassett suggested this document be a companion with the communications plan so in an emergency there are not two separate documents. Councilmember Clark asked if this plan is tied in with the CERT program. Ken Bassett stated that it is not. The CERT program, Community Emergency Response Teams, allows individuals to certify in emergency management training for the purpose of responding in their own neighborhoods, and this plan is for a disaster to outline who is responsible for certain actions. There was some discussion on how to get the message out to become involved with CERT training. After further discussion, *Councilmember Ted Munford moved to approve the Emergency Management Operations Plan with the communications plan being a companion document. Councilmember Sonja Norton seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call vote:*

Councilmember Ted Munford.....aye;
Councilmember JoAnn Cowanaye;
Councilmember Dave Everett.....aye;
Councilmember Sonja Norton.....aye;
Councilmember Bert Clark.....aye.

**MINUTES OF THE VERNAL CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING HELD
OCTOBER 17, 2012**

500 SOUTH STORM DRAIN PROJECT REVIEW OF BIDS AND AWARD OF CONTRACT:

Mayor Gary Showalter explained that this storm drain project is significant. The low bid was received from VanCon out of Springville, Utah. Councilmember Cowan asked if this company has ever worked for Vernal City before. Ken Bassett stated that they have not. Mayor Showalter asked the engineer, John Wood, if he was comfortable with the reference checks he had received for this vendor. John Wood indicated that they had received favorable recommendations. Ken Bassett explained that there were six proposals received for this project, however, the low bid was approximately \$200,000 more than the engineers estimate. The majority of the funding, \$630,000, for this project is from the Community Impact Board, with an additional \$400,000 from the City's storm water fund. This project would deplete those funds if it moves forward as bid. He suggested the Street Superintendent and the engineer look at options to see if there is a way to change the design that will lower the cost. After further discussion, *Councilmember Cowan moved to table this item until the staff and engineer have an opportunity to discuss different options and bring back a recommendation. Councilmember Ted Munford seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call vote:*

- Councilmember Ted Munford.....aye;*
- Councilmember JoAnn Cowanaye;*
- Councilmember Dave Everett.....aye;*
- Councilmember Sonja Norton.....aye;*
- Councilmember Bert Clark.....aye.*

Councilmember Sonja Norton questioned whether the local bidder's preference would be used for this project. Ken Bassett stated that projects over \$100,000 do not fall under the local bidder preference policy. Councilmember JoAnn Cowan asked that in the future if the low bidder is a company that the City is not familiar with, research be completed to see if they have been involved in any litigation.

UTAH HOUSING COALITION AWARD - COUNCILMEMBER COWAN:

Councilmember JoAnn Cowan explained that the City received an award from the Utah Housing Coalition for Project of the Year for the affordable housing project that was recently completed in Vernal - Vernal Gardens. The Utah Housing Committee commended the elected official's foresight in recognizing that workforce housing is limited and wanted to honor their help in establishing these types of units. The Vernal Gardens housing project has been full since the construction was completed and has a waiting list. She credited Mr. Ken Bassett with following through and making this project happen. Also, Ms. Kim Datyler was named as the outstanding housing person who was instrumental in getting all the agencies to work together to complete this project. Mayor Showalter stated that this type of housing fills a real need in the community. Councilmember Cowan stated that Phase 2 of this project is now in the planning stage and possibly will receive funding in the future.

AMEND FEES FOR SERVICES - ENCROACHMENT FEES - RESOLUTION NO.

2012-19: Ken Bassett explained that currently the City does not charge for someone to dig in the

**MINUTES OF THE VERNAL CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING HELD
OCTOBER 17, 2012**

right-of-way, but it is taking time to inspect the work as these encroachments occur. He presented samples of the encroachment fees being charged by other agencies. He noted that the City needs to recoup the cost of doing inspections for these encroachments into the public right-of-way. Councilmember Clark asked how long they have to guarantee the work. Ken Bassett answered three years. After further discussion, Councilmember JoAnn Cowan moved to approve Resolution No. 2012-19 setting the encroachment fee. Councilmember Sonja Norton seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call vote:

Councilmember Ted Munford.....aye;
Councilmember JoAnn Cowanaye;
Councilmember Dave Everett.....aye;
Councilmember Sonja Norton.....aye;
Councilmember Bert Clark.....aye.

UTAH LEAGUE OF CITIES AND TOWNS DISCUSSION OF TRAINING: Mayor Gary Showalter explained that the Council recently went to training sponsored by the Utah League of Cities and Towns and asked those members that attended to explain any significant points that were brought up.

Councilmember Munford stated that he understood the reason for having vendors line the hallways. This year there seemed to be a lot of vendors hosting sessions with 60% useful information and 40% sales pitch, and many of them cater more toward huge metropolis sales which does not work for the majority of attendees. The Council requested that Councilmember Norton give the ULCT this feedback to have sessions also geared toward small cities.

Councilmember Cowan stated that she attended one session where they presented information dealing with urban gardens and particularly chickens. Several suggestions were given to protect neighbors and prevent rodents. The City recently approved urban gardens, and maybe the ordinance should be refined so neighbors are not impacted by chickens. Also, Councilmember Cowan stated she attended a session on emergency planning, and the speaker, who was from New Orleans, suggested that emergency generators be added to the requirements for gas stations and even drug stores so residents can pump gas to be able to leave and pick up their prescriptions. She asked that these issues be passed on to Planning and Zoning to consider. Mayor Showalter agreed that generators would be a good consideration. Councilmember Cowan stated that also, one session explained 211 services, which is set up for residents to be able to call one number and find where they go for housing, immunization, social services etc. The 211 service is available on the Wasatch Front and they are discussing bringing it to the Basin. The Housing department of the County is currently fielding a lot of these calls, and the area would benefit from the 211 service. Councilmember Cowan noted that one of the most productive parts of these conventions is to brainstorm and set goals for long range planning with the other Council members. She suggested the City plan a retreat to consider proactive long term planning.

Councilmember Norton stated she spoke with a representative of Zion's Bank, and they have a program to help community members with lower incomes to file their taxes and teach them about

**MINUTES OF THE VERNAL CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING HELD
OCTOBER 17, 2012**

the earned income tax credit. They do not currently offer this program in Vernal, but maybe willing to bring expand it. Another interesting program that was discussed was trail systems. The National Park Service has grants available to help with planning which would be beneficial for our area.

Councilmember Clark agreed that a retreat would be beneficial in putting together projects for the future. Ken Bassett suggested someone from the community with a lot of energy be invited to be the facilitator and possibly invite staff to give their input. Councilmember Cowan suggested that a way to reward outstanding employees also be considered during the retreat.

Ken Bassett stated that he took note of three items from the conference. The first item was how to deal with storm water. There is a new product, pervious asphalt, which is being used in parking lots which allows the water to soak through avoiding the need for additional property to store the storm water. The City can consider this option for developers or contractors. Another item was a way to encourage owners of apartments to screen tenants to not allow those that have felony issues, dealing with drugs, child abuse etc., yet comply with fair housing laws. The last item is also dealing with apartment owners and providing incentives to get them to keep them nice. Midvale City has an application that the Council may want to consider. Mayor Showalter stated that they have to be careful with fair housing laws. Ken Bassett stated that Midvale handles their program through the business license division.

Ken Bassett stated that there is another program to change sodium vapor street lights to LCD lights that costs less to maintain. The cost to switch the lights is recouped by the savings on the monthly electrical charges. Councilmember Clark stated that Rocky Mountain Power is working with the Recreation District to reduce the cost of lights, and they may be willing to work with the City as well.

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

Mayor Gary Showalter

ATTEST:

(S E A L)

Roxanne Behunin, Deputy Recorder